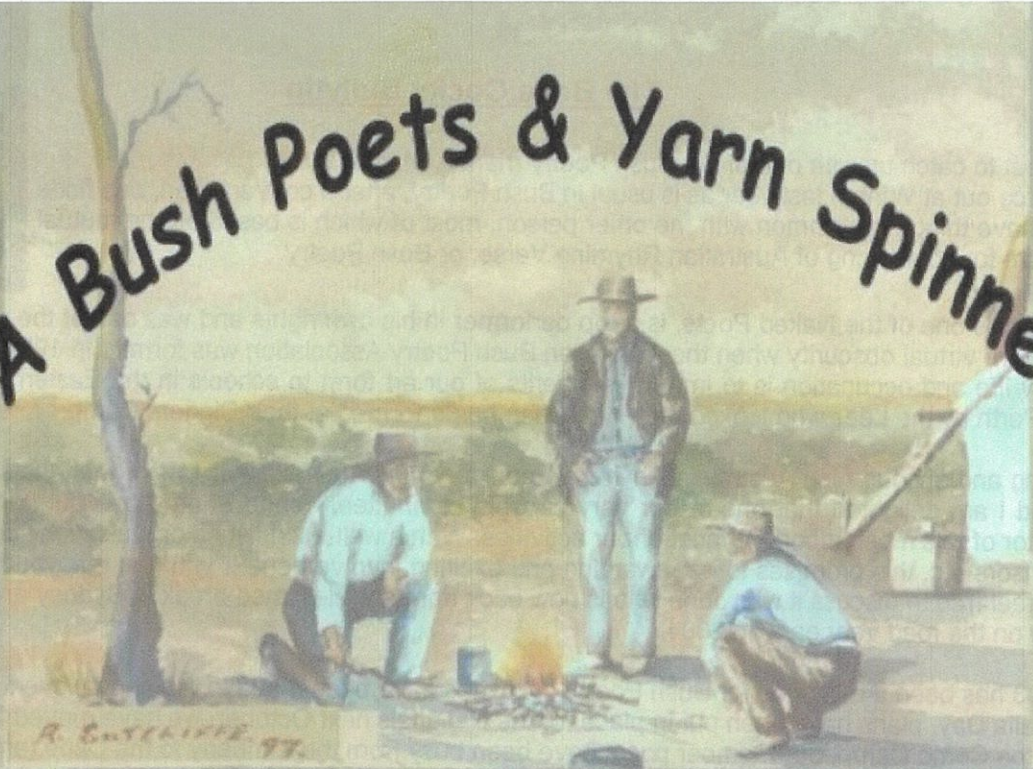


WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



Newsletter : December 2003

**The Westcoast Chordsmen
+
The WA Bush Poets &
Yarn Spinners**



**Wish you a Happy
Christmas 2003**



**"Come All Ye" at Como Bowling & Recreation Club
Cnr of Hensman and Sandgate Sts. South Perth
Next Meeting Friday 5/12/2003 at 7.30pm**

The Boss Cocky Bullytin



It was great to catch up with one of my Bush Poetry friends, Marco Gliori. I met Marco out at Winton last year as is usual in Bush Poetry, after a conversation, one finds that you have things in common with the other person, most of which is based on the mutual enthusiasm for conserving of Australian Rhyming Verse, or Bush Poetry.

Marco, who is one of the Naked Poets, is a top performer in his own rights and was one of the original poets to emerge from virtual obscurity when the Australian Bush Poetry Association was formed in 1994. A large part of his poetry life and occupation is to impart the merits of our art form to schools in the Eastern States. He was lured to Perth by the Lees who looked after him when he performed at their Diggers Camp.

Presenting and encouraging Australian Rhyming Verse to young Australians is one of the tenets of what we are about and I am delighted that one of our very capable committee – June Bond – has put her hand up to be coordinator of this most important facet of our activities. With a well-established organisation suggesting to help with sponsors etc. this promises to be rewarding and exciting involvement. If you feel that you have something to offer, feel free to discuss it with June who is now back from a well-earned break in Sydney and is keen to get the show on the road very early in 2004.

Year 2003 has been a busy one for Bush Poetry. Changes have been made to the annual event at Wireless Hill on Australia Day, plans have been put in place for the Nationals next October, we have moved from the Raffles Hotel to the Como Camp, our member poets have been busy from the Kimberly to the Cape (any cape) and our supporters have kept up their enthusiasm, plus some new faces have emerged to join the throng.

With all this activity 2003 is rapidly going off the radar screen, so before it goes I will take the opportunity to wish you all – and your families- a very happy and safe Christmas, a fulfilling and enjoyable (with Bush Poetry) New Year. Looking forward to your company and support next year.

The Boss Cocky

Dear Readers,



As this is the last of our newsletters for another year I would like to thank all of our contributors to this magazine through out this year. Some of our regulars have gone out of their way to submit many poems and some articles. Sorry, if not all of your poems have been printed this year, I will keep them in my trusty database for later issues. I try to keep a theme as well as a standard and balance between champion poems and first time poets, - this dictates what poems make it into the newsletter each month.

As always, I would like to have an even greater variety of poets represented to give us all the rich flavour of poetry in W.A.

I am finding that through members' forays on radio and television we are receiving poetry from further and further out in W.A.'s vast territory. I am receiving wonderful phone calls from poets who may have felt isolated at such addresses as '300ks East of Kalgoorlie', 'The Nullarbor', '14 kilometres inland from Geraldton' and 'Hall's Creek'. They can now access our magazine and feel part of a growing family of poets. For many of our poets and 'audience' a visit to the city is rare and this magazine is the only access to other poets and an audience for their writing. There has been a temptation to cut costs at times by reducing the newsletter to *one* every *two* months (we do not cover costs at present at only \$2.20 a copy). Considering the links I just mentioned and the popularity of this newsletter I think that would be a shame. If you have any ideas on how to remedy the cash situation please give an association member a call. I have put the committee list with updates and email addresses in this issue. You will see that we are starting a raffle fundraiser to raise more cash for any situations arising next year. Maybe *you* could suggest others ideas; if you cannot attend the "CAY's" give us a call anyway.

Bearing this in mind, I was really pleased to see that my far-flung appeal for poems to be entered in the 2003 Wireless Hill Written Competition has yielded 26 poems from 9 different poets from all over the state. I have bundled them up and dispatched them to Keith Lethbridge for judging. 'Break a Leg' to all our entrants. A reminder to all entrants also, that we would like to *hear* the winners' poems at Wireless Hill – so start practising your acceptance speech and poem– it's not that far away!

Suggested name for CAY:- "Muster". How about an imaginative name: - "Bard-on-Cue" or "Poet's Corroboree" (At least something less involving cows!) Come on give us a call - what do **you** want to call it? Be involved – it's more fun that way.

Happy Christmas to All

Michelle Sorrell Ed.

Give Me a Doggy Do Any Day

I walk along the foreshore,
 And live near Bicton, too,
 There's lots more that upsets me
 than a dob of doggy poo.
 Gulls tangled up in fishing lines,
 Swans chased by naughty kids.
 The trash bins overflowing,
 Lewd graffiti on their lids.
 Dead fish along the water line,
 Smashed bottles all around.
 Brown paper bags and ciggy butts
 while the Lager tins abound.
 Bags filled with household rubbish,
 Rubber things to stop conception,
 And fetid piles of prawn shells
 left with flagrant dereliction.



The Melbourne Cup

The Flemington racecourse was ready; the horses were rearing to go
 The trainers were holding their samples as they waited for judges to show
 The patrons had put all their money on Midnight and Slippery Jack
 But Dingo had drawn out the best spot and Joey was way at the back

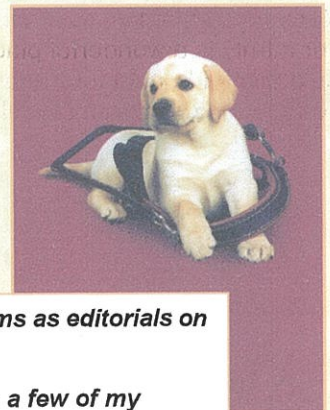
They all took their place at the barrier and Snoopy pranced in like a toff
 The starter was holding the pistol, he yelled through the speakers, "THEY'RE OFF"
 Joey was first in the lead race and Dingo was punching the breeze
 Up raced old Curly to catch them but Midnight had taken the lead

Look at them go said the steward as Snoopy raced on passed the post
 It's hard to tell who was the winner; was it Snoopy, or Midnight, or Ghost
 The judges were very suspicious as they checked out the nags urine test
 They suspected the samples were touched up, they decided to call in the vet

It astounded the patrons and judges, the winner they just couldn't pick
 Call for more samples the judge said, the stewards will need to be quick
 The samples the trainers had brought in were checked out and put to the test
 It appears that half of the horses had been boozing and smoked cigarettes.

Vile filth daubed on the toilets,
 Nappies thrown out on the kerb,
 Used tissues thrown out of motor cars,
 yet no one seems disturbed.
 They warn don't use the BBQs,
 'Cause youth pee on the plate.'
 And there are smelly places
 where they also defecate.
 So I believe it's minor
 to complain about doggy doo,
 when littering by humans
 far outweighs a lump of poo.

©V.P.Read



This month a medley of poems as editorials on the times.

I agree with Val, so here are a few of my favourite dogs - (all with well behaved owners.)

*A Happy and Safe Christmas to all.
 Michelle*

The Hunters Epitaph

Today I am giving my weapon away,
The end of an era is run,
The freedom we know in the land where we grew,
Has changed with the setting of the sun.
Now I sit on my porch and cherish the dawn,
Like the hunter that's home from the hill.

The land that I roamed is not the same nowadays,
And besides what is there to kill?
Maybe I don't need the gun any more,
But this was our right from our birth,
To live in the footsteps of our fathers,
Though I do love this earth.

I look back at the life I've been given,
Thank the one up above in His grace,
Many times that I've lived close to nature,
For it truly is a wonderful place.
As a youth I hunted for the table,
To feed my friends and family as well,

If I had my time over, I would do it again,
Now only in my memory will it dwell.
To hunt down the rabbit, the fox and the 'roo,
It supplemented our wage, which was small,
So I do cry for the youth of today,
For there's not much we can kill at all.

For you've poisoned the rabbit and you poison the fox,
The emu and 'roo now run riot,
When the seasons are bad, they devour the land,
But still the hunter must be quiet.
Now the big wedge tailed eagle is dying,
Their food chain has been broken as well,

Do they care what they've done,
As it seems right for some?
Or should they all go to hell?
So take away the guns and the weapons
The heartache and tears I will hide,
You can conquer a Nation, make it bend at the knees,
But you'll not take my spirit of pride.

©Brian Gale



Along by Merry Christmas Time

Along by merry Christmas time they buy the aged goose,
And boil the dread plum pudding, because of ancient use.
But to sneer at old time customs would be nothing but a crime,
For the memory of the Past is aye bound up in Christmas time.

Then Jim comes home from shearing, and he gets a little gay,
With Dad, perhaps, or Uncle, but they're right on Christmas Day:
For be it on the Never, or 'neath the church bells' chime,
The family gets together, if they can, at Christmas time.

And, after tea at Christmas, they clear the things away
And play the dear old silly games our grand-folk used to play
And Dad gives a recitation that used to be the joy
Of all the Western countryside, when Father was a boy.

Along by merry Christmas time, and ere the week is o'er
We meet and fix up quarrels that each was sorry for.
Our hearts are filled with kindness and forgiveness sublime,
For no one knows where one may be next merry Christmas time. □

Henry Lawson



WESTCOAST CHORDSMEN

Established in January 1998, the Westcoast Chordsmen presently has close to 40 active members singing four-part unaccompanied close harmony in the barbershop style. The chorus is affiliated through the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (Inc) to the parent body, SPEBSQSA, in America.

The chorus has given many public performances, mainly to support charitable organisations such as Save the Children, Camp Quality and the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Research Foundation, among others. The chorus often performs for seniors villages and similar small groups but in Christmas 2001 the chorus sang before an audience of 16 000 people at the Carols By Candlelight in the Supreme Court Gardens, Perth.

In 2001 and 2002 the Westcoast Chordsmen produced 'Federation: The Century In Song', a special show written and performed to celebrate the centenary of Federation in Australia. In this show the chorus organised and combined with several community and student groups in presenting the story of our nation during the 20th Century in story and song. This show was presented, to very favourable acclaim, by a combined cast of over three hundred to a total audience of several thousand.

Westcoast Chordsmen have made two CD's: '*Christmas Time and Anytime*' and '*Songs from Federation: The Century In Song*'.

The chorus is available for bookings, (contact Geoff Wilkins, 9399 6972) and membership enquiries are always welcome (Gordon Richards, 9349 5751). The Music Director of the chorus is Bruce Okely (9447 0719). **See them live on Friday the 5th at our CAY.**

Rusty's Garden

On a non-poetic note, but interesting news anyway, I've just found out that Rusty came third in the recent Melville City Council "Sustainable Gardens Competition". In a time of great water shortage in Australia it's great to see that gardens can look good with minimum water and some TLC.

Unfortunately Rusty's garden did not seem to appreciate the accolade as it has given him grief this week with sundry injuries to his person. He needs a hug!



**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 Assoc. Inc Coming Events

DATE	EVENT	CO-ORDINATOR
26 th Jan 2004	Wireless Hill	Peter Nettleton: 9339 1894 Lorelie Tacoma: 9310 1500
13 th – 15 th February 2004	Boyup Brook Country Music Festival	Brian Gale: 08 9757 2431 Ron Evans: 08 9761 7006

Return Address

The Editor