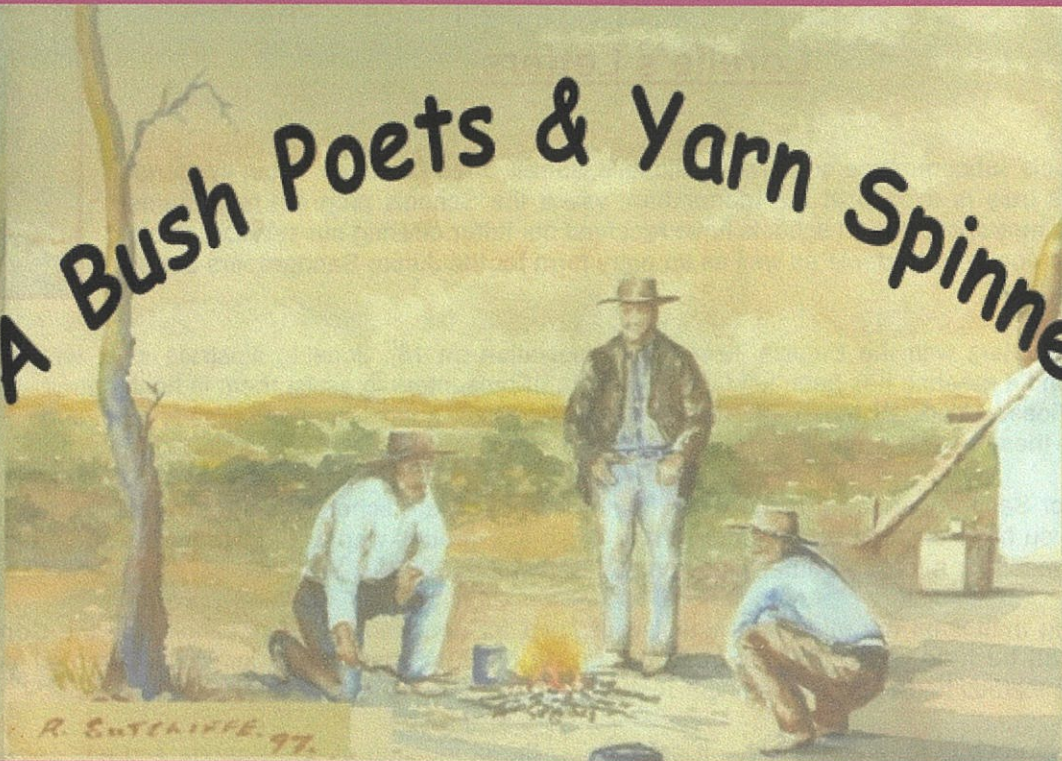


WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

\$2.50



Newsletter : June 2002

Help Preserve the Association and its Aims:-

**NOMINATE FOR THE COMMITTEE
2002-2003**

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

Next Meeting Friday 7/06/2002 at 7:30pm

Lorelie's Letters



Our Schools subcommittee comprising Michelle Sorrell, Joan Macneall, Brian Wolfenden and yours truly is excited at the momentum, which the Schools program has attained. Sixty-four metropolitan high schools have received our letter offering our services to bring Australian poetry to students as well as an entry form for the Junior Sandgropers Schools Poetry Awards.

We are meeting with the English Teachers' Association on 18th June to illustrate what we can bring to the schools and a meeting has been held with our team of presenters to assist them in honing their skills for schools presentations. York District High School has requested a presentation already and John Hayes will be attending there on 25th June.

The Junior Sandgropers awards this year have two categories – school years 8 to 10, and school years 11 and 12. If you have children or grandchildren in these age groups who would like to submit an entry please ask Joan Macneall for a form. Entries close on 15th September 2002.

A pressing matter on my mind right now is our need for nominations for vacancies on the Committee. **The A.G.M. will be held at the Raffles at 6.30 p.m. on 5th July**, just before our usual Come all Ye. We have asked the Raffles to prepare some finger food for the A.G.M.

Our critical need is for a Secretary. It entails only the production of one Agenda and one set of Minutes per month, and occasionally a letter or two. Michelle is continuing to produce the Newsletter. There is plenty of guidance and assistance available. Monthly meetings are usually on the Tuesday evening, ten days before the Come All Ye, which is on the first Friday !! Meetings last for about two hours. You do not need to be a whiz on a computer... a typewriter would be quite adequate. Involvement with the committee will enrich your membership of the Association enormously.

The committee and I look forward to being inundated with nominations.

Lorelie Tacoma



G'Day all,

Are our poets busy or what? We received a lovely call from our old friend Arthur Leggett, who tells us that he entered his poem "The Old Tin Shed" in the Grenfell, Henry Lawson Poetry Competition. He received a high commendation award and was invited to Grenfell to receive the award. Well done, Arthur!!!

On the heels of that phone call, we heard from Rod and Kerry Lee, who were in Grafton NSW, visiting Kerry's Mum. Never ones to let an opportunity for bush poetry to pass by, they had met up with Milton Taylor, and a host of other well-known poets attending one of the many East Coast competitions. Rod was placed in one of the competitions, but I won't steal his thunder as he promises a complete report on his return.

Rusty has been out and about, almost reciting himself into the ground, prior to his departure for Winton later in June. He is also down to go the Hall's Creek to support a show, in which Keith Lethbridge will be a performer. No doubt about it, Rusty is taking his ambassador duties very seriously indeed.

Yours truly was invited to perform at the WA Premier's Book awards night in front of a distinguished audience, which responded very enthusiastically to classic bush poetry. I'm hoping to see several of the audience at our "Come All Ye" meetings as quite a few took away membership forms. Even the Premier himself, was a bush poetry enthusiast.

The bush telegraph has it that the irrepressible John Hayes has made a CD reciting some of his poetry. We will expect to see this new item on the Product Table at future "Come All Ye" meetings John. As John had to research and record the poems himself, I'm sure he will be more than happy to share the technology lessons, which he learned while doing the recordings, with other poets, who might be seeking to make CD's.

Don't Forget the Nominations for Committee Positions. You can even nominate yourself!!

Cheers Geoff

Come All Ye - Friday May 3rd

Special Guest – Peter Capp

Our two staunch members Geoff and Michelle were not present this night so I have taken a few notes to help them compile this newsletter.

There was a string of latecomers on the night so our M.C. **Barry Higgins** had some difficulty in getting the show started by seven thirty. He had them settled by seven forty and **Kerry Lee** opened our show with one of her own poems, "Ode to Sonny." Then she recited Touch of the Masters Hand by Myra Brooks-Welch and finally one of Keith Lethbridge's poems the Soup Ladle.

Hubby **Rod Lee** was next on deck and he 'Ow are yer goin' mate? Following with the canine sniffer poem. A great exit! Rod's enthusiasm is infectious and his exuberance and energy gives encouragement to other performers.



Leigh Mathews (Our Henry look-alike) was next with Tumba- Bloody –Rumba and A Minor Altercation.

Barry Higgins recited, When Pigs flew Overhead, a poem that Peter Capp taught him.

Peter Capp our guest artist for the night, started with Country Woes and sharing the wealth of Australia. "The faces in the street" by Henry Lawson who depicts the seedy side of life as only Henry can do so well.

Then came Peter's outrageous yarn spinning of Inigo D Wet Rust and Will Rust. Eric-The van from Snowy River. More of Wet Rust and farm poverty when people had to melt their ear-was to make candles.

Rusty Christensen gave us a polished performance of Jim Haynes' poem, Dipso Dan.

He then read and auctioned off the poem, The Year of the Outback, in which the boy from Bencubbin out-bid all comers at twenty-one dollars.

Yours truly followed with a new poem "Kimberley Calling". I also did "Just Recapping" which I had not aired since Australia Day.

More of **Peter Capp** with "Of Drovers", "Are The Wongans Ripe Yet Mate" and Eric Bogle's "And I'm Easy". More yarn spinning, "Brick paving with Brickadopalos" and finally "It's Raining Cattle".

The applause from the audience was testimony of a great night.

Barry closed the show almost spot on ten o'clock and I'm sure the ninety people who were present will come again.

John Hayes

Thanks John – Michelle

Incidentally, we have received many phonecalls from non-members commenting very positively on the quality of the night. This has never happened before. Congratulations for organising a good show Barry and well done to all the performers.

Response to Letter to The Editor – Stinger Nettleton – April Edition

This lady poet has been reciting her heart out over the past few months – at shows on radio, Association Meetings, the Dandaragan Weekend – to say nothing of trips to perform at Grafton NSW. It isn't possible to do everything, (like going to Marybrook), but never fear, the LADY POETS are alive and well and do contribute to the Association's events.

Kerry Lee

All the Rest is All OK in Chile

When I travelled down to Chile,
You might think me rather silly -
They had told me that an immigration Visa you must pay.
You must pay in US dollars
And in cash - therefore it follows
That your Credit Card's not valid - but All the rest is All-OK.

I alighted quite exhausted
And my gaiety, I forced it,
In the hope my smiling visage would disguise my deep dismay.
But the Visa lady stated,
In a tone of voice I hated,
I must pay in paper money - but All the rest was All-OK

So I went to immigration,
Where the fellow at his station,
Shrugged his shoulders in a manner that was Spanish in its way
So I stumbled on deflated,
With my passport confiscated,
To the money-changing bureau - where All the rest was All-OK

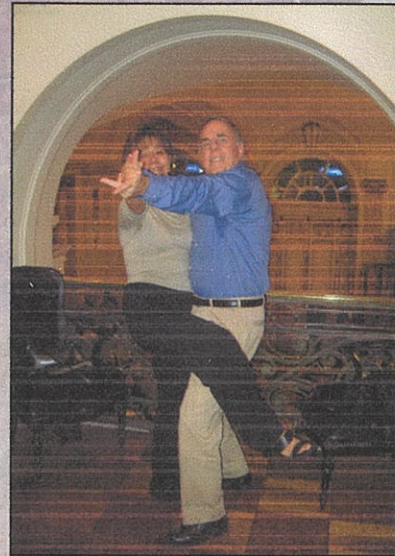
Though they seemed enthusiastic,
They would not accept my plastic
And directed me to Customs, through the sniffer doggie bay.
Past the guards, with muttered "Ola's",
Out the door to get my dollars,
To the ATM from Hades - and All the rest was All-OK

Well my need (on Custom's say-so)
Was for 50,000 pesos,
For the currency in Chile was in terminal decay.
So with lady luck I flirted,
As my plastic I inserted.
It was there the trouble started - but All the rest was All-OK

This machine, which spoke in Spanish,
Caused my confidence to vanish
And my anguished calls for money, it would simply not obey
It displayed its empty promise,
Using dots instead of commas,
Which confused me even further - but All the rest was All-OK.

Then a simple taxi driver,
(Not a crook or local skiver),
Helped me out of my dilemma, (what a gentleman hombre)
Keyed for me the cash I needed,
Then immediately proceeded
To demand a tip for helping - All the rest was All-OK.

Now with Pesos overflowing,
I deduced I should be going
Through the exit door from Customs,
where armed guards stood in the way.
When the exit door swung open,
I slipp'd in while grimly hopin'
That the guards just wouldn't notice - and All the rest was All-OK.



I ignored their startled shouting,
Going in instead of outing,
Sauntered past the sniffer doggies, in their demolition play.
Beagles, Setters and Alsatisans,
Who confirmed their reputations
By creating mass destruction - but All the rest was All-OK.

Quite unharmed, but *really* sweating,
There weren't any problems getting
Pesos changed to US dollars, through the bureau's silver tray.
Then I my spirits sank, as I thought,
"How can I retrieve my passport?"
But the guy just stood there waving - and All the rest was All-OK.

"Well," I thought, "This seems suspicious,
And he looks quite avaricious.
I am quite prepared to bribe him for my passport, come what may."
But I found myself in clover,
As my passport he passed over;
Just like that, no bribes, no hassles - All the rest was All-OK.

Paying for my entry Visa,
With my dollars seemed to please her,
And the Visa lady smiled at me, and bid me a "good day".
Past the immigration chappie,
Waving, smiling very happy,
I retraced my steps to Customs - where All the rest was All-OK.

As went to find my cases,
I observed the porters' faces;
All their eyes were on my luggage, last ones left I thought "Ole!"
They were standing in the middle
Of a pool of doggie piddle...
Well if that's my only problem - then All the rest is All-OK!

© Geoff Bebb 11th April 2002



Scenic Holiday Destination- Lakeside Caravan Park Towerrining

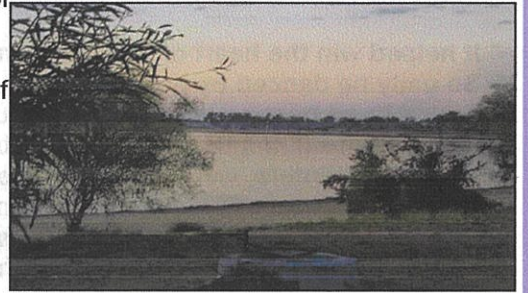
Lake Towerrining is a large, very beautiful semi freshwater lake, approximately two and a half kilometres across, and five kilometres long, with clean sandy beaches. It is located just west of Arthur River, between South Western and Albany Highways. The surrounding areas are fertile, undulating farmlands and very scenic.

The camping facilities at Lakeside Caravan Park, which is situated right beside the lake, are basic, very clean, and well kept with abundant hot water for showers. There is loads of room for camping, and easy access for caravans without the need to unhitch.

Lake Towerrining is of interest ecologically as it lies at the meeting place of the jarrah, inland wandoo and white gum landforms, and abounds with many species of native and migrating birds.

To get to this very well kept secret called Lake Towerrining, travel Albany Highway to Arthur River; turn right just past the town, following the road signs to Moodiarrup. It truly is a magical place.

**** They allow dogs on leads**



From Joan and Terry Macneall

Poetry events in our Northern Regions

Derby festival – 30th June 02

This is a general gathering of Poets and Yarn Spinners. Keith Lethbridge will be attending. So will Mr Barry Hass (member of parliament for Kalgoorlie).

Shark Bay Music and Poetry Festival - 20th July 02

Bob Magor, and Leigh Matthews will be attending. Leigh is also MC. Apart from the poetry there will also be a variety of local community events and displays. A band called "The Dusty Angels" from Dongara will be playing. There is a fresh fish b.b.que run by the local Fisherman's Association. There's also line dancing and children's poetry recitation and displays. **Sue Edwards – Ph. 9948 1333 is your contact.**

The Halls Creek Gathering is on the same day as the Shark Bay Festival.

According to Keith Lethbridge this will perhaps be a low key event ("depends on who lobs in"). Rusty is hoping to attend and get funding as Ambassador for the "Year of the Outback". I'm hoping to get more information about this one from Keith as time gets closer. **Keith Lethbridge – Ph: 9168 5508**

Important Announcements

Poets for the Caravan and Camping Show - Saturday section

The Caravan and Camping Club coordinated by Rod Lee needs poets for their Saturday morning bush breakfast. Please call Rod if you can help.

Omission – Sorry! Brian

In last month's write up of the **Boyup Brook** event I omitted an important section of that article : it should read: "To maintain the high standard of performance for the Sunday session in future years, it may become necessary to choose the top six or 7 poets from the gathering on the Saturday morning.

ABC Radio Interview 7:20am on the 2nd May

From an interview with **Bob Catta**, regarding Bush Poetry on the ABC's morning programme. The comment was made by Mr Catta that "**The only people who can truly call themselves Bush Poets are those from the bush - especially outback Queenslanders**". Rusty took great exception to this and gave an excellent reply on the same programme. What are your thoughts?

The Old Battle Dress

It lay in a box in the tool shed,
Torn and stained, but a piece of his past,
A uniform that was once worn with pride,
At a time when things were made to last.
So proudly he bore it, from the first time he wore it,
Swore allegiance to honour the Queen,
It was there every winter to the day of his discharge,
From the time he had turned eighteen.

It helped win the heart of his loved one,
So gaily he danced by her side,
With a heart beating fast, 'neath the tunic,
When she told him that she'd be his bride.
Came the Winters, wet and cold in the forest,
The battle dress was worn once again,
Cutting pine on the ridges and gullies,
Through the heat and the wind and the rain.

But time, as we know, will take it's toll,
Life's changes make us do things,
As destiny will change our direction,
Just to see what the other life brings.
So the battle dress was placed in the tool shed,
With moth balls and things from the past,
But it's April once again and the sap flows,
So he takes out the tunic at last.

He shakes out the moth balls and fixes the tear,
It won't be the same though I fear,
But for one more time he'll wear it again,
Though he knows it will be the last year.
So he wore it once more on Anzac day,
And his pride returned once again,
So many years were washed away,
To the young man that he was back then.

As he marched down the street once more,
On April Twenty Fifth of that year,
His thoughts wander back to his comrades,
And how he wished they were here.
Yes, he wore that battered old battle dress,
Though he knew it had seen better days,
Long ago it was new, now there's holes showing through,
So once more he stores it away.

© Brian Gale



Alec Campbell (1899-2002) as a teenage soldier during WW1.

These photos are reprinted from the tribute to our Australian soldiers, by the West Australian May 19, 2002. This tribute featured Mr Campbell, the last ANZAC, who died in May, at the grand age of 103. He worked as a jackaroo and carpenter in Tasmania before becoming a JP. He sailed in six Sydney to Hobart yacht races. I thought Brian's poem very fitting for the occasion.

NOTICE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To all members of WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Association Inc.

Take note that at the AGM on Friday 5 July 2002, I intend to move that the Constitution and Rules of the Association be amended to provide that only half of the members of the Committee of the Association retire each year on a rotational basis. This would mean that starting with the incoming committee, half of them (from the longest serving down) are to retire in one year's time, the other half in two years and from then on, each committee member is to serve 2 years then retire. Retired members would be permitted to stand for re-election immediately.

If anyone would like to discuss the exact wording of the motion with me prior to the AGM, please contact me by email on: stinger@iinet.net.au

Peter Nettleton

Committee Nominations

Nominations for the WABPYSA committee are now being called. We need people who are committed to the aims of the Association and wish to be involved in making those aims become reality. The time commitments (including the committee meetings) are stated below. We need a total of 9 Nominations. The positions below become vacant on 30/6/2002

Secretary Take the minutes of Committee meetings, look after correspondence to and from the Association and be the chief point of contact. While it would be desirable for the secretary to have basic computer skills and access to a Fax or the Internet, as Lorelie says it's not essential. 12-15 hours/Month

Treasurer Bank the takings after CAY meetings, collect the membership subscriptions and issue receipts, prepare a statement of accounts for the committee every month. 8 hours/Month

Committee Members Attend Meetings, volunteer for any of the following:- to organise or help organise special events, Co-ordinate CAY meetings, collect the takings at CAY meetings, person the Product Table. 5 Hours/Month

Newsletter Editor Correlate information from the Committee, receive poetry entries from members, produce the Newsletter. MUST have advanced computer skills in word processing and graphics. 33 hours/Month

The following Positions are up for re-election

President Currently held by Lorelie Tacoma

Vice President Currently held by Connie Herbert

W.A. BUSH POETS & YARN SPINNERS ASSN. INC.

COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Hereby Nominates

**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

Geoff Bebb - Editor

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

Coming Events

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
Frid 7 th June 2002	Come All Ye Meeting	Kel Watkins – 9337 5663
20-24 th June 2002	Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards	
28 th June 2002	Nominations for committee positions 2002-3	Michelle Sorrell – 9367 4963
30th June / 1st July	Derby / Shark Bay Poetry Festival	
Frid 5 th July 2002	AGM and Traditional Poetry Night	To Be Advised
Wed 2 nd - Sat 5 th October 2002	National Rally in Northam (Caravan and Camping Club)	Rod and Kerry Lee – H. 93970409
Sat. 12 th Oct. 2002	Yealering Bush Poetry Heat	Peter Nettleton – 9417 8663 evenings

Return Address

The Hon Secretary
WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Assoc.
Unit 1, 8 Hill St
South Perth WA 6151

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