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WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

Newsletter : August 2001

Committee Contacts Year 2001 – 2002

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"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel

cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd Applecross

(Upstairs in The river Room)

Next Meeting Friday 3/08/2001 at 7:30pm

Lorelie's Letters



I wish I could write my first editorial in verse, just like our outgoing President, Peter Nettleton. Perhaps one day, after I have done a few more courses and after I have taken the time to concentrate. Right now, I am trying to master the mysteries of email and internet and I am beginning to think that they are never-ending!.

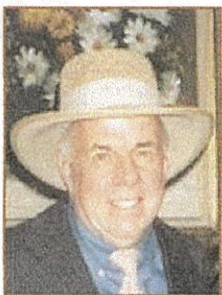
However, I am looking forward to my year as your President, after having been Secretary and Vice President and I assure you I will be doing my darndest administratively if not poetically. I have always been very good at encouraging others' talents, and we certainly have some talent, and new ones coming all the time.

Already there are exciting events on the calendar. Greater detail will be given in the Newsletter as arrangements finalise. On 5th August there will be a performance at Chapel Farm at Jane Brook, the illustrious Bob Magor will be visiting from South Australia in late September, the Royal Show in early October, then the fabulous weekend at Marybrook Vineyard, Vasse on 20th October.

This year there will be just two heats for the Australia Day Championships, November and December, so members will have more time to prepare and memorise their works. The usual three categories of and Yarnspinning will still apply. Remember that contestants must be financial members of the Association. Your Own Poetry, Others' Poetry,

The Paterson and Lawson night last month was a great success and a credit to all who performed so ably. We look forward to more entertaining performances on 3rd August, and new comers, please use these next few months to practise your works before a live audience.

See you soon! **Lorelie**



G'Day everyone,

Now that the dust has settled on the AGM and the Paterson and Lawson night, we can all learn from what was a very rewarding experience. Firstly we saw that with a bit of effort from the hard working Committee, we can attract a big audience. The total of 112 attendees far exceeded our previous CAY record of 87. We also saw that by separating the Membership Table from the Entry Table, we were able to process the people, without a long queue.

We also saw that 25 poems were too many for one night, especially as a few people added poems, which they had not registered with the Co-ordinator. We must also insist that poets, who enter these feature events, can memorise their works to ensure professional performance. Apart from those minor points, we received continuous praise from people who attended, many of whom, took the trouble to phone members of the committee to express their enjoyment. We will endeavour to have another Feature Night like this one in March 2002.

The new-look Committee has begun its work for the New Year with some very interesting changes, which will see the Association rise to new professional heights. The most sweeping changes affect the "Wireless Hill Challenge 2002" competition. Following ideas put forward by Rod Lee and Kel Watkins, it was decided to limit the Heats to just 2 nights so that we do not take up too much time from our regular CAY programming. We are introducing a new category to the "Your Own Poetry" and "Others' Poetry", Competitions. This will be the "Masters Open", which will attract the finest performers to the Competition. Our normal Competition will then be restricted to those people who have not won a previous "Wireless Hill Challenge" in the category in which they are competing. See Page 7 for more details. We hope by doing this, we will encourage more people to enter the competitions with a better chance of winning.

Please note that the details shown on Page 7 are only draft at this stage. If you have concerns or comments, please contact me on 9367 4963 or geoff@surpac.com before 31/8/2001, after which Nominations will be called for all events.

Geoff Bebb

Chapel Farm Café Restaurant, Middle Swan - Sun August 5th

Six of our poets have been invited to perform at this delightful venue between 1pm and 4pm that afternoon for a pre- Spring in the Valley event. As this venue is quite close to Perth please support them by coming along, having afternoon tea and applauding loudly. This could become a regular event if the management like us.

The maitre-d'; Jenny, is a personal friend and a delightfully enthusiastic lady who would love to see us succeed in this venture. Introduce yourself to her. The restaurant is quite close to the picturesque Swan Valley, so you could make a sightseeing day of it.

The Royal Agricultural Show – Thursday 4th October

Our poets have been asked to perform at the Show again this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for our poets to face a larger audience, get some publicity and get paid for their efforts as well. Please contact us if you are interested in performing at this event. **Rusty Christensen : Ph: 9364 4491 coordinator**

Marybrook Winery - Sat 20th to Sunday 21st October

Geoff and I went to Marybrook Winery with friends from Sydney a couple of weekends ago. We chatted to Jan House and bought some wines for our friends to take back with them. This reminded me to remind all our members of the October weekend of poetry and fun to be held down there. Our last event was really enjoyable, and it wasn't even in Spring.



We had not been to that area before so Jan guided us to a couple of delightful café /restaurants/ galleries close by. All were excellent. There's even an "icecreamerie" to die for down there, (Geoff's downfall I'm afraid). So pencil in that weekend to go down South. Whether your passion is for good wines, poetry, lovely scenery, great food or even icecream. you won't regret it.

Derby Bush Poet's Breakfast –(an excerpt from Cobber's first communication to us from his new home.)

The bush poets' breakfast at Derby was another galah occasion. A good range of local performers, with a couple of tourist-type visitors. There were also several country music performers and a couple of Bavarian folk singers /musicians. I certainly enjoyed the show.

Hitch-hiking from Halls Creek proved to be a bit tricky, & I got my final lift to the venue right on starting time, after 25 hours on the track, no sleep and walking a total of 70ks. After a quick "Kimberley wash" I got through my contributions without a hitch, thus proving that bush poets can recite under concrete, or worse. Getting home was a lot easier, as some friends of mine were cruising past, saw my name on the "flier" and decided to join the breakfast. Next morning they took me to Halls Creek.

Please give my regards to the troops. Tell them I said to "just rob banks & keep out of trouble".

Regards,

COBBER

Keith Lethbridge



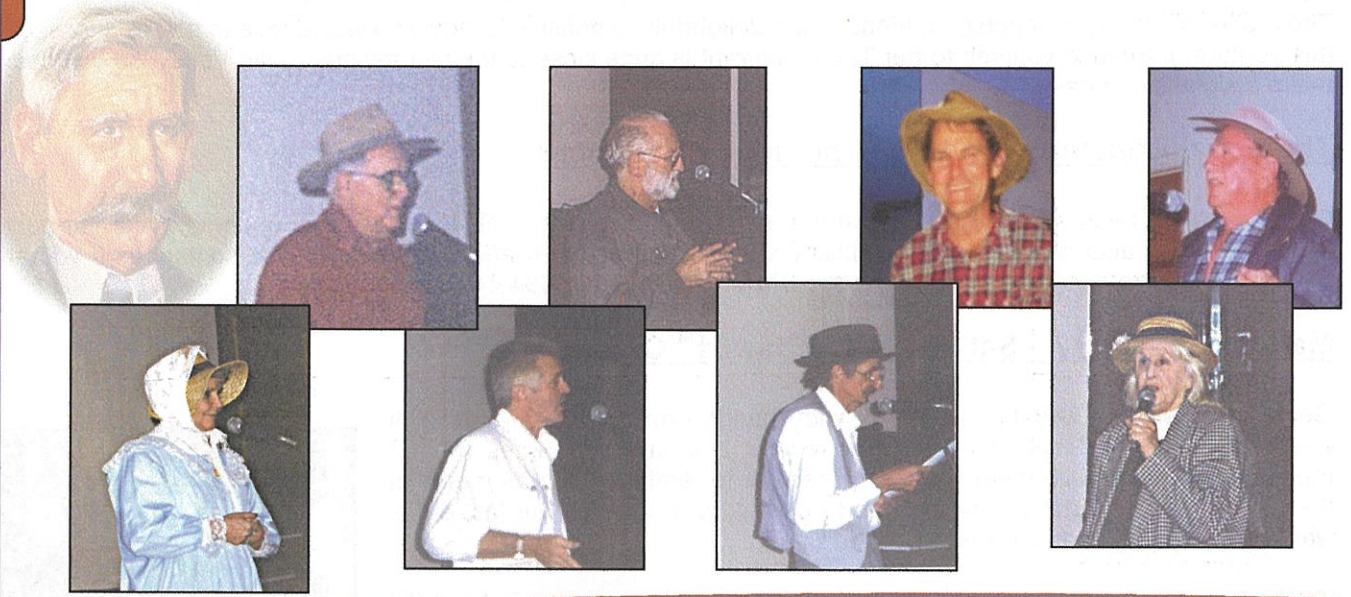
Thanks for the poems
as well Keith,
Cheers from all of us

Down South

Welcome back Rusty - from the USA

Rusty had a great time in the USA with his family. He brought back an itinerary of Cowboy Poetry Events for August which may be useful to any fellow travellers. The resurgence of folk and poetry is truly international. The list is available on the internet. You can also give me a call for the August list of such exotic events as The Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival in Odell or the The Historic Campfire Concert at Fort Concho San Angelo, Texas. Other events are in Arizona, Montana and California. So have a great time "poeting" anywhere in this here ol' worl' par'ners YEE HA!

Paterson & Lawson

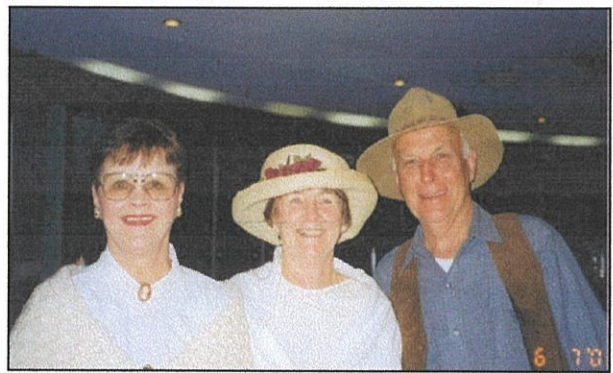


Come All Ye July 2001

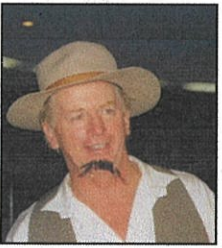
On this wet and stormy night in July, 112 people gathered to be regaled by our poets with the classics of yesteryear. This was a record attendance for a CAY by the Bush Poets. The quality professional evening's entertainment was delivered by 16 performers.



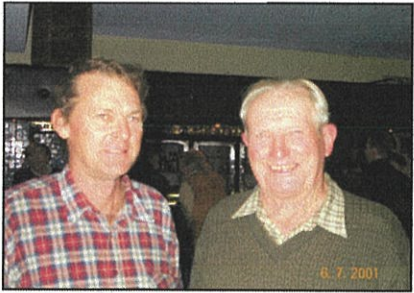
From left: Jenny and Peter Capp, Michelle Sorrell and Lorelie Tacoma in character.



From left: Lorelie with Phyllis and Trevor Tobin.



Peter again with his magic moustache

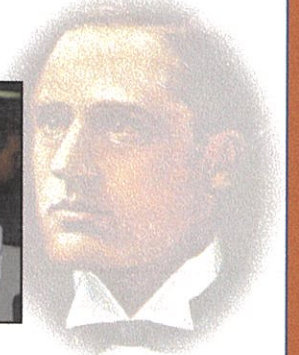
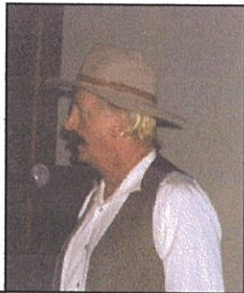


From left: Ron Evans and his mate Syd Hopkinson.



Part of our great audience

July 6th 2001



The evening was extremely successful for the association. Thank you every one for the wonderful support. We had many a call and even a poem from Rosa Celenza celebrating the night. We raised over a thousand dollars. More importantly, we gained 10 new members on that evening. Welcome to these new members who keep our association alive and fresh.

We are considering holding a similar event some time in March next year, in our quiet time, after the Australia Day, Wireless Hill Competitions. If anyone has any ideas on this please give us a call.

Cheers, from Michelle



Part of our audience:



Joan Macneall and Geoff Bebb: Trying to look old and serious.



A group performance



Left: Joan and Barry Higgins



Right: Our Lawson look alike M-C for the night; Leigh Matthews



Prizes for the night

Poetry Page

Profile of Val Read

Born in 1939, Val lived at Warraweena Station in the Flinders Ranges till she was five. This was the sister station to Beltana Station owned by Sir Thomas Elders, who brought the first camels and Afghans for exploration purposes. Later the family moved to Sliding Rock (Kadnia) where her stepfather operated the generators for the flooded copper mines.

In 1950 this pioneer lass moved to Leigh creek and lived in tents, while attending a 1-Teacher school where her first poetry was encouraged. Later schooling was in Adelaide and during her teenage years she came to WA. Here she met her "city lad" husband. They had 5 children – 4 boys and a girl. Val misses the country very much. It is her main source of her inspiration. In her book, she wrote "After 50 odd years I can still close my eyes and see vibrant carpets of beautiful Salvation Jane and Wild Hops covering the hillside. The steep escarpments of Aroona and crystal clear creeks lined by scented gums."

The Courtship of Henry C. McWhurter

Old Henry C. McWhurter was a reprobate at best,
He was a well-known scoundrel, and regarded as a pest.
Though old and rather smelly, being well beyond his prime,
He still thought himself a lover, despite his age and grime.
And his heart would start a beating in a most uneven beat
Whenever he saw Mary who had other barmaids beat.

Mary hated the old codger and his leery lidless stare,
His tattered, unwashed clothing; his long and unkempt hair;
The butt that hung bedraggled from his stained and battered lip;
His uncouth conversation; his propensity to quip,
Which he used to hide his feelings - for at romance he was new
And when courting sweet, young barmaids, he relied upon the brew.

At five the door would open to admit a mob of flies,
That hung around his eardrums; loudly buzzing round his eyes.
As he swaggered to a bar stool and then hoisted up his bulk
To ogle pretty Mary in a most dejected sulk.
He'd gulp down twenty schooners 'til completely paralysed,
Then start his courting spiel with some loud, impressive sighs.

In time he'd be a-blubber and the floor would be awash,
But, unashamed he'd slobber with an ardour never quashed
Till Mary lost her temper - for her head was fiery red -
And used indecent language when she told him to drop dead.
She loved a handsome shearer, so he never had a chance,
"Then why," he would then query, "had she led him on this dance?"

One day they found McWhurter hanging from a Norfolk Pine,
He was dangling there - stark naked - from the hotel's washing line.
Below he'd left a message; 'To Dear Mary', he had writ,
It's a shame you did not love me, that you never cared a whit,
You could have been so happy with this weather-beaten crank'
Because I had a million dollars in the City National Bank.



Changes to Wireless Hill Challenge Competition for 2002

The new Committee has decided to change the format of the Wireless Hill Challenge competition to be held on 26th January 2002. The changes outlined below are **draft only**. Members have until 31/8/2001 to comment on the proposals. Comments on the changes can be made by phoning Geoff Bebb on 9367 4963 or by emailing him at geoff@surpac.com. After reviewing the members' comments, nominations will be called-for in each of the competition categories in the September edition of the Newsletter.

The existing categories of "Own Poetry" and "Others' Poetry" will be renamed to "Own Poetry - Restricted" and "Others' Poetry - Restricted", while we will introduce two new categories "Own Poetry – Masters Open" and "Others' Poetry – Masters Open". The winners in all categories will receive a cash prize as well as the perpetual trophy. Second and third will also receive cash prizes.

The "Restricted" categories will be open to those Financial Members, who have not WON a previous Wireless Hill Challenge in that category.

For example, Cobber Lethbridge, Chis Sattler and Peter Capp who have previously won in the "Own Poetry" category **would not** be able to enter "Own' Poetry - Restricted", but **would** be able to enter the "Own Poetry – Masters Open" category.

Likewise, Cobber Lethbridge, Ron Evans and Rusty Christensen, who have previously won in the "Others' Poetry" category **would not** be able to enter "Others' Poetry - Restricted", but **would** be able to enter the "Others' Poetry – Masters Open" category. Both Open Masters' Categories will be truly "Open" – ie open to every Financial Member.

The Committee hopes that by having these restricted class competitions, we will produce more winners and provide a growth path for newer members into the Open Class competitions. If this new format is successful, we will probably introduce the format into the Yarn spinners' and Written Competition categories.

There will only be two Heats this year – in November and December. Nominations for the Heats will be made in writing to Geoff Bebb, who will be the principal co-ordinator for the Heats. Members will have to nominate the works they wish to present and the night of their preference. The finalists for the Wireless Hill Challenge 2002 will not be announced until after the second heat – so as to ensure a professional make-up to the Finals.

Poets wishing to enter the "Open Written Competition" please be aware that the winner will be called upon to **recite** their winning entry at Wireless Hill.

CWA 77th Annual Conference – verse recitation competition

The coordinator of this event has asked the WA Bush Poets Association to assist with the judging of their verse recitation competition. Rusty Christensen and Geoff Bebb have offered to assist with this task. This suggests that our Association is becoming more widely known in poetry and country circles and has skills that we can share with others.

Australian Bush Poetry Championships 2002 and 2003

The association has put in a bid to host these competitions for the APBA. We feel that our Committee of eleven is a very experienced bunch of ex-business people, with a wide range of talent at organisation and staging events. Most of the Committee members are retired or semi-retired, which means that they have the time to carry out the myriad of tasks associated with hosting a major event. We are computer literate, with our own email, database and desktop publishing capabilities. We also have the services of qualified Accounting and Auditing personnel. I enclose a copy of last month's Newsletter as evidence of the quality of our desktop publishing capabilities.

In addition to the talent on the Committee, we are confident of being able to attract Sponsorship of the event, through local business as well as the Melville Council, which has been a major supporter of our organisation.

Should we be successful in this bid, we hope we can count on the support of the entire Association in this very challenging endeavour

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Assoc Inc**Receipt****[00176]****Received from Syd Hopkinson**

**the sum of Ten Dollars
being Members' Subscriptions of
WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Assoc Inc
Until 30/06/2002**

\$10*Sydney***WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc****Coming Events**

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
5 th August 2001	Spring in the Valley – prelude at Chapel Farm, Middle. Swan 1 – 4pm.	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963
4 th October 2001 August 2001	Royal Show – Poets wanted for Breakfast	Rusty Christensen: Ph 9364 4491
15 th October 2001	Final entries for Children's Competition (member's children welcome)	Joan Macneall 9451 6008 H 9451 3330 W.
20 th -21 st October 2001	Marybrook Winery Bush Poets Breakfast	Rusty Christensen: Ph 9364 4491
30 th November 2001	Final entries for adult Written Competition 2002 Wireless Hill Challenge	Geoff Bebb – Competition Judge 9367 4963

Return Address

The Hon Secretary
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South Perth WA 6151

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