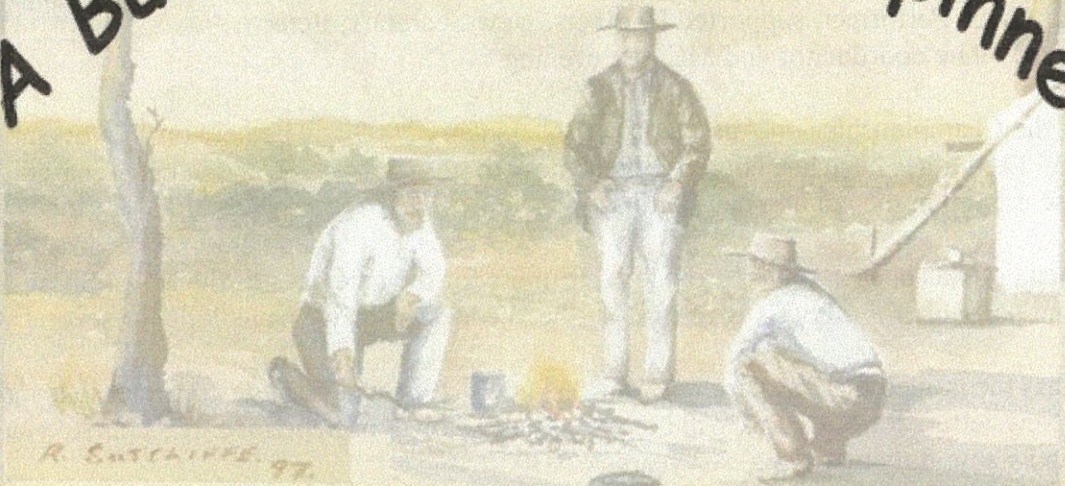


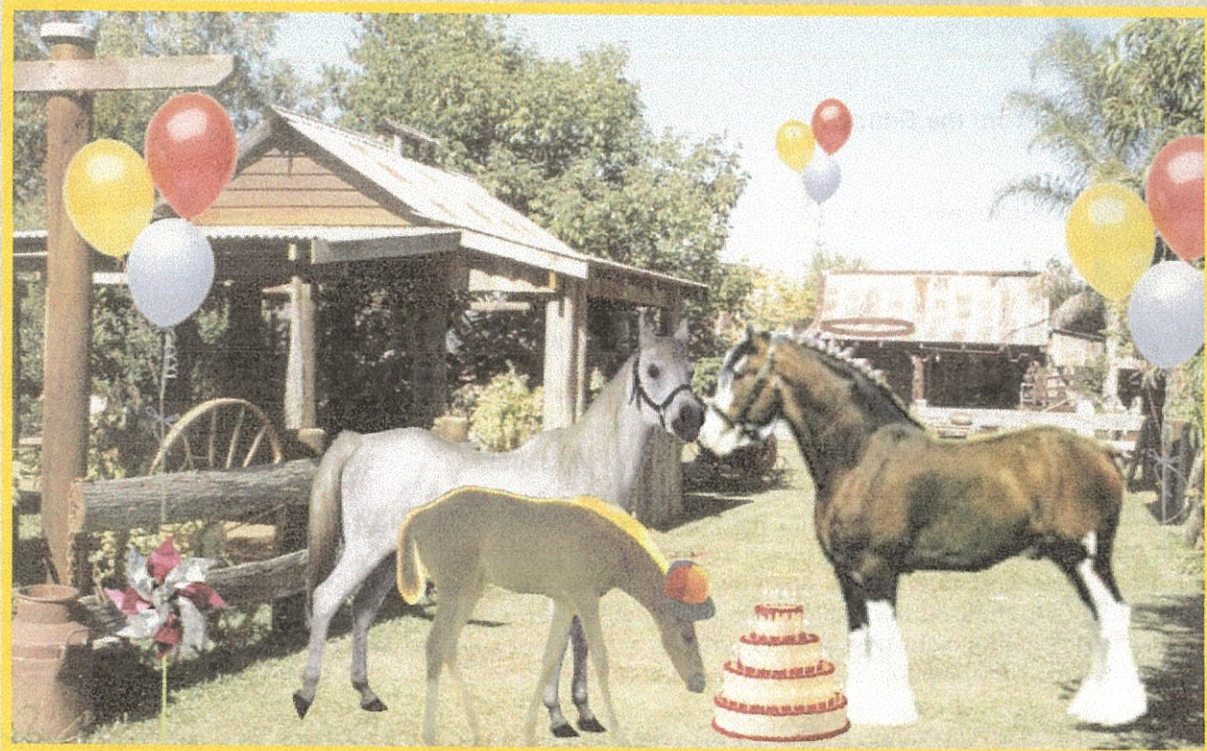
\$2.50

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



Newsletter : August 2002

HAPPY HORSE'S BIRTHDAY



"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel

cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd Applecross

(Upstairs in The River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 2/08/2002 at 7:30pm

Lorelie's Letters



We start our Bush Poet's year with a lot to look forward to. The COME ALL YE on the 2nd of August will be coordinated by Rod Lee so do come forward and get some practice. On the 6th September Ron Evans (Mr Banjo) from Boyup brook, will be our Guest Performer, supported by others. New Secretary, Peter Williamson, will be coordinator and MC that evening.

Heats for the Championships on Australia Day 26th January 2003 will be held on 1st November and 6th December. The judges have been booked. Time now to get your poems and yarns prepared. The rules etc. will be printed in the coming newsletters.

The Association has been asked to provide performers for the nine days of the Royal Show, one hour per day and probably for a Poet's Breakfast on the Wednesday as we have done for several years now.

Michelle has mentioned that subs are now due. As newsletters and postage are expensive and subs are minimal, Newsletters for tardy folk will be posted only until 1st of September. Of course, you may save postage and stamp duty by paying two years, ie. \$30!

Longstanding and hardworking committee member Joan Macneall was elected Vice President at the committee meeting. Congratulations Joan.

Lorelie Tacoma



From the Editor

Hello! everyone,

Welcome to our new year, to both past members and new members who are receiving this Newsletter for the first time.

Our AGM was very well attended this year with two new members volunteering for our committee 2002 –2003. Look for the Rae Dockery and Peter Williamson profiles in this issue.

As Geoff has become very busy preparing his new novel for submission to publishers, as well as other new challenges to his "retirement" I have taken over as editor of this newsletter. As you will see there will not be many changes to the regime, as Geoff says, I secretly hijacked the position from him long ago anyway. Actually, we have always worked together on the editing task after Geoff set up the framework and Geoff will definitely have his input into the publication with new poems, articles, and literary advice in a myriad ways. I regard it as an editing apprenticeship / partnership.

2002-2003 subscriptions are now due. If you haven't paid, please find on the back page your subscription notice. All you have to do is send us in your back page, with some money of course, and you will be saving money on your CAY's as well as receiving this scintillating newsletter to keep you up to date on important events in the coming year.

Please, keep sending me interesting snippets, articles, events and poems for publication, as it is YOUR magazine and it can only be as interesting as the news you send in for us to print.

Cheers,

Michelle

PATERSON & LAWSON NIGHT 2002



Verlah

Leigh

Kerry

David

Keith

Rod

Peter

Rusty

Ron

Anne

Beth

Lorelie

103

John

'Stinger' MC
'The Wowser'

Bernadette

Rosa

Geoff

Michelle

Lisa
Montgomery

THANK YOU ALL MEMBERS ATTENDING, ESPECIALLY THE ONES BRAVE ENOUGH TO DRESS UP. WE HAD A GREAT NIGHT. SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR.
CHEERS, MICHELLE

Production Line

The old groom glanced up and saw her
As his fork dug deep in straw.
He was cleaning out his stables
When she wandered through the door.

Just a little grey haired lady
With a purpose in her tread,
Dressed in over all and gum boots,
She confronted him and said,

“Please excuse me Sir, forgive me
And don’t think me bold to ask.
I can see you’re very busy
So go right about your task.

“But you see I grow prize roses
And the best compost I’ve found
Is a dose of horse manure
Which I dig in all around.

“And I won’t be any nuisance
And I promise I’ll not lag,
For I’ve brought a little shovel
And myself will fill the bag”.

The old groom was stooped and weathered
For a life spent on the track,
He knew all the lurks and dodges
And he’d sized up this old hack.

“I agree” he told the lady,
“It’s a mixture proved top shelf
And I know it helps their colour
‘Cause I use it home myself.”

“But you see, they’ve been on Lucerne
Which as every gardener knows
Turns manure too acidic
And will burn plants like the rose.

“But you come back late tomorrow
And I’ll grab a horse or two,
Bring a bag of chaff ‘long with you
And I’ll gladly run it through

© Bob Maaor

A Possible Wash

“Yes the times were tough then, Dearie”,
Auntie told me with a frown.
“With two years of little rainfall
Water storage dwindled down.

“Uncle sold the sheep and cattle
When the dams and springs went dry
As the only water left us
Was our meagre house supply.

“Personal hygiene posed a problem
With no moisture much to spare,
But we managed weekly bath nights
If we used a little care.

“We would stand there in the stew pan
With two cupfuls round our feet,
Then we’d lather up our flannel
With no time to be discreet.

Washing up as far as possible
Till the flannel rubbed us dry
Then we’d search the stew pan’s bottom
For the remaining bath’s supply.

“If we’d dripped some precious quota
Froth and bubble wee would win,
And give “possible” a scrubbing”,
She concluded with a grin

© Bob Magor



After leaving school at 15 I joined my father on the land near Myponga, south of Adelaide. Shearing, breeding sheep and cattle and dairy farming kept me fairly busy until around my 40th birthday when both my sons announced they were going to pursue careers off the land. I decided that I would too — so I began to put my rural experiences into verse.

Bush poetry was far removed from staring up the wrong end of a sheep or a dairy cow — but a lot more enjoyable. I then found myself part of the ‘bush poetry revival’ which began at the Tamworth Country Music Festival in the early 1990’s. Bush poetry began to flourish as a ‘newly discovered’ art form and performance poetry started to gain popularity.

I still breed sheep and cattle but these days my farm is run by ‘organized neglect’, for over the last few years I have been fortunate to have bush poetry take me all over Australia. This has allowed me to meet the characters that give us our identity. The hard cases from hard country who have struggled all their lives. These battlers all exhibit the same important characteristics needed to survive in our harsh environment. A twinkle in the eye, a sense of humour and the unshakable belief that we live in the greatest country on earth, but — no pain no gain.

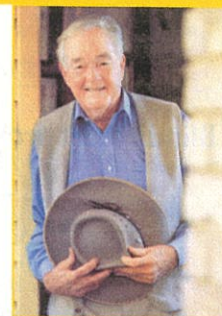
Bob Magor paid WA a visit a few weeks ago. The Bush Poet’s committee met Bob for a little soiree at Lorelie’s home before his trip up to the warmer regions north and the Festivals up there.

Bob kindly allowed the Bush Poets to print a couple of his poems for this newsletter. They come from his book “Blood on the Boards” – humorous Bush Verse by Bob Magor, illustrated by Peter Broelman.

The 1st poem was to continue the commemoration of the horses’ birthday and the 2nd poem was a humorous look at our water situation, which hopefully will ameliorate with steady rain this winter, so we don’t come to this.

Our Bush Poets in the Papers

Rusty Christensen was interviewed for the West Magazine last week in his capacity as an Ambassador for the Year of the Outback 2002. The article was entitled "A Voice from the Town". To quote from the article "Rusty may be a city slicker but he puts his faith in bush poetry as a way of asserting what it is to be Australian" Just for the record for those who have read the article – Rusty was working at the Fremantle markets with healthy fruit and veg - not beer while reciting his poetry and his grandfather is Danish not Swedish. Nice to know that the big guys in newsland also get it wrong some times. Anyway the rest of the article is a really interesting look at Rusty's heritage and therefore a snippet of Australia's past as well.



Connie Herbert had a write up in the Herald last month – "Herbert writes the wrongs for unsung women" because her poetry is to be published in an anthology celebrating the efforts of Australian women. "Songs of the Unsung Heroes" is to be launched in Queensland this month by Margaret Whitlam. Connie is travelling to Queensland to attend the launch, assisted by the WA arts council. The publication is part of an \$8 million project titled "Women in Australia's Working History". Connie is also currently writing her life story -, which also incorporates the histories of her mother and grandmother.

Congratulations to both these Fremantle identities and valued members of our association. Must be something in the Fremantle water that creates such interesting characters! We saw you on channel 2 as well Connie at the opening ceremony!

PS. If you have any exciting news to pass on to our readers please e-mail (preferably) or snail mail (if you really can't send it any other way) to msorrell@inet.net.au or Unit 1/8 Hill St. South Perth 6151. I really welcome the articles in advance for the next few months, as I will be coordinating the newsletter from Switzerland in October and November. I need volunteer(s) to write up and e-mail the CAY for these 2 months. I also need a person to staple and post the said newsletters Ph. 9367 4963 if available please.



Introducing Peter Williamson: Peter is our new secretary for 2002-2003. He hails from Sydney, coming to WA 13yrs ago. Originally he was a stained glass craftsman who worked on the biggest installation in Australia. He now works with people who have physical/intellectual disabilities.

Peter has been a member of Rustrum and Toastmasters(CTM) and (CL), winning a number of competitions including "Humorous Speech Making" and "Tall Stories" awards on the Eastern Seaboard. He also writes stories and poetry. All these experiences and creativity will certainly benefit our committee Peter.

Introducing Rae Dockery : Rae lives in Wilson and works part time as a Medical Receptionist after having recently escaped from twenty years with the public service.

She is the mother of three adult sons. Her love of poetry comes from her mother, who often used to quote lines of well-known verse. Rae's mother had a book of poetry published at the age of 17.

Keeping it in the family, Rae says she can turn out some lines of doggerel for friends' birthdays or special occasions but makes a better audience than performer.



We hope we'll hear some poetry from both of you eventually but until then, thank you for volunteering to join our committee, it is much appreciated. Ed.

Urgent note to all writers of Bush Poetry

Carol Stratford and Doug Hutcheson (Bush Poets) of Qld. are getting married and are inviting Bush Poets all over Australia to enter a unique Bush Poetry Competition to celebrate the event called:

"The Wedding Gift"

The urgency comes from the fact that the entries must be received no later than **Thursday the 15th August 2002.** There is no entry fee and the prizes are:- 1st Prize -\$200 , 2nd Prize \$100 , 3rd Prizes (4) \$25. These selected are to go in an anthology. The prize is to continue yearly as the "Stratford Gift". The competition runs under ABPA guidelines. The WABPA will make entry forms and full details available at the coming CAY and also from the new secretary Peter Williamson

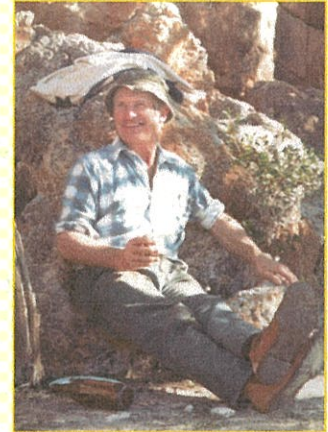
Recent Festivals at Derby and Hall's Creek

WATCH THIS SPACE IN SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Ron Evans and Keith Lethbridge recently took part in these events, which were a great success. As this issue has run out of space I hope to get Ron and Keith to give me a report of all the interesting details for the September issue.

Flying Kate

You may talk of Phar Lap and Eurythmic
 Good horses, I s'pose, in a way
 But I know the game, and I'm telling you straight
 They were only fair hacks in my day.
 Now, this happened outback before records were took
 And it aint to be found in " the Guide "
 Though hard to believe, it's the honest God's truth
 And I know 'cos I had the ride.



'Twas the Wattle Creek cup, and our mare Flying Kate
 Had been given eleven stone two
 She was thirteen years old, and was heavy in foal
 So it was giving her plenty to do
 But drought times were on, and the going was tough
 And we'd had a terrible spin
 We were flat stony broke, there was no other way
 This one we just had to win.

As the big race came on, and we went to the start
 Kate was shivering as though she was cold
 When the starters flag dropped, she gave a great lurch
 And strike me if Kate hadn't foaled!
 I sat there in horror as the field got away
 Wondering just what I should do
 Then I gathered the reins, gave a cut with the whip
 And the game little mare simply flew.

She was striding out grandly, and making up ground
 And somehow or other I knew
 That Kate had caught on, that carrying me
 Was far better than carrying two.
 I let go of the reins, and left it to Kate
 Who really was showing her worth
 While I struggled hard for a furlong or two
 To take up eight holes in the girth.

We caught up with the tail, and eased up through the field
 Then had to go wide for our run
 Half a furlong to go we sneaked to the lead
 And I thought that we had the race won
 But something came at us, and shot to the front
 Just as we got near the pole
 And I got a good look, and I thought I'd have died
 For I'm darned if it wasn't the foal ! !



©Syd Hopkinson

This verse is a re-constructed version of one occasionally used by Jack. Binning, an old Mt. Magnet identity, during the 1950's

I chose this poem in celebration of the Horses' Birthday on August the first. Horses have always been a big feature in Bush Poetry as they are part of our bush heritage. These four-legged friends work tirelessly on the farm as well as on the track.

In fact, to celebrate the Year of the Outback our poets have been invited to Belmont Race Course in September to recite for the Turf Club's Saturday Racing fixture.

W.A. BUSH POETS & YARN SPINNERS ASSOCIATION inc

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Raffles Hotel on Friday 5th July 2002

OPENING: The President declared the meeting open at 6.45 p.m. and welcomed all.

Present: L. Tacoma (in the Chair), R. Christensen, G. Bebb, M. Sorrell, P. Nettleton, E. Perrins, R. Dockery, M. Cootes, J. Bond, B. Higgins, P. Williamson, K. Lee, H. Provis, J. Rodda, K. Elder, John and Anne Hayes, R. Evans.

APOLOGIES: Joan Macneall, Phyllis Tobin, Rod Lee, Connie Herbert

MINUTES OF LAST A.G.M. 6th July 2001 accepted as a true and correct record. L. Tacoma, / R. Christensen

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –presented by Lorelie Tacoma.

TREASURER'S REPORT –presented by Geoff Bebb and adopted

L. Tacoma/ M. Sorrell.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:

There being not more than one nomination, the following were declared elected unopposed.

Lorelie Tacoma	President
Peter Williamson	Secretary
Kerry Lee	Treasurer
Rusty Christensen	Committee
Connie Herbert	Committee
Joan Macneall	Committee
Rae Dockery	Committee
Peter Nettleton	Committee
Michelle Sorrell	Newsletter

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1) Constitutional Review: Peter Nettleton agreed to look over the constitution and make recommendations to keep it up to date.
- 2) National Bush Poets Championships: Rusty would like the committee to look into the possibilities of holding the National Bush Poet's Championships in Perth in 2004.
- 3) Aims of Association: In response to a question from the floor it was agreed that the aims would be stated in the Newsletter from time to time.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Date to be advised. Peter Williamson advised that he is not available on Tuesday evenings, recommended that a committee meeting does not always need to be held each month.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 7:30pm

Committee Contacts Year 2001 – 2002

Name	Address	Position	Phone	E-Mail
Lorelie Tacoma	16 Gratwick Terrace Murdoch, WA 6150	President	9310 1500	tacoma@tpg.com.au
Joan Macneall	14 Arbour Place Kelmscott, WA 6111	Vice-President	9451 6008	macneall1@inet.net.au
Michelle Sorrell	Unit 1, 8 Hill St South Perth, WA 6151	Editor	9367 4963	msorrell@inet.net.au
Peter Williamson	Unit 4, 176 Fern St Wilson, WA 6107	Secretary	9258 5773	willo@wirecity.com.au
Kerry Lee	160 Blair Road Oakford, WA 6113	Treasurer	9397 0409	daverodkerry@bigpond.com
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@inet.net.au
Constance Herbert	Unit 6, 5 Crabtree Mews O'connor, WA 6163	Committee	9331 2321	

HELP!

Over the past few months, Geoff and I have loaned our one and only Bob Magor book to someone in the association, but we can't remember who it was. This note is to jog someone's memory. Lorelie says she has lost some of her poetry in the same way. We love to share our books, but we love our books as well.

Michelle

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Assoc Inc

Dear Edna

Your **YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION** is now due.
To continue to receive this Newsletter,
please send your Subs \$15 Per Member to

The Editor
Unit 1, 8 Hill St
South Perth WA 6151

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc**Coming Events**

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
Frid 2 nd Aug 2002	CAY Everyone is invited to Perform	Rod Lee --- H 9397 0409 evenings
Frid 6 th Sept. 2002	CAY special guest Ron Evans + supporting cast	Peter Williamson --- 9258 5773
Wed 2 nd - Sat 5 th October 2002	National Rally in Northam (Caravan and Camping Club)	Rod and Kerry Lee – H. 9397 0409 evenings
Sat. 12 th Oct. 2002	Yealering Bush Poetry Heat	Peter Nettleton – 9417 8663 evenings
Frid 1 st Nov 2002	First Heat for Wireless Hill 2003	TBA
Frid 6 th Dec 2002	Second Heat for Wireless Hill 2003	TBA

Return Address

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

Postage Paid

Australia

PP No: 607 742 100 42

Edna Westall

Unit 2, 10 McKimmie Rd
PALMYRA WA 6157