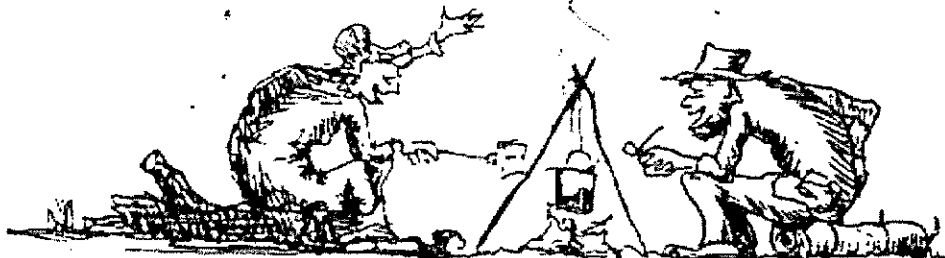


WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



Return Address: The Secretary, Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Tce, Murdoch, WA 6150
Newsletter October, 1998

1999 AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSN Inc. RULES OF ENTRY FOR COMPETITION

AUSTRALIAN BUSH & URBAN POETS SECTION

Definition: Australian Poetry is bush and urban poetry relevant to Australia and the Australian way of life.

Categories: (1) Original (Own) compositions
(2) Other poets' works (author to be acknowledged)

Presentation: All poetry must be performed from memory (not read).

Duration: Three to seven minutes including 'preamble' (introduction to poem)

YARNSPINNERS SECTION

Definition: The yarn is a narrative, long and convoluted rather than short and direct, that uses exaggeration and other devices to stretch the credulity of the audience. Wit, humour and wry observation colour the tale, and in the Australian form it is often delivered in laconic or deadpan style to encourage belief in the 'marvellous' or incredible events told.

Presentation: All yarns must be performed from memory (not read).

Duration: Three to seven minutes per contestant.

*Material of a tasteless nature will be penalised or disqualified.
Please remember the Wireless Hill finals are a family event.*

DON'T MISS THE HEATS FOR THE CHALLENGE

Throughout the year the Committee has explored many avenues to present a venue for members to perform informally, or be part of an audience at performances located from Broome in the North, to Donnelly River in the South, to Wongan Hills in the Wheatbelt, and many metropolitan events as well.

Now the time has come for some serious stuff. The three **Competition Heats** at the Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge, leading to **the Australia Day Challenge** at Wireless Hill in the City of Melville.

As with all competitions and challenges, rules are formulated so as to give guidelines to participants, and to make for simpler judging. The rules for each club or association tend to differ to one degree or another, so we have tailored the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners rules to resemble, in the main, the other Associations that are involved in the interstate heats that we are endeavouring to reach.

For your information, the rules are set out on page one. Please read them carefully, simple though they be, for there have been some minor changes from last year.

To All the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners taking part
in the 1999 Australia Day Challenge.....Good Luck

HEATS FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE

RAFFLES HOTEL, CANNING BRIDGE
UPSTAIRS IN THE RIVERVIEW ROOM

Friday 2nd October Friday 6th November Friday 4th December

Contestants may perform at one or all of the Heats

Finalists from each category will go forward to the Finals on Australia Day at
Wireless Hill Park

You could be the Champion Yarnspinner or the Champion Bush Poet for 1999

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND BE THERE

Here is a call to all those members who have a desire to be part of the action, but don't want to perform. There are many "job vacancies" to fill at the heats and on Australia Day. If you think you could be of assistance at any of these events please volunteer to be allotted a task. The "behind the scenes workers" are the performers best friends.

Call Rusty Christensen (tel 9364 4491) or Stinger Nettleton (tel 9335 3303) if you can't get through to our Secretary Lorelie who is attending a reunion in Holland until mid-October.

DONNELLY RIVER IN THE SPRING

© Kay Stehn September, 98

Here I tell you in chronicle style
Of a brilliant weekend without care.
Out in the bush our hearts wore a smile,
Donnelly River, at Mill Town there.

Ever so glad to have made the break,
To have gone and enjoyed that brief time.
Bush Poets and Yarners alike *did* make
An effort to bring joy with a rhyme.

It was Spring, September, Ninety Eight.
We met away from the daily grind
Loosely tied by a yarn and a mate,
Deep in the forest, toil cast behind.

Plenty of peace to soothe the spirit
And winding bush tracks to meander.
Entertainment worthy of merit
And green parrots on each verandah.

Each booking was allotted a bed
According to their special request.
And so our party was widely spread.
Some homes good, others better, some best.

Two lots of folk were lucky to draw
"Executive Accommodation".
Karri Outlook above forest floor
Such style and beautiful location.

Cottage Eight was the Meeting Place
For the 'Bush Poets and Yarners Do'.
This is where we all came face to face.
Members assembled, both old and new.

From Stehns' small room was a magic view
For yards --- and a giant fig tree bare.
Door left ajar on the outside loo.
Rabbits grazed nearby, they didn't care.

The Herbert Home was a girlie nest
For the ladies to retire
And from this place we were doubly blessed
With Anthea's songs. Voice to inspire!

The Swains lived up at the Manor House.
Sweeping lawns adorned with snoozy 'roos.
Settled with her friends, Di let her spouse
Have time out with his mates, to amuse.

Sat'day, the muso's got things moving.
Lively rhythms wafted through the trees.
Folks' glasses filled and toes a'tapping.
"Just one more, play another, please."

Assassin's ukulele floored'em.
Delight! Abe Shield on slide steel guitar.
"New team together, let's applaud'em."
"Oh boy! What a magic team they are."

Then Stinger played guitar with Cappy
Joined by Abe and the Assassin, too.
"Shake a Larger-phone. Make it happy!"
"Who was the whiz on the old Kazoo?"

The Night Out was a wonderful show,
Where almost everyone took a turn
To spin a yarn or to have a go
And the tucker was too good to spurn.

Sunday morning was lovely and warm
And new mates at breakfast were gathered,
Briefly removed from life's routine storm.
Here more spoken words were delivered.

Emerging from that secluded place,
Success of the jaunt was evident.
Revived, and with a smile on the face,
Each a little lighter, woes all spent.

I'll be happy if you get my drift
Of the wonderful time we each had.
That place, and mateship, gave us a lift.
Memories, when recalled, make us glad.

I'd like to interpret this cryptic rhyme
But I'm afraid it will take too long.
So why don't you shake a leg next time,
Pack your own swag up and come along?

Catch a Bouquet... Here's one for the Tidy Sprites at Donnelly River

who followed the thoughtless ones around

Some of us noticed the work that you did

THANKS EVER SO MUCH

SENDING SMOKE SIGNALS OO OOO O

In response to the Smoke Signal received from Julie Matheson of North Perth, who wanted to hear more about the term "Johnny Come Lately", Stewart Hammond of Girrawheen provides the following information from his book of origins "Back in the early 1800's, British sailors called any new or inexperienced hand Johnny Newcomer. American sailors apparently adopted the expression, changing it to Johnny Comelately. The first recorded mention of the term – in an 1839 novel set on the high seas – uses it in this form in referring to a young recruit. The expression soon came to describe newcomers from all walks of life, changing a little more to the familiar Johnny-come-lately". Thanks, Stewart and yes, we all agree that Bush Poets & Yarnspinners events are really the best entertainment around and a good yarnspinner is worth his salt.

Remember this next snippet, way back in February?

Bob Jardine of Parkridge recalls this first line: "Down at Tumba bloody Rumba shoot'n Kanga bloody Roos" and it's driving him crazy...

Well, Bob, you won't find it in the publication Songs of a Sour Dough as our smoke signal suggested in August, but thanks to an anonymous correspondent, you can read the whole poem below.

Frank Harrison of Redcliffe sent an August smoke signal that got a bit garbled by the time it reached the Swagmail. What he *really* wanted to say was not about shoot'n Kanga bloody Roos, but about the verses penned on a derelict wall, about 60K north of Coolgardie and signed by Jules Raseur. The second verse comes from the Shooting of Dan McGrew by Robert Service, with a few words changed, and he thinks the first verse must be an original. It is from the Songs of a Sour Dough.

To remind the reader.....here, below, are the verses once again.

**Deserted now, no more you're stirred by those in search for gold.
Alas you're but a memory blurred of what you were of old.
What though the town in silence sleeps except for song of birds.
There's history in your silent heaps more eloquent than words.**

**Were you ever out in the great alone when the moon was awful clear
And the barren mountains hemmed you in with a silence you could almost hear?
With only the howl of the dingoo pack as you camped there in the cold.
A half-starved thing in a stark dead world, clean mad for the muck called gold.**

THE MAN FROM TUMBARUMBA

by J. Wolfe

He asked for work at muster-time,
We tried him as a rider,
We tried him as a rouseabout
And as the cook's offsider.
He said he'd sailed the seven seas
And worked up in Alaska,
He's been in every Western State
From Texas to Nebraska.

Chorus:

**He said he's shorn a sheep or two
And cut a bit of lumber
And waged war on the kangaroo
At Tumba-b.....-rumba.**
We had him in the shearing shed,
We put him on the stacker,
We tried him digging rabbits out,
He wasn't worth a cracker.
He had a shop in Singapore,
He owned a pearling lugger,
He was a champ at baccarat,
Australian Rules and Rugger.

Chorus:

He never showed his aptitude
On work he was allotted,
But showed his skill upon the drinks
And cigarettes he botted.
He said he'd climbed the Matterhorn,
He'd been a union-leader,
And years ago in Adelaide
He was a pigeon-breeder.

Chorus:

We had him cutting fencing posts
We tried to find his caper
Until that happy payday when
He got his piece of paper.
I wonder what he's doing now –
Perhaps back on the lumber,
Or shooting kanga-b.....-roos
At Tumba-b.....-rumba.

Chorus:

**He said he's shorn a sheep or two
And cut a bit of lumber
And waged war on the kangaroo
At Tumba-b.....-rumba.**

COMING EVENTS

THE THREE HEATS FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE

Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge – Upstairs in the Riverview Room

1st Heat Friday 2nd October

2nd Heat Friday 6th November

3rd Heat Friday 4th December

WONGAN HILLS WALK-ABOUT

Join Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge, Leigh Matthews, Ron Evans, Rusty Christensen & Co

Sat Friday night in Wongan Hills 17th October, 1998

Contact Chris Sadler in Wongan Hills Tel.9672 1025 or Rusty Christensen Tel. 9364 4491

WRITTEN COMPETITION "WHAT BRIDGETOWN MEANS TO ME"

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 14th November 1998 (see article page 4 this newsletter)

Poems to be performed live and an anthology of the poems to be launched

at the 110TH ANNUAL BRIDGETOWN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

For further details contact: Maureen Thurston of Bridgetown Tourist Centre on Tel. 9761 1740

NORTHCLIFFE WRITERS GROUP Present A SUNDOWNER EVENT

A spoken word performance featuring Members of the WA Yarnspinnners & Bush Poets Assn Inc

And the country's own blend of Yarners, Liars, Wingers, Occasional Poets and Speakers.

Snake Oil Salesmen need not apply.

Venue. The Northcliffe Workers Club

Date 20th November, 1998 Time: 6.30pm

Contact: Claudette Mountjoy in Northcliffe Tel. 9776 7104

INAUGURAL SOUTHWEST EXPO BRIDGETOWN

Saturday 28th November, 1998 at 5.30pm

Join the Bruce Brothers – Roger Montgomery and Jon Doust - to spin a yarn or tell a story

AT THE 110TH ANNUAL BRIDGETOWN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

For entry forms contact: Maureen Thurston of Bridgetown Tourist Centre on Tel. 9761 1740

Or just come along to enjoy the celebrations in Bridgetown (see article page 4 this newsletter)

AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE

START ROUNDING UP A GROUP OF FRIENDS FOR THE WA BUSH POETS &

YARNSPINNERS CHALLENGE AT WIRELESS HILL IN MELVILLE

FOR AN AFTERNOON OF ENTERTAINMENT UNDER THE TREE OF WISDOM

W.A. BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS
Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. Tacoma
16 Gratwick Tce, Murdoch, 6150
Tel/Fax 9310 1500

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16 Gratwick Terrace
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