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 ukulcle 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 DonnellyRiver

who followed the thoughtless ones around

Some of us noticed the work that you did

74ANKS EVER SO MUCH

SENDING SMOKE SIGNALS 00 000 0

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-comelately". 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 dingo 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 IN THE SOUTHWEST

These tit-bits are brought to you for your interest, participation and enjoyment, however we wish to point out that *none* of them have been underwritten or organised by WA BUSH Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Inc.



WRITTEN COMPETITION

"What Bridgetown Means to Me" is the theme of a written poetry competition being run by Bridgetown-Donnybrook Mail and Bridgetown High School. There is a monthly prize for the best poem received in September, October and November and the contest will culminate in the performance of the prize-winning entries live "on stage" at the 110th Bridgetown Annual Agricultural Show/South West EXPO, to be held on Saturday 28th November at the Bridgetown Showgrounds. Written entries should be received by the Bridgetown-Donnybrook Mail before 14th November, 1998. It is proposed to produce a small booklet of the poems (with the authors' Permission) to be sold to visitors and locals as a memento of Bridgetown.

Further details are available from Maureen Thurston of Bridgetown Tourist Centre on Tel. 9761 1740

THE BIG BUSH BASH fund-raiser for OLDGROWTH FORESTS NORTHCLIFFE SATURDAY, 10TH OCT 3PM-TILL LATE

Live Music and Dancing, Didgeridoo, Fire Acts, Jugglers, Exotic food and Bush Poetry Entry \$5 Per Adult/ no charge children BYO, FREE CAMPING, NO DOGS All enquiries Tel. Northcliffe 9767 7222 Or by mail to Friends of Jane c/- Post Office Northcliffe 6262

PERFORMANCE POETRY IN BRIDGETOWN On Saturday 28th November at approximately 5.30pm the Great Southwest Yarnspinning Championships will be held, in conjunction with the 110th Annual Bridgetown Agricultural Show and the Inaugural South West EXPO. This event will provide a forum for yarnspinners and storytellers to entertain the visitors at the Showgrounds, between the Dog High Jump and the start of the Fireworks Display. The Bruce Brothers - Roger Montgomery and Jon Doust - will host this event and a number of prizes will be bestowed on the most "worthy" entrants. Further details and entry forms are available from Maureen Thurston of Bridgetown Tourist Centre on Tel. 9761 1740.

PERFORMANCE POETRY IN BOYUP BROOK Once again there is activity in Boyup Brook. The annual Boyup Brook Festival is about to take off again. If you wish to perform in a non-competitive way in this lovely country town, but don't know what to expect, get straight to the telephone and talk to our Southwest Poet Brian Gale, who knows all about it, at Margaret River Tel. 9757 2431.

Telephone rates with Telecom weeknights after 7 pm cost \$3.00 no matter how long you talk as long as you hang up by midnight

STEP INTO THE NORTHCLIFFE WORKERS' CLUB AND YOU TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME A Sundowner Event presented by the Northcliffe Writers Group

Friday 29th November, 98 commencing 6.30pm

Claudette Mountjoy, finalist of our 1997 Australia Day Challenge cup, extends a warm welcome to all enthusiasts of the spoken word, and given sufficient notice has offered to arrange billets for visitors during their stay in Northcliffe. Step into the Northcliffe Workers' Club and you take a step back in time. Meet the colourful locals of this small but community minded town, deep in the heart of the Karri forest. Enjoy music and poetry by Abe Shields, bush yarns by Alison Daubney and just try to stop Claudette from performing! Members are all invited to "do a turn" so please mark your calendar, round up a car-load of companions, and make a phone call to register your interest with Claudette Mountjoy, Northcliffe Tel. 9776 7104

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 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 Yarnspinners & 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. Sectretary, Mrs. L. Tacoma 16 Gratwick Tce, Murdoch, 6150 Tel/Fax 9310 1500

> Eelco & Lorelie Tacoma 16 Gratwick Terrace MURDOCH WA 6150

