

The Bully Tin

April 2004

WA Bush Poets



& Yarn Spinners

Monthly Muster at the Como Bowling & Recreation Club cnr Hensman & Sandgate Sts, Sth Perth
Next Meeting: Friday 2nd April 2004 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Glenny Palmer Visits Perth!

13th March – 28th March 2004

Thanks to a grant from the Melville City Council we were able to bring Glenny Palmer, one of Australia's finest writers and reciters of Bush Poetry to Perth. Her visit was primarily to conduct a Children's and Adult's Poetry Writing Workshop in conjunction with the Festival of Melville. This was conducted on 14th March at Heathcote Park. The workshop proved very beneficial for those who attended. While in Perth Glenny has produced a comprehensive instructional poetry writer's handout. Anyone interested in acquiring a copy can do so by contacting Rod or Kerry Lee.

Glenny has also done three workshops at Winthrop Baptist College. The teachers were amazed at her skill and rapport with the children. Hopefully we will have some works from these children in future newsletters.

Glenny also entertained at our special concert at Como Bowling Club, at a social event at Fairbridge and at the Concert at Diggers Camp. While she has had her audiences in stitches with her zany comedy style she has also been able to display her considerable writing talent by delivering some of her powerful serious works. The "Bride of St Claire" is one such work and was runner up in Tamworth's Blackened Billy awards 1997.

Her visit has been another boost to the growth of Bush Poetry in Western Australia.

Thanks Glenny!!

The Bride of St Claire

Will you ride with me to the rails tonight
To the yards at old St Claire;
Will you stride with me in the pale moonlight
And stroke my auburn hair;
Lay aside the whips for my ruby lips
(I'll give you a blossom fair),
One ride, my love, for a lifetime's thought
Before you leave St Claire?

Will you lie with me by the wattle tree
In the clover at St Claire;
Will you tie for me with its humble blooms
A garland for my hair;
Will you keep the tryst if I ever whisper
Naught of the sweet affair,
Transgression's kiss upon Virtue's lips
Before you leave St Claire?

Do you long for me, now the wanderlust
Sings far from old St Claire;
Do your songs for me linger mournfully
On the wand'ring western air;
Does a lover's pain tempt the horse's rein
To the call of the weeping prayer
That I, with child, whispered every day
In the chapel at St Claire?

For the youthful spell I remember well
Was woven at St Claire,
On a moonswept night, in the clovered site
The virgin love laid bare;
And a heart was lost, while a heart was gained,
Our son, with a faint despair,
Asks why he has not a father here
To love, at old St Claire.

So I taught him trust, and I taught him true
How to watch from old St Claire;
And he listens too, as I do for you
On the distant evening air;
Though I'm weary now, for I'm wan with age,
Confined to the rocking chair,
In my harrowed heart, I will ever be
Your fair bride of St. Claire.

Editor's Report

March has been a very busy and fruitful month for Bush Poetry in Western Australia. Reports on the Monthly Muster, Dandaragan Beer Fest and the Heathcote Breakfast and Workshop follow in this newsletter.

My main area of interest this month has been the interpretation of our survey conducted at the March Muster. Anyone who has not filled out a form and would like to participate in the survey can do so at the April Muster or give me a call and I will send one. It would appear that, in the main, people are happy with the programme and facilities. There were some good suggestions for minor changes that we will implement to improve the overall presentation of the evenings. Other areas that got emphatic responses were very few people wished to perform and almost everyone would like a short musical presentation.

One good comment which had me thinking was "Keep it clean". From my perspective having performed and viewed Bush Poetry all over Australia we have the cleanest standard around. So that led me to wonder if the comment was from someone who is happy with the standard and wants it maintained or someone who believes that from time to time we over step the mark? Australian Bush Poetry is an art. (Australian Folk Art) In all forms of art people push the boundaries. It is also the expression of our raw Australian Culture. If a poem is a true reflection of activities in a shearing shed or at a mine site, for instance, it is quite conceivable that some colourful language may be appropriate and in context. It is therefore very difficult to enforce a hard and fast ruling in this area.

I think that letters to the editor would be an interesting addition to our news letter so if you have a view on this or any other matter I would love to hear from you.

Rod Lee

Sub-Editor's Report

Our aim is to make this newsletter interesting and informative. We are feeling our way here and need your help with letters, poems (own or someone else's) and through constructive comments and advice. One comment on the first edition was the font was difficult to read. I have taken that on board and hope this font is easier on the eye.

I extend apologies for any misspelling of names or missed items of interest in the last news letter.

If you have attended any pertinent concerts or gatherings or read an article which may interest club members, or just wish to share a special moment or event, please pass it on to us.

In closing I would like to extend a special "thankyou" to Edna Westall from all of us for her support and the tremendous effort she has put in not only as a committee member but as "tea lady" at various functions and the Monthly Muster.

Kerry Lee

Droppings from "The Bass Cocky"



A big "Thanks" to Rod Lee and his crew/ staff – reads, Kerry – for accepting, at short notice, the exalted position of editor. albeit by default, of our publication – the mail out. We can anticipate some interesting, informative and even challenging pieces to flow from the pen of the friendly facilitator of what will be a watershed year for Bush Poetry a.k.a. Australian rhyming Verse in this state.

There is so much activity currently going on and planned, that I see it as a quantum leap forward, leading up to, and beyond the national competition in late October for our organisation, that it is imperative for our members to consider just what they may be able to do to help the cause. Could be as simple as introducing a friend to the fun and friendship of membership or bring them to the Muster at the Como Camp on the first Friday of the month – not to forget the State Championships in mid-March at the Fremantle Arts Centre which will be a forerunner as an annual event to be held in a different regional centre each year, thus taking and sharing the enjoyment with our friends and fans in "The Bush". There is a detailed update of the latest doings courtesy of Ramblin' Rod elsewhere in this edition.

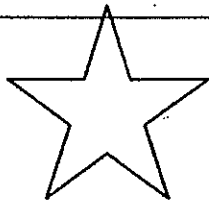
The inaugural Poet's Breakfast and Writer's Workshop sponsored by the City of Melville as a part of the Festival of Melville at the Heathcote Centre on Sunday, 14th March was enjoyable and successful. About 40-50 friendly folk turned up with their breakie and enjoyed the show which flushed out some new faces – dear Rosa overcame her stage fright and read a beautiful piece she had written about ageing – she had been inspired to write it as it was her birthday – and as we are all in that cart, I was most impressed by her words and sincerity. When you hear it, and I hope you do, I am sure you will agree.

A measure of success of the workshop was that rather than finishing at around noon, it had to be wound up at 1.30pm with participants reluctant to leave. Those fortunate to attend and experience Glennie Palmer's professional performance had a comprehensive introduction to the art of composing verse with proper rhyme and rhythm – with NO assonance – check it out!

Among the participants of the workshop (12-15) were a couple of keen young college ladies whom I hope learned and took away much of what Glennie, in her inimitable way, endeavoured to impart. It is central to what we are about to involve younger people in the conservation of our unique national idiom. Therefore we must strive to make the proposed partnership with Celebrate Western Australia a successful one, with its prospects of a worthwhile written competition for young and open age contestants later in the year. At this stage June Bond is attending to this important facet of our endeavours and I have every confidence in her, as I have in the other members of our committee whom I am very comfortable working with.

Reference my last comment, should you wish to join them, or at least participate at some level in this exciting and challenging "Year of Bush Poetry" feel free, we will welcome you aboard.

Rusty C.



Review of Coming Events

This year promises to be a great year for reciters and writers. The following is a list of events in which you can all be a part of, from writing and competing to coming along and enjoying yourselves.

***11th April 2004 Moora Campout Bush Poet's Breakfast.**

Rod, Kerry & Chris Sadler will conduct this event. As part of this event we will be conducting a "One Minute Poem" competition. People unable to attend can also submit entries and have them read out. Entry form and examples of One Minute Poems are enclosed in this issue.

***Weekend 15th -16th May 2004 Western Australian Bush Poetry Championships.**

The Championships will be held over the whole weekend at the Fremantle Arts Centre. The Arts Centre is very keen to have it as part of their programme and plan to assist in attracting local people to the event.

For those needing to stay over night powered and unpowered sites for tents, caravans & campers are available at Digger's Camp for \$5.00 per night. Contact Rod or Kerry on 9397 0409.

To win the Championships poets will have to recite an original humorous poem, an original serious poem and an Australian Classic. Original works must be new works never previously used in competition. (See competition add for more detail). There will also be a Contemporary section, Yarn Spinning and Novice and Junior Competition.

The response to both competitions has been disappointing so far. Come on Poets! Have a go, have fun and support Bush Poetry in Western Australia!

***29-31st October 2004 Australian Bush Poetry Championships**

Buy your ticket early and don't miss out!

Australian Bush Poetry Championships Update

Edna Westall has taken on the roll of Accommodation Co-ordinator. She has details of all available accommodation at the Camp Wattle Grove and the Wattle Grove Motel. If anyone knows of visitors requiring budget accommodation Edna is your contact. She will also require assistance with hospitality and transport during the Championships. If you would like to be on her team please let her know.

In the beginning quite a few people put their names down to help with the Championships. Don't think we have forgotten you. As October draws closer we will be allocating jobs such as competition and audience marshals. These will be required at the Regal Theatre and Camp Wattle Grove over three days. There will be no shortage of jobs to do!

We are looking for 12-14 \$1000.00 sponsors or a few less if we can get a \$5000.00 naming rights sponsor. The sponsorship will cover prize money and trophies for each category. If you know of any organisation that could benefit from supporting our Championships please let us know. We also ask members to support our sponsors who will be advertised as they come on board. We have two sponsorship commitments so far - Collins Craft & School Supplies (sponsoring the Junior Competition) and Diggers Camp. Further information about the sponsorship arrangements is available from Rod Lee (08) 9397 0409.

Moora Camp Out Weekend

Bush Poet's Breakfast & One Minute Poem Competition

Sunday 11th April 2004 7.30 – 9.30am Apex Park

Competition

Winner takes all \$100.00 prize

Poems will be judged on content, quality of rhythm & rhyme and audience reaction. If you wish to enter but cannot attend Kerry, Chris or Rod will read your poem. If more than 20 poems are received some pre-judging will take place.

Entry Fee \$5.00 per entry

Closing date – 3rd April 2004

Bush Poets Brawl

Entry Form

One Minute Poem Competition

Winner Takes All - \$100.00 First Prize

Poem will be judged on content and audience reaction.

The poem must be written in rhyming verse & performed within the one minute time frame.

If you cannot attend you may select someone to present your poem or Rod, Kerry or Chris Sattler will present it for you.

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Entries to be submitted to:

Diggers Camp

160 Blair Road Oakford

by 2nd April 2004.

Entry Form

Name:

Address:

.....

Ph. No:

Further information please contact Rod & Kerry Lee Ph: (08) 9397 0409

Having Fun With

"One Minute Poems!"

by Glenny Palmer

During the past ten years of "poeting" around Australia and overseas, some of the best fun my hubby (Big Al) and I have had, has come from being in the One Minute Poems, otherwise known as "A Poets' Brawl".

One of the most memorable for me was when we were travelling the 24 hour train journey on the Spirit of the Out back to Winton in 1998. As well as the serious business of championship competitions, the Waltzing Matilda Festival hosted other fun events like the "Poetry Olympics".

At the time there were 14 teams of four people each battling for the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for poems about Athletics, Tennis, Canoeing and Boxing or Wrestling.

Our team, the Brisbane Blizzards (everyone knows how much it snows in Queensland) was made up of Bill Hay (the Father of bush poetry in Queensland) who had drawn Athletics, Trisha Anderson (the Darling of bush poetry) who had drawn Tennis and ME.... who had drawn Canoeing (but who wrote on "Canoodling" - much more fun.) However, we were short of a Wrestler - all eyes fell on my six foot high and six foot wide hubby, Big Al.

"Not on your life!" he said, being a more conservative chap than the rest of us, and having the slight disadvantage of not being a poet. When coercion failed, direct threats to his personal well being resulted in grudging co-operation and all four of us wrote "The Fairy Wrestler".

We then harassed the poor man into memorising his poem, and then just relied on Providence to see our team through.

On the big day 200 plus people who knew Big Al to be a quiet retiring sort of chap, were struck dumb with amazement (that included me) when he came bounding onto the stage in a pair of pink tights, with a rubber band around his nose so he looked like a thug and wearing a fluffy beanie. His subsequent delivery of "The Fairy Wrestler" brought the house down (and left me considerably unnerved about his sexual orientation). Here was a man who had NEVER performed a poem in his life, beating us all to WIN THE GOLD MEDAL!! He had even beaten Milton Taylor who was wearing boxing gloves and sparred his way across the stage with a towel around his neck and three pairs of footy socks shoved inside his black tights to make him look more "manly"! (Don't ask me how I know there were three pairs)

The "Fairy Wrestler" event has passed into Queensland poetry Folklore and some six years later Big Al still receives requests to perform the poem.

The Fairy Wrestler

I used to be a wrestler, winning lots of fights.
I hugged and squeezed the other chap
And I wore pink shiny tights.

I grabbed him a headlock and whispered in his ear
"I hope this doesn't hurt too much
My precious little dear."

I threw him on the canvas and I pulled his curly hair,
And said, "Where did you get that perm?
I really must go there!"

Then we had a piggyback he thought that it was great
He spun me round in circles
And he landed on his(bottom)

His trainer threw the towel in. It was pink with pretty bows.
I stared at it in envy. "Why don't I have one of those?"

And then I started crying. I really threw a fit!
I called his trainer nasty names like poo and bum and - - t!

My trainer said "Now Sweetie, No more tears. You've won the fight.
Come on home with Mummy & I'll tuck you in real tight!"

In the Tamworth Competition that Kerry won when allocated the word "Billabong" for her One Minute Poem (refer March News Letter) Rod's word was ".....?"

"?"

The word that I was given has really got me goin'.
How can I use that thing, to write a bloody poem?
I could put it into paper to smooth out rough sawn boards

Or put it with a "-wich" to feed the hungry hoards.
In front of "al"s it keeps ya feet from getting hurt
And you can put it into soap to get rid of grease & dirt.

With its old mate "Stone" it is a town in WA
And a pit of it's a really great place for kids to play.
You can put it into "bags" to keep the floods at bay.
It can be used to build a castle for the sea to wash away.

So damn it I am giving in. I'm chucking in me hand
'Cause there's bugger all that I can do with a useless word like SAND!

Western Australian Bush Poetry Championships

15-16th May 2004

Fremantle Arts Centre

1 Finnerty Street, Fremantle

Categories: # Original Serious
Original Humorous
Australian Classic (over 50 years old)

Contemporary by another author

Novice Own Written

Novice Recital (Classic or Contemporary)

* Junior Own Written

* Junior Recital (Classic or Contemporary)

Yarn Spinning

Accumulated point score for Western Australian Champion

* Accumulated point score for Junior Champion

Entry Fees

Open: \$10.00 First category
\$ 5.00 Each additional category

Novice: \$ 5.00 per category

Junior: \$ 5.00 per category

Winners and place getters will be announced in each category.

Original material must be new and never previously performed in competition.

Western Australian Bush Poetry Championships

Entry Form

Saturday 15th May – Sunday 16th May 2004

Held at Fremantle Arts Centre

1 Finnerty Street Fremantle

Name:

Address:.....

Phone: Email:

Original Serious (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer – must be own work)

Original Humorous (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer – must be own work)

Australian Classic (Australian Bush Poetry at least 50 years old not written by performer)

(Competitors must perform in all three above sections to compete for the overall title of Western Australian Champion Bush Poet)

Contemporary Poem (Australian Bush Poetry less than 50 years old not written by performer)

Novice Own Written (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer who has never previously performed in competition)

Novice Recital (Australian Bush Poetry not written by performer who has never previously performed in competition)

Junior Own Written (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer - aged 15 years or younger)

Junior Recital (Australian Bush Poetry not written by performer – aged 15 years or younger)

Yarn Spinning

Entry Fee : (Please include self-addressed stamped envelope if receipt is required)

Nb. Cheques made payable to "WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Association"

Please tick categories entered.

Entry Fees - Open \$10.00 first category \$5.00 each additional category

Novice \$ 5.00 per category

Junior \$ 5.00 per category

Title of Australian Classic

Title of Contemporary Poem

If several performers nominate the same poem it may be requested another is chosen.

Performance Time Limit in all categories - maximum eight (8) minutes including preamble.

Junior Competitors - maximum six (6) minutes including preamble

February Monthly Muster

Great roll up again of enthusiastic audience and performers.

Please keep in mind we need to start at 7.30pm if we are to have a full nights programme. The Como Bowls Club has been very generous in allowing us to use not only their function room but the kitchen as well. In return they would appreciate being able to close up by 10.30pm. It would be great if you could be seated by 7.30pm so the evening can start on time.

Barry Higgins was our MC for the night. His quick wit and humorous style set the theme with plenty of good hearted banter from performers and audience. Having Tim Hoffernan from Yearling present certainly added to the night. Those of you who were at Wireless Hill 2003 would remember his funny poems and great presentation, especially "The Dunny in Hay Street Mall".

It was an added bonus to have Pat deliver "The Old Ghost Train" and "The Wreck of the Derry Castle". The last time I heard Pat was in Boyup Brook two years ago. You just never know who will walk in the door.

A big thankyou to Maxine for bringing new folks to the club and for bringing us Norm with his very funny poems. I loved the imagery in his "Treacle" poem. Thanks for sharing it with us Norm.

One poet who is improving in leaps and bounds is Margaret Taylor. The way she structured her poem "I Nearly Died of Fright" was clever and entertaining.

Wayne Pantell arrived late but treated us to a great performance of his poem "Flash Harry".

There was variety of poems and performers with Rosa, Verla & Rosemary addressing the mike along with Rusty, Rod & myself.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed.

Kerry

Dabblings from Rosa - Special Concert 19th March 2004

All those who attended the "Special" night on 19th March 2004 for the Bush Poets were absolutely entertained for and beyond their expectations!

Rod's usual preamble was Rod's usual preamble, after greeting everyone at the door. And was followed by his outstanding rendition of the treacheries of farming on a motorcycle, always "Heading for the Dirt" by Bob Magor. (Plenty hurt!!)

The first special guest, Greg Hastings, walking up to the dais had an impressive presence about him even before he started to speak - stylishly attired and with manly confident composure. He accompanied himself on guitar to his own compositions, telling of the love he has for this country he now calls his own after travelling far and wide, including 35 time across the "Nula-boring Plains", as well as north where he learnt to play the didgeridoo with exquisite tonal perfection. He delighted us with his animal, bird and physical sound interpretations on those beautifully carved instruments, also adding jokes and stories.

Bravo Greg! We hated to see you leave but glad you are sharing your multi-talents all over the country. Before Rod introduced the deliciously witty Glenny Palmer he recited the heart rending poem of the infant named on a gravestone "Queenie Lucinda O'Toole" by Milton Taylor with superb compassionate tonal expression. Then along came Glenny with her bright bubbly delightful and charming ancestral stories handed down and inspired by her grandad, granny and dad! Words per minute are mind boggling! She's certainly in turbo gear, and her soulful thoughtful words, and her wisdom is unique (with a heavy hint of feminism). Thank you and God bless you Glenny!

Of course Kerry Lee, as always, performed with her usual enchanting style and winning perfection. We all finally joined in singing "Waltzing Matilda" led by Greg on his guitar. A perfect way to spend a Friday night leaving everyone smiling and well satisfied as they departed for home.

Rosa Celenza

A Lesson in Verse

Rhyme and Reason by Ellis Campbell

Satiric Verse

"I am devoting this column to satiric verse. That is – holding up to ridicule politicians, royalty or whatever might be current news. In satiric verse the poet usually exaggerates things he believes unimportant and understates more important things. Politicians are the most popular target for satiric verse – for obvious reasons!

If you wish to make money via a newspaper column or radio station this is the most likely verse to meet that market. Conversely it is also the least valuable as real art. "A week is a long time in politics" is a popular saying. This applies to most "news". What seems most important this week will be erased by some new development overseas, a new scandal in high places or a multiple murder somewhere next week.

For satiric verse to have value the poet needs an ever ready market You must write the poem and use it the same day, or it will be too late!

Ellis Campbell is in his 78th year and has won many awards for written and performance works over the twenty-two years he has actively pursued his passion. He has been in great demand to run workshops and is very keen to help maintain a high standard in bush poetry. He has two highly recommended poetry books for sale – *The Gloss of Bush* and *Shadows of Yesterday* for \$12.00 each p&p. If you are interested in either of these books please contact Rod or Kerry Lee

Junior Poetry Section

poem from

Marco Gliori

Pancakes

She runs to the kitchen & begs, begs, begs
For milk and flour and eggs, eggs, eggs.
She stirs and whirs in a big fat bowl
Then into the pan where, bless my soul,
They sizzle and bubble and smell so sweet-
We just can't wait to eat, eat, eat!
With a pat and a flip and a scoop to the tray
We lick our chops and cry, "Hooray!"
Add a drip of honey and a splatter of cream
And great golly gosh, it's a pancake dream!

Marco is part of "The Naked Poets". He earns his livelihood teaching Bush Poetry to school children and feels he is privileged to have a "job" doing what he loves. This is one of the poems he has written with the children using their own words.

Committee Members – WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2003-2004

Rusty Christensen	President	9364 4491
Peter Nettleton	Vice-President	9417 8663
Rod Lee	Secretary	9397 0409
Kerry Lee	Treasurer	9397 0409
Jean Ritchie	Minutes Secretary	9450 3111
Rae Dockery	Committee	9356 7426
June Bond	Committee	9354 5804
Edna Westall	Committee	9339 3028
Lorelie Tacoma	Immediate Past President	9310 1500

Written Verse Competitions

28th May 2004 closing date. Bush Lantern Awards (Written) SAE-L Beavis – 232 Walker St. Bundaburg 4670

Sponsors

Collins Craft & School Supplies
Unit 2/ 199 Balcatta Road
Balcatta
Ph: 9345 3250

Diggers Camp
160 Blair Road
Oakford
Ph: 9397 0409

See Justine for a complete range of craft supplies and wonderful friendly service & Crafty tips.

Rod, Kerry & Dave Lee will entertain you with Australian Bush Verse & Song at your venue or ours.

WA Bush Poetry Championships Show Night

Fremantle Arts Centre – Saturday 15th May 2004 7.30pm – 10.30pm

Come and see Western Australia's best competition poets performing at their very best.

Full bar facilities available – No BYO

Entry Fee: \$10.00 pp

This will be an ideal night to introduce your friends to Bush Poetry.

Senders address .

Surface Mail
Postage Paid

Black Line

PP

Address .

BW 500