



Scratchings

Well, here we are , Australia Day already and we are once again hosting our "Bush Poets Showcase" at Wireless Hill . But it will probably be all over by the time you get this Bully Tin.

I have noticed over the past couple of years that our ranks are thinning a bit—age is catching up with a few, some have moved to distant places and others are involved in other activities. This not only affects our premier event at Wireless Hill but also our regular musters, in that there are occasional months where we are scratching to fill the allotted time. It would be great if we could attract a few new performers. What about it Audience? Can you see yourself up at the front sprouting out your rhyming words or enthraling us all with a story. Perhaps you've thought of giving it a go? I know at first it can be a very daunting experience, but it does become easier as time goes on, and it does give you an enormous amount of self satisfaction as well as improving your skills.. We are looking for both writer / performers as well as people who just want to present someone else's work, either from the classics or from among the huge range of contemporary poets. You don't have to start off as an expert— we are all on your side and appreciate the effort and guts it takes to get up in front of an audience, particularly if you are new at it. March presents a great opportunity for some newcomers, for the March Muster is "Festival of Writers" and we are looking for people who can read (shock horror) with clarity, expression and conviction. If you think you can do this, please give me a ring or e-mail me — see Upcoming Muster Notes— Page 3 ")

Which brings me to another point. When we started asking performers to contact the MC BEFORE the muster it was with two reasons in mind, one was so that we could get under way on time. This so far has proved quite successful. It would be nice however if the audience were all settled BEFORE start time as well.— That way the efforts of the poets and the MC are not in vain. The second reason for getting in touch with the MC was so that hopefully, performers had thought about what poem or story they were going to present, and maybe would have practiced it so as to minimise the number of stumbles. It's no good making up your mind what you will present as you walk up to the microphone, for ,as we've seen on a number of occasions, even for experienced performers, that quite often ends in disaster.

Another little point also has again come to the fore, The main focus of our Association is the preservation and continuance of our AUSTRALIAN culture through the means of AUSTRALIAN rhyming verse and AUSTRALIAN stories and occasional song. I see no reason at all why, in our environment we need resort to songs which in no way refer to our lifestyle or locations. We know there are a multitude of excellent Aussie Songs—both from times past and from the modern writers, We can hear American stuff in almost every other media—lets keep ours True Blue.

Changing tack—We, like most similar organisations, have now gone down the Insurance track and paid out a hefty sum which will protect us and our members and volunteers in the hopefully unlikely event of something going wrong. It was a rather lengthy and difficult journey, for we found that few Insurance companies are willing to insure volunteers who are over 65 (or even 60 in some cases) - As our average age is almost 70 few of us would have been covered. We did manage to find one company who has a sliding scale to 80. So we can now truthfully say, when asked by councils etc when we apply for a permit to perform, Yes! We do have 3rd party Insurance and Yes, our volunteers do have some personal accident insurance, (even though the number of volunteers covered at any one event is limited)

Happy Valentines Day to all Members and those they love Brian Langley, President.

What's on in the Bush?

Remember that the Country Music Festival, incorporating several Bush Poetry events .will be held at **Boyup Brook** in only a couple of weeks, running from Thurs. 14th to Sun. 17th February, 2008.

The Festival poetry events kick off with a Musical Comedy duo "Topp Twins" from New Zealand, supported by local Bush Poets That will take place at the Hockey Ground, commencing Thurs. 6pm. On Friday, "Poets in the Park" at the rear of the Tourist centre will commence at 11.30 - This will have an open mic session for anyone visiting. This will be followed by a free concert with a range of musicians and Bush Poets.



Saturday morning sees Bush Poetry with Breakfast at the Bowling Club. This too is an Open Mic event

The main Bush Poetry Event, the Sunday Brekky is the biggest event on the WA Bush Poetry calendar. This year, the guests artists are Marco Giori and Victoria Brown, along with a range of local and visiting poets. Bill Gordon is coordinating the poetry events—you can reach him on 9765 1098

Remember too that the **Waddi Festival** is on at Waddi Farm in Badgingarra on March 1st and 2nd—The program will include a Sunday Morning Poets Brekky, with other poetry sessions throughout the day. The Poetry Coordinator for this event is Corin Linch 9652 6003

And a reminder the Val Lishman Health Research Foundation Bush Poets Day at **Dardanup** on Sunday March 30 If you've forgotten, go back and look at last months Bully Tin.

Moondyne Joe Festival - Toodyay May 4th - See Page 5

Walking Different Tracks

Still nothing from our members— surely some of you are involved in non poetic activities.



I did hear that member Caroline Sambridge has had a bit of good fortune come her way. She recently won a movie pass via a popular FM Radio Station. - So what? I hear you say, lots of people do. True enough, but there's not many that we know who get to win the big prize as well. Caroline is now the possessor of a travel voucher which will almost get her round the world.

But that's not where she intends to go. Join the far end of the queue to be packed in her luggage for a once in a lifetime flight over Antarctica. Congratulations Caroline.

Members— are you involved in other activities — or have you something you would like other members to know. if so, please send details to the Editor and we'll try and feature your "Different Tracks" in this column

Don't forget our website
www.wabushpoets.com

Talking of Websites—One country member has suggested that we open a forum on our website (or create a dedicated forum or "common interest group" on a different site) . This would allow members (and others if that is allowed) to submit poems, comment on them, seek and give guidance and advice and be informed of what's on, or what's changed. It could also be a place where pictures of distant events could be posted so that everyone can be part of it. What are your thoughts on this?

One senior member is convinced that since the introduction of our website, requests for his poetic services have diminished considerably. Is this the fault of the website? Perhaps there are other reasons. Perhaps they could be discussed on an internet forum. (now that would be interesting— Forum Topic - Should the website be discontinued— Don't submit a reply if you prefer not to use the internet. Anyway have a think about it and if you feel strongly, one way or the other, please talk to a committee person about it.

Personally I consider our website to be the ONLY way we have of staying in touch with the general public, as little as that might be. A Forum? I have my doubts as to how many of our members would use it, but its not up to me. It's YOUR Association.

The Things They Should've Done

The kids go headin' back to school,
Their summer in the sun
Becomes a distant memory
Of things they should've done.
They should've gone down to the pool
And learned how not to drown.
They should've helped their mums at home,
They should've gone to town.
But holidays for many were
More time to sit and stare,
At figures on a TV screen;
Their eyes all getting square;
Or jiggling their controllers with
Their fingers moving fast,
On their X-Box or Play Station,
But time when whizzing past..
And all the things they should've done,
Got lost along the way;
Those things, they say, they should've done,
They'll do - some other day.

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Upcoming Musters

February Muster— we would like it to be predominantly experienced performers, So if you are in that group, it would be greatly appreciated if you could make yourself available.

Your MC for the night will be **Hadley Provis** Tel. 9317 7979

As usual, could people intending to perform, please contact the MC BEFORE the night so that the program can be largely arranged in advance.

March Muster is "Festival of Writers" - Would any member who has a talent for expressive reading please contact president Brian so that we can have top class presentation of poems from non performers or from members in distant parts. It is hoped that poems can be matched with people with a couple of weeks to practice.

Writers and regional poets wishing to have their work presented, PLEASE SEND 1 or 2 poems to Brian before Mid February

PLEASE NOTE - best is to e-mail briandot@tpg.com.au, as Brian & Dot will be enjoying the sunshine at Guilderton for a while, popping down to Perth about once a week. If you want to talk to them best is to phone their Mobile between 6pm and 8pm 0428 131 094

April Muster is a Normal One—perhaps we'll have another short poem competition. We'll tell you of the subject with a month to go

As yet we don't have an MC or a "Classics" Reader— Any takers?

May Muster—Tentatively, we will get a guest Artist for you. Again, as yet, no MC or Classics Reader.

Oops from Dot — In last months Bully Tin — Muster wrap up , I referred to Magaret Taylors daughter talking about "Drongo Drums" — it should have been, of course "Drongo Bums"

Country Poets

Coming to the City? - City lights are fine, but 1st Fridays could see you shine at our Muster. If you are coming to the big smoke on a muster night why not come along and be part of our get together. Give us a bit of notice and you might even find yourself being star act (but only if you want to be). This applies also to Bush Poets from other places and those past member poets whose lives have now gone in different directions.