



Next Muster Friday March , 7pm - Bentley Park Auditorium, Bentley Park

MC : **Lorelie Tacoma** 9365 2277 tlorelie@ymail.com



This year's Moondyne festival is on Sunday 6th May. Bush Poets have a stall and a time slot on stage (time not organised yet). Thanks Pedro(Peter Robinson in Toodyay)

We always have a lovely time at this festival and yet another great reason to visit the beautiful Toodyay...ED.



This festival usually features three Poet's Breakfast compered by Peter Capp with Phil Strutt. If you volunteer you can earn a free ticket.

DOWNUNDER COUNTRY

Country Music Weekend

BRIDGETOWN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

16, 17 & 18 MARCH 2018

Celebrating Bridgetown's 150th 1868 - 2018

Hosted by Campfire Country

Graeme Hugo Kadina, SA
Camille & Stuie French Sydney, NSW
Peter Pratt Illabo NSW
David & Therese Bridgetown, WA
Terry Bennetts (Perth) **Mary Myfanwy** (Bridgetown)
John Orr (Warmbro) **Dave Burgess** (Albany)
Kate Hindle (Collie) **Di Harris** (Thornlie)
Bill Rowley (Traralgon, VIC) **Gypsy Chicks** (Perth)
Steve Hill Bunbury, WA
Kathy Carver Perth, WA
Dehlia Brown Brisbane, QLD
Kevin Brown Brisbane, QLD
Ron Evans Maynard, WA

Musical Co-ordinator
 Poet Co-ordinator

Weekend Pass \$40pp
 Friday \$15pp
 Saturday \$25pp
 Sunday \$15pp
 Tickets available at the gate

A WEEKEND OF TRADITIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC AND BUSH POETRY

Friday 1.00pm-5.30pm: Walk-ups 6pm: Old Time Dance 7pm-11.30pm: Guest Artist Concert
 Saturday 8.30am - 11.30am: Local Artists 11.30: Line Dancing
 12.30pm - 6pm: Guest Artists 6pm - 7.00pm: Old Time Dance
 7pm - 11.00pm: Guest Artists
 Sunday 8am: Bush Poet's Breakfast
 Sunday 10.15am- 4pm: Country Gospel and Guest Artists
 4.30pm - 6.30pm: Walk-ups

Contact: David & Therese 0429 109 334 or
 downundercountry@wesnet.com.au or Coleen 08 9761 9055
 www.downundercountry.com.au

Camping on site - Unpowered \$10pp for weekend - payable at the gate on arrival
 Powered sites - Bookings 0429 109 334 (limited)
 For other accommodation contact the Visitor Centre 08 9761 1740
 Sponsors: Cassandra Westphal - Berry Digital Designs 0448 992 094
 Timeout For Hair, Greenbushes 9764 3563

Cobber entertains the crowds in town at Boyup Brook.



This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of **KATE DOUST MLC** and posted with the generous assistance of **Ben Wyatt, MLA - Member for Victoria Park.**



A huge thank you to all the poets and supporters who made the effort to come to Boyup Brook for the Country Music Festival. The standard of performance from all was equal to anything I have seen at festivals anywhere across the land. A big bonus was the presence of the two current Australian Champions, Sue Pearce from Tumut, NSW, and our own Cobber Lethbridge. Both showed why they are recognised by their peers as equal to any of the professional poets.

Add Ray Essery for the complete package! Ray is a great poet and an outstanding yarn spinner. It is no wonder he is in constant demand to perform up and down the east coast, and many would like to see him back in the west any time. Ray is the master of comedy and his sense of timing is superb. He has become a good friend of Meg and myself over the last few years we have shared a campsite in Tamworth. I have had a few tussles with Ray on the golf course in Tamworth and Mullumbinby, and I had the pleasure of taking his money on the Monday after Boyup Brook.

I have attended many workshops over the last ten years, but Ray, Sue and Cobber combined to give the most down to earth and practical presentations I have witnessed. They gave us guidelines for constructing poems with interesting stories and simple but effective rhyming patterns that help to engage the audience. When performing it is important to take the listener on a journey with you.

We have a very busy program coming up (as listed elsewhere in this edition of the Bullytin), and I encourage poets to support events near them. We now have a good site at Toodyay at the Moondyne Festival on Sunday 6th May, plus spots on the main stage. Could anyone who is able to be there please let me know so I can work out a program with our supporting musicians.

Bill Gordon



Above: Heather Joass and Cobber



Side: Tony Hill and Alan Aitken setting up at the Tennis Club

Rain and a rainbow at Northlands, second home to all visiting poets at Boyup Brook.

Photos: Ann Hayes



Poet's Brawl shared winning poem

Given line: I thought I recognised her so I took another look.

I thought, well no it can't be
Not that hoary headed chook.
I thought I recognised her
So I snuck another look.
She had the same gnarly complexion
A wart had grown upon her nose
Her breasts hung nearly on the ground
I used to play with those.
Her bum had spread alarmingly
And drooped way down behind
I smiled as I thought "My dear
Mother Nature's not been kind".
She staggered along the footpath
As she swayed from side to side,
I reckoned I could have saddled her up
And charged two bucks for a ride.
She stopped for a drink of water
At the fountain in the street,
Then looked around for somewhere
She could take the weight off her feet.
The evening sun revealed
Every single crease and fold,
Then I thought
At fifteen years of age all Labradors look old.

Roger Cracknell



Roger was joint winner with Peg Vickers from Albany. Even the colourful hats from The Royal flying Doctor couldn't assist in Peg's awesome reputation being challenged. Congratulations to Peg and Roger.

See Page 7 for Peg's poem

Poetry competitions

29 March - Closing Date - Henry Lawson Festival Grenfell. Verse and short story competitions. Grenfell NSW.

30 April - Closing Date - Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Poetry, Winton Qld.

30 April - Closing Date - Sutherland Shire Literary Competition, Sutherland NSW.

12 April - Closing Date - Laura Literary Awards, Crystal Brook SA.

For more information and entry forms check out the Australian Bush Poets Assn website



PADDY'S LOST HAT

He'd lost his hat, had Pat Mc Graw.
The hot sun made his bald patch sore.
He went to church and at the back
he placed a hat upon the rack.

That hat he'd nicked the week before
when leaving early by that door
and placed upon that rack once more
by most remorseful Pat Mc Graw.

The priest said, "Pat, it's no big deal,
the good Lord said, 'Thou shalt not steal.'
The sixth command of ten I quoted,
terms of which you must have noted!"

Pat replied, voice, calm and sultry,
"Seventh command, about adultery,
Those words struck home. When I heard that,
remembered where I'd left *me* hat!"

Jem Shorland

June 2016

ASHBURTON RIVER

Past Minderoo Station and out to the sea,
Through Spinifex country, where cattle roam free,
Where the wind in the white-gums whispers a song
To make your heart shiver, the Ashburton River
Keeps drifting along.

It was late afternoon, I remember it well,
When I stopped for a drink at the Beadon Hotel,
So dusty and weary from driving all day,
On roads made of gravel, a rough way to travel
And hot all the way.

I was ready to leave when a voice said "Hello",
And I looked at the girl I had loved long ago.
Her eyes told the story of love that had died,
So, filled with dismay, my heart slipped away
Like a leaf in the tide.

There are times to be lonely and times to be sad,
But a man tries to smile through the good times
and bad,
So I bought her a shandy and swallowed my
pride,
Then while she was drinking, with confidence
sinking,
I stumbled outside.

A young man can dream of a far better day,
But life drags you down when your whiskers turn
grey,
So I never returned to that Ashburton track,
And once you start drifting, with swagging and
shifting
There's no turning back.

Now often at night by the campfire glow,
With the stars up above and a blanket below,
I dream of my past and the things that went
wrong,
And though I forgive her, the Ashburton River
Keeps drifting along.

Yes, the Ashburton River keeps drifting along.

By Keith Lethbridge

Great Poetry sites:

eMuse: Independent Bush Poets Newsletter. 1300 plus subscribers (on-line free!)
Australia-Wide! Through his free distribution of
this most informative, 20 page *eMuse*, (*An Independent Bush poetry newsletter*) Editor: Wally
"The Bear" Finch. P. O. Box 68, Morayfield,
4506, Qld. Phone: (07) 54 955 110. E-Mail:
wmbear1@bigpond.com



Peter Blyth and Cobber



Greg Joass at the club.

Muster roster :
Tentative as always. Please let me know if you'd
like to comper or are unable to fill in your slot.
Thanks to Brian Langley for posting these on our
website.
NB I'll be collecting names at the March muster.
Please ring or email the compere, if you wish to perform, so they can add you to their list. Please try and earn your poems. While we accommodate people reading, the aim is to encourage you to recite. If you find this difficult start off with a short poem and organise someone in the audience to prompt.

Do you want to be part of the National Scene — Then you might consider joining the Australian Bush Poets Assn
www.abpa.org.au

Stay up to date with events and competitions right across Australia

Lots of great information on their website, winning poems, a writing forum, tips for writing and reciting, competition dates....

BOYUP BROOK
COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

If you wanted a therapeutic weekend and the company of super friendly people, then the place to be was at Boyup Brook Country Music Festival with the WA Bush Poets on the weekend of 15th-18th February 2018. There was magic in the air and new and lasting friendships were made.

The four well organized **Bush Poets' Breakfasts** were the highlight of the stimulating and fantastic festival. Bush Poetry united people as they gathered with a common cause, while leaving cares and duties behind at home.

During the breaks in the Poetry Program there was ample opportunity to experience the music from visiting bands and solo artists on the surround sound stage at the shady Music Park.

A trip to Boyup is not complete without a visit to Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre, renowned throughout Australia. There you will find the biggest collection of Elvis Presley memorabilia in the country. This event lived up to its reputation of being the biggest Country Music Festival in WA and ranks amongst the best in Australia, with many patrons coming back year after year, to enjoy the line up of artists - poets and musicians - that are queuing up to be invited.

So mark your calendar for next year!
Meg Gordon



Above:

Ray Essery, Keith (Cobber)Lethbridge, Sue Pearce and Bill Gordon at Sunday's Poet's Breakfast.

Far below:

Group shot of the poets on Sunday

All Boyup Brook photos in the Bully Tin have been taken by Ann Hayes. Thank you Ann.



Top Hat and Tails

Top hat and tails must be worn to the ball
That's taking place in the town hall tonight
Yes top hat and tails like our grandparents wore
When they danced by the dim candle light.
In times long ago they were courtier days.
Days full of laughter and grace,
Where respect and politeness were taken for granted
And the world was a much better place.

I opened my wardrobe and there at the back
Was my suit and my top hat of yore
I took them both out and dusted them off
I never thought I'd wear them any more.
The tails were holey where the silver fish fed
And the hat was an odd shade of green
Then my mind drifted back to an earlier day
A day when I'd just turned nineteen.

How could I forget, I'll put it down to old age
The mind's not what it used to be
But I remembered the girl I fell in love with that night
As we danced to the Rose of Tralee.
Her in her ball gown, I wore top hat and tails
We knew not what fate had in store
And as finally the candles flickered out one by one
We kissed as we danced 'round the floor.

Some will say I was just too young at nineteen
To know that much of love and its ways
But I always knew from that night at the ball
I would love her for the rest of my days.
Through famine and drought, she stood by my side
And picked me up when I had a fall
Now sixty years on I've been formally asked
If I could please attend tonight's ball.

As the message requested I wore top hat and tails
I checked the time by the clock in the hall
I looked in the mirror, I'd pass at a pinch
I was ready to go to the ball.
In faded old top coat and green shiny hat
I arrived at the place where we met
And as my memory explored the last sixty years
There was nothing that I could regret.



She was waiting for me sitting there on a seat
The sight of her made my heart glow
She was wearing the ball gown she wore on that night
Those sixty long years ago.
Through children and happiness, toil and strife
She's been a wonderful wife to me
I took her in my arms and asked her to dance
As the band played The Rose of Tralee.

The years fell away, as we waltzed round the floor
She was still my belle of the ball
And I knew through the sixty years we'd been together
This was the happiest night of them all.
Back where we started a lifetime ago
We've survived all life's little travails
Then radiant in ball gown she smiled up at me
And I kissed her in my top hat and tails.

By Roger Cracknell

The Geraldton Bush Poets have a monthly challenge and Roger wrote this in response to the title **Top Hat and Tails Ed.**



Roger performing at Boyup Brook.

The Day the Barmaid Got the Sack.

Although he owned their local store and their watering hole as well he was known for being tight-fisted - as miserable as hell.

When his trousers became tatty, full of holes both front and back he fashioned for himself a kilt, cut from a burlap sack.

Though there'd be some draughty spots with a chilly winter breeze he said a sack was so much cheaper than brand new dungarees. Now his barmaid was a worker and ran his pub without much aid yet despite her loyal service, she always battled to get paid.

Then one day when he was bathing in a trough behind his store she helped herself to wages due, then headed home, full bore. He set after her in hot pursuit as she ran down the street oblivious to his undress, his act quite indiscreet.

Then suddenly he was aware, when shoppers stopped and gaped so he hurriedly retraced his steps, as she made her escape. He didn't dare to fire her, she just couldn't be replaced and she'd only taken what was hers, so he would be disgraced.

Well she now gets her pay on time and nothing more is said at least not within his hearing, if they want to keep their head. Though laughter rings around the bar when this story they re-tell of the day his barmaid took her pay, and she took the sack as well.

Pete. Stratford. 7.5.17



Poet's Brawl shared winning poem

Given line: **Well they should have asked my husband**

In the town of Bunglebeerup
By the Bunglebeerup Creek
There were fourteen babies born
In the space of just a week
And the strangest part about it
Or so it would appear
All the partners had been overseas
For the best part of a year.
This incident went viral
And quite defied description
With the words like Miracle and Marvel
And Immaculate Conception.
Then reporters came a seeking
To ponder and peruse
As it reached the halls of wonder
On the TV and the news.

Well they should have asked my husband

The lying cheating Romeo
For he stopped at Bunglebeerup
About nine months ago.
Peg Vickers

COMPETITIONS

23-27 January - Golden Damper Awards for Performance Bush Poetry, Tamworth NSW.

7 February - Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Competition, Orange NSW. See 7 February closing date.

8 February - Closing Date - Milton Show Poetry Competition, Junior and senior performance and a written section. Milton NSW.

3 March - Milton Show Poetry Competition, Milton NSW. See 8 February closing date.

1-4 March - Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival, Dunedoo NSW.

30 April - Closing Date - Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Poetry, Winton Qld.

For more information and entry forms check out the Australian Bush Poets Assn website



MUSTER WRITE UP FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2018

By Meg Gordon

MC for the evening was **Jem Shorland**.

President **Bill Gordon** welcomed Cobber back from Tamworth with his trophies.

Cobber then presented his winning poem in The Frank Daniels Award, "The Flying Dogma". When taking a ride with a flying cleric one very quickly learns how to pray!

Barry Higgins - "Insects" and "Animal Wonder (Syd Hopkinson).

Grace Williamson - "The Death of Ben Hall" (Will Ogilvie) A heartfelt rendition by Grace of the hunt, betrayal and death of Ben Hall the Bushranger.

Bill Gordon - "Johnson's Antidote" (Banjo Paterson) More research was needed before this potion was used.

John Hayes - "The Esperance Tanker Jetty" John wrote this poem in response to the suggestion that Esperance remove its old jetty. Another piece of history could be lost.

Jem Shorland - "Roses are Blooming" (John Best)

Alan Aitken - "The Man from Ironbark" (Banjo Paterson)

Terry Piggott - His own poem "Remember Mate". A beautiful reflection by two old mates, recalling their prospecting days, back when detectors first appeared on the goldfields. 'We loved it there and life was great, long long ago...remember mate'. Delivered with sincerity and passion by Terry.

Rob Gunn - "A Lesson from My Father" (Mick Collis). Look after your mothers boys.

Tess Earnshaw - Two of her own poems "Seagulls Over Rotnest" written 40 years ago on a visit to the island and "Digital Phooey", all about 'progress'!!

After Supper **Meg Gordon** congratulated the performers who went east and pointed out that WA not only has good performers, we have great writers as Terry received 4 commendations in the Blackened Billy Competition and both Cobber and Bill used poems written by Albany poet, Peter Blyth. Meg then recited Peg Vicker's poem "The Survey" which she also performed at the Poettes afternoon in Tamworth.

Cobber - entertained with some music and then presented his winning poem in the Golden Damper Established section "One of The Best" (Peter Blyth). A tribute to a man's best friend.

Bev Shorland - "Twas Mulga Jill from Marmion" (apologies to Banjo and Christine Hindhaugh). Jem has adapted this poem to accommodate at WA theme.

Anne Hayes - "Dream Artist" (John Hayes). Artists look for inspiation as they gaze on their pal-ette but nothing will happen if the colours stay in the tubes.

John Hayes - "The Song of The Artisan Water" (Banjo Paterson). Drilling down to the devil for water.

Grace Williamson - "We All Smile in The Same Language" (Kelsey Horton) . This was an award winning poem for thirteen year old Kelsey who wrote it for the 2003 Little Swagies Award. It tells how we really are all the same; we feel with the same parts and smile the same smile.

Rob Gunn - "The Mr Whippy Rip Off" (Marco Gliori). It always pays to check your change thor-oughly.

Terry Piggott - "The Long Dusty Road". A poem about an old station bloke and his dog. The old chap's broken down on luck and looking for work that is hard to come by. 'Too proud to put their hand out for a pension or the dole, they'd tramp the dusty roads to keep some tucker in the bowl'.

Bill Gordon - "After Ewe" (Peter Blyth) The poem that put Bill into the final of The Frank Daniels Award.

Jem Shorland - "The Hat" His poem about Jack McGraws hat.

Cobber - "The Old Woongoondi Hall". Very well received in Tamworth and the poem that won Keith the Original section of the Golden Damper. This poem paints a beautiful picture about days long past in an old outback dance hall that is still in existence and has a silhouette of a piano player out the front with a couple of verses of Cobber's poem engraved on it.

President **Bill Gordon** closed the evening and thanked Jem. Members were invited to join us in Boyup Brook for the Poet's breakfasts and country music.

AN EMAIL TO MY WIFE

If only I had typed in the last 'e'

I was on a business trip, it had all gone very well.
 My goals were all completed. By Friday I could tell
 the week had flown past, and my energy was spent.
 My job would soon be finished and an email I had sent.
 "In Paris, a great night. I enjoyed French food and beer.
 But overall I have to say, I wish that you were her!"

Jem Shorland Feb 2018



The Port Bouvard Recreation & Sporting Club presents...



SATURDAY 19TH MAY 2018

This is a stand up invitation with an open microphone to all Bush Poets, Yarn Spinners and Verses

JUDGING IS BY THE RENOWNED BILL GORDON & ROB GUNN

The day starts at 8:30am with a **BUSH POETS BREAKFAST**

followed by

BUSH POEMS, YARNS AND SPINS

Keep your hunger at bay with a

LIGHT LUNCH

Finish of the day being entertained by

BILLY HIGGINSON AND THE PALE MOON RISERS



1:30PM - 4:30PM

\$20.00 DAY PASS

Tickets available from the Port Bouvard Recreation & Sporting Club
 1 Thisbe Drive, Dawesville
 & at the door on the day

BAR OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON

for more information contact
 9582 2871 or admin@pbrsc.org.au

What's on around Australia

1-4 March - Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival, Dunedoo NSW.

6-8 April Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush festival, Tenterfield NSW.

5-8 April - Man From Snowy River Bush Festival, Corryong Victoria.

3-6 May - Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes NSW.
 Two performance sessions and two poets breakfasts Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May with walk up opportunities.
 Contact Brenda Joy halenda@live.com.au

7-11 June - Henry Lawson Festival Grenfell.



Shirt Logos

If you would like to have your shirt printed this is where to go.

Just take in what you would like embroidered and ask for your colour. Try not to have too busy a pattern or the embroidery doesn't always show up. Ring and check the price. You may have both the front or back embroidered or a single

