

The

February 2018

W.A. Bush Poets

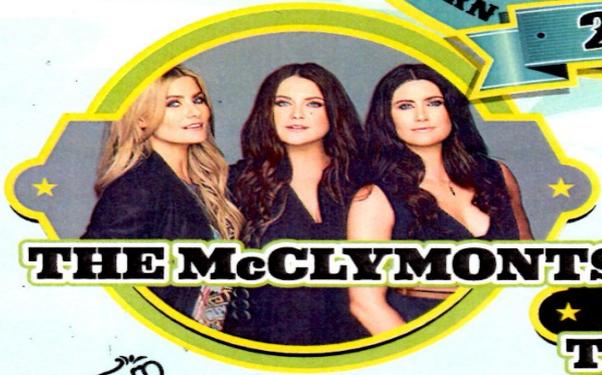
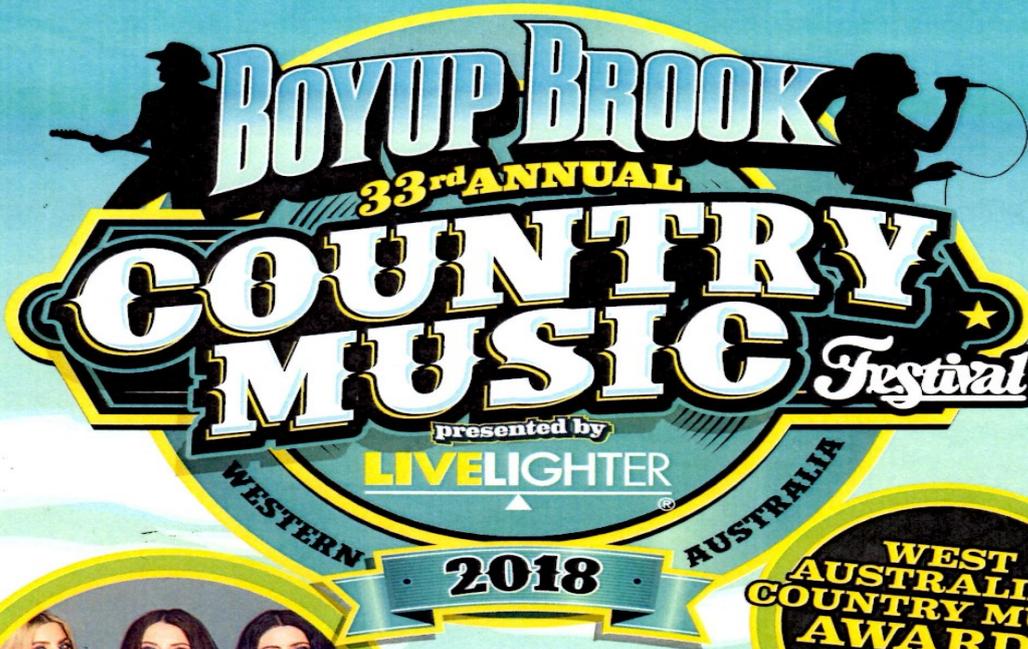
# BULLY TIN



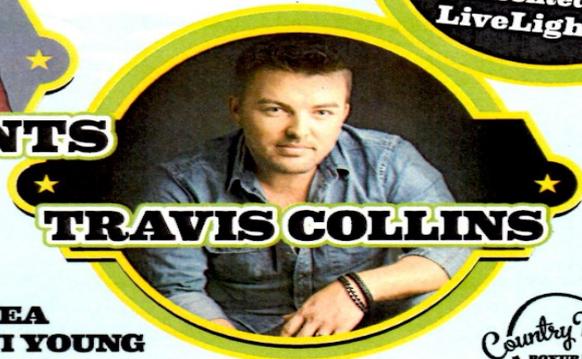
Next Muster Friday 2nd February 7pm - Bentley Park Auditorium, Bentley Park

MC Jem Shorland 0487764897 shorland@iinet.net.au

## 4 BIG DAYS OF COUNTRY MUSIC



**THE McCLYMONTS**



**TRAVIS COLLINS**

AND

**SIMPLY BUSHED ★ LUKE O'SHEA  
WARREN H WILLIAMS & DANI YOUNG  
RAY RYDER ★ AND MUCH MUCH MORE**



# FEB 15-18, 2018

Concerts on the banks of the beautiful Blackwood River

**Ute and Truck Muster • Street Carnival • Workshops  
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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.

## ***President's Preamble -***



### G'Day Members

Some time ago Meg and I were watching a show on TV featuring some of the best Bush Poets in Australia including Susie Carcary and Melanie Hall and several others well known to us. I commented how lucky we were not only to know these poets but also to consider them as good friends. We are about to catch up with many more of our poetry friends in Tamworth and to share the stage with them.

What a bonus to have Cobber travelling with us. I know a lot of poets are looking forward to meeting him and seeing him in action.

Unfortunately the timing of Tamworth means that we will miss Wireless Hill again this year but there is a great line-up of poets capably led by Stinger who will also be providing the music with Jeff Swain.

Bring your friends for a picnic lunch and a great day of genuine Australian heritage. What better way to celebrate Australia Day.

Back from Tamworth with only a few days to get shearing done (I am still officially a farmer although very much a part-time farmer now) before Boyup Brook Country Music Festival starts.

Ray Essery is the guest poet this year. We have enjoyed Ray's company since we first went to Tamworth. Ray is unique, and has a huge following around the festivals in the East.

Camping with Ray and his mates one never knows what to expect! Note the poem below, written by Keith Jamison, balladeer and poet, who will also be at Boyup Brook this year.

Ray will be capably supported by the current Australian Champions Sue Pearce and Keith Lethbridge. Sue hails from Tumut, NSW, and was a worthy winner in Toodyay. Cobber is well known to us all and what a privilege it is to be able to claim him as one of our WA poets. The message is simple – all who can make it to Boyup Brook are in for a feast of excellent poetry. See you there!



Bill Gordon, President

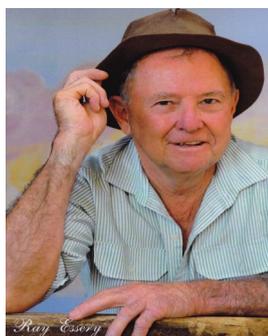
Australia Day—Wireless Hill

### **Ray Essery**

Now I know a dinkum bloke who wears a country hat  
I've know him a fair while and I'm bloody proud of that  
He's written pages of great words and when you see him on the stage  
He paints a real true picture as his mind turns another page.

He'll tell you funny stories or poems that will make you cry  
About our forgotten unsung heroes, a history lesson of days gone by,  
Now this man is plain and simple, Raymond Essery is his name  
He's called The Mullumbimby Bloke  
Dairy sheds to stardom, bush poetry to fame.

# COMING TO BOYUP BROOK FEB 15th-18th 2018



**Ray Essery is without doubt one of the most highly regarded performing Bush Poets in Australia today.**

After arriving on the entertainment scene in the early 90's Ray has worked hard at enhancing his natural abilities as a story teller by developing an 'on stage' persona that represents his life's journey. This 'North Coast' poet can

leave his audiences in stitches with hilarious tales that reflect his years as a dairy farmer, Navy man and Sydney pub manager. Likewise he can dig deep into the kitbag of his family memories to deliver heartfelt recollections of his early life, taking his audiences on a nostalgic journey back to a time when life on the North Coast was just a little less complicated.

Ray Essery is a bit like...well...like Ray Essery, he is unique, a genuine original, it is hard to imagine anyone else delivering Ray's original poems with anywhere near the same impact. That same keen sense of history that is reflected in his own writing comes to the fore again when his respectful interpretations champion the works of some early North Coast poets.

Ray's early performing career was littered with winning performances in major competitions and his recorded works, both individual and as a member of the highly successful 'Naked Poets', have been rewarded with multiple Aust Bush Laureate Awards.

This mischievous, loveable larrikin is equally at home performing at any of Australia's major Festivals as he is entertaining at a corporate event. Ray Essery is a storyteller, a historian, a romantic, a comic and above all else, an entertainer.

Ray, The Mullumbimby Bloke, has just published his auto biography—"One Hell Of A Ride". The 75 year old retiree worked with former Tamworth journalist and grey nomad, Anna Rose to document his life.

"I hope the book helps to let young people of today know that you can succeed in life even if you're born into a low income family with little education", he said. It just means you have to work harder, have more determination and above all common sense".

Ray will have his books for sale at Boyup Brook Country Music Festival.

## THE OLD MAN AT THE BAR

The old man sits on a stool at the end of the bar  
He sings a country song and plays an old guitar  
And the song that he sings paints pictures in his mind  
When he farmed the land back in 59.

When he ploughed the ground after falling rain  
When he picked up the pieces when drought was on the plain  
When he jumped the rattler and slept in an old box car  
Those are the pictures he paints at the bar.

And the boys never hear those songs that he sings  
They're too busy drinking whiskey with the laughter it brings  
They'd rather dream about fast motor cars  
Than listen to the old fool that sings at the bar.

And the old man quietly sings away  
About a time and a place and a distant day  
And he never hears the laughter that beer and whiskey brings  
He can only see the pictures in the songs that he sings.

Then a day came when the bar stool was bare  
And the old man with his songs was no longer there  
For his soul had drifted to that place he belonged  
Into those pictures that he saw in a song  
Away from the city, the noise, beer, whiskey and wine  
Where he farmed the land back in 59.

© Ray Essery



## 2017 Australian Male Champion Poet

Keith “Cobber” Lethbridge from  
Armadale WA

### A Feature Poet at Boyup Brook Country Music Festival



Keith “Cobber” Lethbridge is a prolific writer of Australian Bush Poetry. His working life has taken him right throughout WA, from the Kimberley to the South West. His tales range from outrageously humorous through to downright melancholy.

The common thread is meticulous adherence to rhythm, rhyme and the natural speech patterns of Australia.

Bush poetry, music and walking through all parts of the State have been his favourite hobbies for many years. Family and friends are his spiritual contentment and joy.

### A DOG WITHOUT FLEAS

I wake in the morning to Nature’s sweet chorus,  
With nothing important to baffle and bore us,  
No urgent appointment, no schedule to keep,  
It’s time to turn over and drift back to sleep.  
Some people are burdened with drive and ambition  
To rise to the top and achieve recognition,  
But I’ve got a fortune that nobody sees;  
A track without burr and a dog without fleas.

Out here in the bush it’s so peaceful and quiet,  
There’s nothing to lose if you’re willing to try it,  
Just follow your nose and remember this rule:  
A man in a hurry is only a fool.  
I once had a farm with a mortgage to bless it.  
For over a decade I strove to possess it,  
By digging up prickles and chopping down trees,  
But now all I ask is a dog without fleas.

Soon after the drought and the loss of my cattle,  
The fire and flood and the taxation battle,  
I vowed to get rid of such trouble and strife  
By taking a break for the rest of my life,  
To lean on a log with a bungarra baking,  
A handful of black-berries ripe for the taking,  
The croaking of frogs and the buzzing of bees,  
A sweet serenade to a dog without fleas.

It didn’t take long to develop the habit  
Of tracking a lizard and snaring a rabbit,  
But being too idle to roll out of bed,  
I stir up the dog to go hunting instead,  
And when it’s a hundred degrees in the valley,  
I rest in the shade of the she-oak and mallee,  
Contented to wait on a westerly breeze  
To ruffle the fur of a dog without fleas

This ancient Akubra, so shapeless and battered,  
Had three former owners departed and scattered,  
But none of them bothered to fashion it right,  
Then stuff it with grass for a pillow at night.  
And now that I’m leaving the warmth of your fire,  
I won’t take offense if you call me a liar,  
For I’ve got a fortune that nobody sees:  
A track without burr and a dog without fleas.

© Keith Lethbridge



# Also COMING TO BOYUP BROOK

**2017 Australian Female  
Champion Poet,  
Sue Pearce from Tumut NSW.**



Sue has been writing and reciting professionally since 2011. Back then she considered herself an accidental poet. Her writing started after having pondered on a topic "A Country Life" for a written verse competition.

She started writing about her childhood on a sheep station in NSW and before she knew it

she had put memories to verse and put her entry in. Her talent was evident because this was the winning entry and she presented it at a poet's breakfast. At the same breakfast she witnessed a recital of The Man From Snowy River by local poet, John Peel. And from then on she was hooked on Bush Poetry.

Sue was mentored by some of the most influential poets at that time in both written and performance areas, most notably Milton Taylor who helped her with voice projection and presentation.

From then on the awards started mounting. Her first "Big" moment was being named runner up at the Tamworth Golden Damper awards in 2016 followed in March by winning the Milton Show Open Section, the Jim Angle award for best Original Poem at the Narrandera John O'Brien Festival, the Victorian Open Womens title held in Corryong at the MFSR in April of that year and poet of the meet at Benalla Song Festival.

2016 was a "Big" year but by far, winning the Australian title in Toodyay this year has been the highlight!!!

I'm proud to say, voluntarily sharing our craft at the local aged facilities is up there with the highlights. It's wonderful to be able to bring a smile—Poetry has a way of touching the hearts of the infirmed. It's medicine to the soul.

## **BY THE LAGOON Sue Pearce © 2012**

Beneath the shade of willow trees  
your gentle waters glisten, tease  
and beckon wild geese-join me, please  
come rest your weary wings.

Such solitude and peace you bring  
'neath trees now lush with growth of spring  
resplendent in the shade they bring  
a yen to linger on.

The dewdrops of the early morn  
like silver beads they cling, adorn  
the vein like growth of ferns- newborn  
to natures wondrous ways.

Soft ripples form and spread- they grow  
what wonders do they hide below?  
through dappled shadows I'll not know  
your secrets safe from me.

Then from nowhere a soft breeze sings  
a mellow sigh and with it brings  
sheer gossamer- elusive wings  
of dragon flies at play.

Where native swans- soft feathers preen  
and swamp frog's chorus intervene  
on mornings silence- so serene  
resplendent in each way.

As twilight heralds end of day  
the full moons shadows softly play  
while opalescent beams display  
a tranquil, peaceful scene.





Bev Shorland with Anne Hayes

### *The Life and Times of Beverley Shorland.*

Twas the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January in 1948,  
A warm and sunny Melbourne summer's day,  
And Les and Thelma Chance, no longer would they have  
to wait,  
For their lovely daughter, Bev, was born that day.

Bev grew from baby, toddler, child, then it was time for  
school,  
Prep to Grade 6 at Mentone Primary,  
Secondary education at Firkbank Girls Grammar School,  
After bloomed an interest in geology.  
Further studies done through night school, helped her  
find her new career,  
Mapping earth and rocks, Bev got to know so well,  
Early days with Geodrafting, charting mines for several  
years,  
'Til she moved to multi-national company, Shell.

As an independent woman, young and beautiful to boot,  
Potential suitors had begun to call,  
Wooing her with flowers, gifts and other fancy loot,  
Until one strapping lad soon trumped them all.  
This lad was Jerome Shorland, and from Brighton way he  
came,  
His charm and wit, soon onto love, they led,  
After many months of courtship, Bev agreed to take his  
name,  
On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January '72, they wed

.In August '75, their first wee baby came along,  
A sweet daughter that they named Eve Louise,  
She filled their hearts and home with love, but it wouldn't  
be too long,  
Before began a second pregnancy.

Less than two short years later, in May of 1977  
A second lovely daughter came to birth,  
When she arrived, both Bev and Jem thought they had  
gone to heaven,  
But Georgina quickly brought them back to earth.

*(Editors synopsis here)*

*After a third daughter, Jane was born, Bev's life was one  
of stay at home Mum while Jem continued to work in  
audits at CIG. Then redundancy came and Jem and Bev  
bought a hardware store in Warrnambool.*

During six years in the hardware, competition opened up,  
And their hard fought business suffered terribly.  
The hardware had to close, but then a new venture came up,  
With The Great Australian Ice Creamery!  
There were several shop front sites throughout suburban  
Perth proposed,  
Bev felt deep down that Scarborough was the best,  
They packed the kids and car, their household furniture, and  
clothes,  
And in '93, they brought the family West.  
For 4 years Bev sold Ice Cream, sundaes, and the best  
hotdog,  
Working 7 days a week to meet their ends,  
They all settled in to Perth life, found a church and got a  
dog,  
And along the way, made really lovely friends.

Bev finds joy in serving others, always puts her own needs  
last,  
Working hard from dawn till dusk without complaint,  
She's the friend you can rely on, you don't even have to ask,  
All truth be told, Bev really is a Saint

Bev's the most creative person, many hobbies she has tried,  
If it's quilting, knitting, sewing, she'll excel,  
And when it comes to painting anything, she always takes  
great pride,  
Even Minions! She has mastered those as well!  
Bev and Jem love travelling, and they often can be seen,  
Off in their truck with caravan behind,  
If you give them any map, they'll gladly show you where  
they've been,  
They'll even tell you if you didn't ask – that's fine!

*Editor - It is clear that Bev is proud of her daughters and  
they think the world of her as she showers her grandchild-  
ren with as much love as she gave her husband and her  
children.*

Now I'll take this time to thank you, each and every single  
one,  
For being here to join with us today,  
And I ask that you join with me, as we wish our gorgeous  
Mum,  
A super special 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

The suicide of a 14yr old girl, Dolly, in the North Territory brings the insidiousness of bullying to the fore.

Dolly's family would like to let this act be a reminder to those who perpetrate this horror. **It is not acceptable.** Their plea is that Dolly didn't die in vain. During her last week she spoke these words "Speak now even though your voice shakes". Irene Conner wrote these lines when she heard the plea

### **SPEAK NOW EVEN THOUGH YOUR VOICE SHAKES**

Speak now – even though your voice shakes.  
Show them all that you have what it takes.  
Speak now - even though your voice shakes  
for Dolly's here to help you raise the stakes.

You have strength that's hidden deep inside of you  
you have love to help you make it through.  
You have friends who'll always stand in front of  
you,  
you can be the one the bullies rue.

Don't let them destroy your pride and dignity  
Let them see they're failing dismally.  
Let them know the words they speak so viciously  
will invoke responsibility.

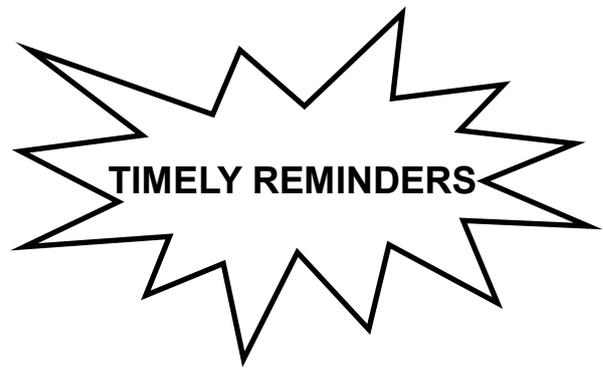
Speak now – even though your voice shakes.  
Show them all that you have what it takes.  
Speak now - even though your voice shakes  
for Dolly's here to help you raise the stakes.

We have seen too many loved ones end their lives  
Bullying – with cowardice contrives.  
Never more will we let children lose their lives  
Let's all fight so only love survives.

Stand with strength to let the bullies know 'no  
more!'  
Don't be scared to let them know the score.  
Bullying is something that we all deplore  
Raise your hands and let your voices roar!!

Speak now – even though your voice shakes.  
Show them all that you have what it takes.  
Speak now - even though your voice shakes  
for Dolly's here to help you raise the stakes.

©Irene Conner 11/01/18



### **Take Care Fellas**

At the recent Australian Bush Poetry Championships in Toodyay Ian Farrell was given the line **'it'll only take a minute'** said the doctor in the popular Poet's Brawl.

This was his entry and it received good audience response .

It is a timely warning to all the fellas

---

Now I'll tell you fellas, make sure  
that you stay healthy,  
cancer doesn't care if you're a  
pauper or you're wealthy.  
Don't get embarrassed it's not hard  
to take the test,  
now drop your dacks, relax, they  
told me that's the best.  
It'll only take a minute, said the  
doctor with a smile,  
but if I hear a zip there doc, I'll run  
a bloody mile.  
Don't you leave it fellas go get the  
test done right.  
don't let that cancer grow till it  
becomes a useless fight.  
I've been there, I've done that,  
never had to pout,  
I felt the best way forward was to  
have the bugger out.  
So think on you guys and please  
take a note from me,  
bite the bullet, take the test and  
stay cancer free.

Ian Farrell

## MUSTER WRITE UP – FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 by Meg Gordon

MC for the evening was **Lorraine Broun** and she introduced the first poet:

**John Hayes** – With harvest almost over farmers are either counting the cost of poor rains or buying new machinery as a result of a good harvest. Banjo Peterson wrote about these times in his poem “The Song of Wheat” which was John's offering to start the muster.

**Jem Shorland** – Jem told a yarn about friends not very successfully looking after family pets.

**Brian Langley** – Christmas has now passed, its time to consider the year to come and what changes need to be made to our lives. However, Brian's list of New Year Resolutions is the same as last years list! His poem “New Year Resolutions” reflects this.

So he will go fishing instead and wrote a poem about the continual bugging question from onlookers, no matter where he is fishing, what time it is they always want to know -“Are You Catching Any Mate?” He would much prefer they offer a beer and a chat.

**David Ellis** – David gave us a poem from Brian Langley's book 'Sand, Sea and Shipwrecks' about a person's dilemma being the only survivor of a shipwreck.

**Jack Matthews** - “The Christmas Party” (Bill Kearns). Jack appreciates the humour portrayed in this poem about just what could possibly happen when the party loving elderly are denied their Christmas celebrations.

**Lesley McAlpine** - “My Pop” A poem about her grandfather – a family favourite, a gentle soul.

**Tony Hill** - “Skew Wiff Kelly” (Grahame Watt). Using the 'rule of thumb' doesn't always get things straight.

**Bill Gordon** - “Snakes Alive” (Bob Magor) This poem is a favourite amongst Bill's grandchildren as they can visualise the snake wrapped around the wheel of the farm motorbike.

**Barry Higgins** - “Bush Justice” (Syd Hopkinson) This is a favourite poem from Barry's favourite author about what mateship can cost in a small community.

**Cobber Lethbridge** – After a tune on the harmonica Keith gave us his poem “A Dog Without Fleas”. Anyone who has lived away from the city lights, dreams of going back and getting away from the hustle and bustle. All you really need is a “track without burr and a dog without fleas”.

**Rob Gunn** - “The Ultimate Test” ( Mick Collis). A childhood wish by a young lad at the cricket 'to play for Australia' takes on a test of a very different kind – in the arena of war.

After **Supper** updates on the health of Dave, Christine and Nancy were given. All doing well at present. Dave keen to join us for the poetry in Boyup Brook. Christine hopes to continue her travels soon. Nancy is up and about.

**Anne Hayes** in The Reading from The Classics spoke about the life of Clarence Michael James Dennis. CJ had a happy productive life, his most notable achievements being 'The Sentimental Bloke' and 'The Moods of Ginger Mick'. His wife Olive (Margaret Herron) was also a poet and she compiled a list of CJ's works in 1952. His poem “When The Sun's Behind The Hill” is one of his early poems and paints a vivid picture of the changing colours and activities that happen at the end of the day.

**Rob Gunn** - “The Scary Hairy Fairy” (Noel Stallard) A very clever play on the sounds in 'scary, hairy and fairy'.

**Lesley McAlpine** - “Granny” Her own poem about her Grandmother.

**Barry Higgins** - “Bob The Battler in The Pilbara” (Syd Hopkinson). A salesman's view on promotion – seven pairs of jocks in a pack, one for every day of the week.

**Cobber Lethbridge** - "The Six Mile War". A 'true' story! When the mustering season ends, the gang head for the Six Mile Pub, just out from Wyndham. Of course at this time of the year the Pub is also chock-a-block with workers from the Meat Works. When a brawl breaks out, Mother McQ is right in the thick of things.....naturally.

**Bill Gordon** - "The Boyup Brook" His own poem about a fertile mind.

**John Hayes** - "In The Good Old Days". John's reflections of the days of clearing the land for crops in the wheat belt of WA then sitting around the campfire with his dad who would relate anecdotes about 'the good old days'.

**Bill Gordon** – Using the lines "Truth is like gold" (the challenge for this muster) Bill outlined the stories that are related by old bushies, some are fabricated, some are fanciful but when true the message is gold.

**Lorraine Broun** - "Torture a la Cordon Bleu", "Accidental Dents" and "Country Entertainment"

**Rob Gunn** - "Jock From Bruce Rock" (Cobber Lethbridge) Choosing a wife purely on economics can become a very expensive affair. 'The shearer came in for a fleecing'.

**Cobber Lethbridge** – after another tune on the harmonica Keith gave us "Scruffy".

President **Bill Gordon** thanked visitors and members for coming and announced that **Jem Shorland** is the MC next month.

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**COMPETITIONS**— See APBA website for entry forms—[apba.org.au](http://apba.org.au)

**2 February**—Closing date **Boyup Brook Country Music Festival Written Bush Poetry Competition**, Boyup Brook WA

**7 February**— Closing date **Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Competition**, Orange NSW.

**8 February**—Closing date **Milton Show Poetry Competition**, Junior and Senior performance and a written section, Milton NSW

**1-4 March**—**Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival**, Dunedoo NSW

**30 April**—Closing date **Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Poetry**, Winton Qld

### **WHAT'S ON IN THE EAST**

**16-18 March**—**John O'Brien Festival**, Narrandera NSW

**5-8 April**—**Man From Snowy River Festival**, Cooryong Vic

**6-8 April**—**Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Festival**, Tenterfield NSW

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Dave Smith			0438341256	daveandelainesmith1@bigpond.com
Bob Brackenbury		93641310	0418918884	oddjobbob@bigpond.com
<b>Not on the committee, but taking on the following tasks:</b>				
Brian Langley	Webmaster		9361 3770	briandot@tpg.com.au
Rob Gunn	Sound gear		0417099676	gun.hink@hotmail.com

Regular events

Albany Bush Poetry group	4th Tuesday of each month	Peter 9844 6606
Bunbury Bush Poets	First Monday of every second month	Alan Aitken 0400249243
	Rose Hotel cnr Wellington and Victoria sts Bunbury	Ian Farrell 0408212636
Geraldton Bush Poets	Second Tuesday of the month. Contacts: Roger & Jan Cracknell 0427 625 181 or Irene Conner 0429652155.	
	6pm at Recreation room, Belair caravan park, Geraldton. Bring and share snacks for tea.	

**Do YOU have any poetic events which need to go in this space? Or for that matter anywhere within this newsletter—it is YOUR newsletter, I would like to see more direct contributions from members and friends.**

If you would like to be part of a forum—post your poetry, see what other contemporary bush poets are writing, keep up to date with poetry events throughout Australia—visit [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au) or [www.bushverse.com](http://www.bushverse.com)

**Don't forget our website**

**[www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au) or [www.wabushpoets.com](http://www.wabushpoets.com)**

Please contact the Webmaster, Brian Langley on 93613770 if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.

**Country Poets—Is there anything poetic going on in your neck of the woods.  
If so, why not drop us a line and tell us about it**

Members—Do you have poetic products for sale? If so please let the editor know so you can be added to this list Members can contact the poets via the Assn. Secretary or visit our website <a href="http://www.wabushpoets.com">www.wabushpoets.com</a> Go to the "Performance Poets" page	<b>Members' Poetic Products</b>	Corin Linch	books	
	Victoria Brown	CD	Val Read	books
	Peter Blyth	CDs, books	Caroline Sambridge	book
	Rusty Christensen	CDs	Peg Vickers	books & CD
	Brian Gale	CD & books	Terry Bennetts	Music CDs
	John Hayes	CDs & books	Terry Piggott	Book
	Tim Heffernan	book	Frank Heffernan	Book
	Brian Langley	books, CD	Christine Boulton	Book, CD
	Arthur Leggett	books, inc autobiography	Peter Stratford	CD
	Keith Lethbridge	books	Roger Cracknell	Book, CD
		Bill Gordon	CD	

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Bentley WA 6982

Address Monetary payments to:  
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