



★ Next Muster - January 8th, 2010 7.30pm MC Trish Yensch★
Auditorium, Bentley Park, 26 Plantation Dve Bentley 6102,

**January is
Kids on Holidays
Perth Cup, Hopman Cup,
Lancelin Classic Windsurfing Race
Australia Day**

Australia Day, January 26 commemorates the day that the first European (English) settlers (few of them willing) arrived at their first permanent address—Sydney Cove in 1788. This was celebrated at the time by the raising of the Union Jack of Queen Anne. In that first fleet, about 1350 men, women and a few children arrived on our shores to begin what was to eventually become the multicultural (but predominantly English based) Australia of today. It was a far different voyage to the day or so that today's aircraft take. The 11 ships of the fleet (6 passenger / convict ships, 3 store ships, a flagship with some free settlers and an armed escort) had left Portsmouth on May 3rd 1787, taking almost 8 months for the 15,000 km journey.



While many Australians believe that Jan 26 was the day that Gov Philip and his fleet arrived in "Australia", this is incorrect, for the fleet had arrived in Botany Bay several days earlier, only to find that the planned settlement location was far from suitable. Gov. Phillip and a small party sailed up the coast and explored Port Jackson, deciding it was a far better place. The fleet sailed from Botany Bay on the 25th, arriving at the newly named Sydney Cove in Port Jackson the following day

There are those who believe that this is the wrong date for Australia Day. Many indigenous Australians consider it to be "Invasion Day", and some West Australians look on it as "NSW Day" as at that time, the Western third of continental Australia was not part of the British colony of New South Wales, but was still "Terra Nullus" generally known as New Holland.

It was not until Jan 1st 1901 that the six Australian Colonies officially joined together to form the Commonwealth of Australia—perhaps this should be Australia Day—but then, that could mean the loss of a public holiday!!!!

Due to holidays, this newsletter has to be printed early, consequently some info may be outdated

**REMEMBER
JANUARY MUSTER IS ON THE
2ND FRIDAY**

Due to Public Holiday
(April will also be 2nd Friday)

Vale Sylvia

It is with great sadness that the WA Bush Poets mourn the passing of Life Member **Sylvia Rowell**.

OAM Sylvia passed away on December 10th in NSW where her and husband Harold had recently moved.



Sylvia had been a member of the WA Bush Poets almost since its inception in 1995. While the early years of her membership saw her regularly attending and performing at musters, the last few years saw failing health limit her attendance.

Sylvia was always very friendly and welcoming, giving great encouragement to new members and performers. It was at her request that the more senior members were given the right to "read" their poetry at musters, for she recognised from first hand experience that not everyone had the memory capacity necessary to recite long poems.

Sylvia has always (with Harold) worked behind the scenes supporting our Association's poetic endeavours and it was this dedication over a long period which resulted in them both being granted Life membership at our last AGM.

Ours was not the only organisation that Sylvia supported. She was very active in numerous community endeavours and it was for these that she was awarded the OAM.

Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy go out to Harold and other members of their family.

Sylvia and Harold were featured in this newsletter in August of this year.

It is understood that at a date yet to be decided in January 2010, a memorial service will be held here in Perth. All available members are requested to attend. Please Keep your eye on the paper

R.I.P Sylvia

This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of the Federal Member for Swan, Steve Irons M.P.



Walking Different Tracks

From the general poetic world - **Anthology Seeks Submissions** Anthology of poetic responses to the 'settlement' and exploration of Australia. Send hard copy (up to three poems) to Margaret Bradstock 2/302 Alison Rd Coogee 2034. Indigenous responses especially welcome. Enclose SSAE, contact details (inc. email) and 5-line bio.

Blemish Books is kicking off a new series of poetry collections – the Triptych Poets series. The concept is simple – three poets: one book. No restriction on style or theme; send 15-25 poems (max 40 pages) of your best work. Poets will be paid. Submissions close 1 Feb 2010; visit <http://listmail.bam.com.au/t/r/l/kdlllr/cfjrkr/b> for full guidelines

MUSTER ACCESS DIFFICULTIES Last month saw several members and friends get “lost” trying to negotiate the back roads into Bentley Park due to the normal access road being closed due to building demolition. Most managed it eventually (If they didn't then perhaps they are still driving around). All has now been cleaned up and normal access resumed.

DECEMBER MUSTER A great night was had by all—not only a lot of “Christmas” poems but a huge response from our members and friends for contributions to our big raffle . We far exceeded last years 35 prizes, this year it was closer to 50. bringing us in around \$200 - pretty got for 40c tickets

Several members also contributed to the wonderful supper which we all enjoyed - A Huge THANK YOU to all of those people who supported us

BULLY TIN ARCHIVES

Our treasurer, Judith has almost finished collecting an entire set of Bully Tins for our archives but there are just a few she hasn't laid her hands on yet. Perhaps you have one or two of them lying around gathering dust and are prepared to donate them to your Assn. The missing ones are:

2000 Jan, Feb, Mar, May, Dec.
2001 Jan, Feb
2002 April
2006 July
2007 Aug, Nov
2008 Jan—Jun

In January:

1688-William Dampier first sets foot on Australia
1773 James Cook—first known sailor to Antarctic
1774 1788-“First Fleet” arrives and claims NSW to be a British Colony
1808-Gov Bligh overthrown by “Rum Rebellion”
1856-Van Diemens Land renamed Tasmania
1868-WA last convict ship arrives
1887-First inter-capital rail service Adel.—Melb
1889-Hottest Temp—Cloncurry Qld 53.1C
1891-The Great Shearers Strike begins
1901-The Commonwealth of Australia proclaimed Queen Victoria dies
1957-Sydney Opera House Design announced



Australia Day 2010

Once again, time draws closer for our annual showcase event at Wireless Hill park, Ardross on Australia Day commencing at 1pm.

We have not been as fortunate as last year in attracting grants, however, the City of Melbourne are, as usual very supportive. We thank them for their continuing support for this wonderful event. There is still one grant application pending, so we wait in hope. While the grants and donations do help us to minimize the costs to our Association, we must never forget that our charter is to promote and preserve Australian Rhyming verse, so even if we don't get grant money, the committee feel that we should still try and bring to the public, the best range of both city and country poets that are available, and if necessary, bear the travel costs involved.

Once again, our MC will be member Dr Peter Harries, who, last year helped make our showcase one of the best ever. We have made a change to the supporting musicians this year and have been fortunate in acquiring the services of award winning country singers Terry and Jenny, who some of you heard at a muster some months back. Terry and Jenny will be joined by an as yet un-named bass guitar player

Once again, Vice President, Grace Williamson is responsible for the artistic talent organising and is currently putting together a great program of traditional and contemporary Australian Rhyming Poetry. While many of the performers have been at previous Australia Day Showcases, we are seeing three country ladies for the first time, Victoria Brown from Esperance, Peg Vickers from Albany and Irene Conner from Jurien. We are also “blooding in” one or two muster performers who have yet to be presented on Australia Day.

Remember to be early if you want to get the best of the shade

So, Time to get yourself, your friends and their friends organised and make sure that you all come along to enjoy the poetry.

Notices advertising the event will be available at the January Muster - we would like everyone to take a few and have them pinned up at local libraries, Seniors and Community centres, Shopping Centres or any other place you think might be appropriate—also we would like some of the smaller fliers for distribution through libraries etc.

HELP NEEDED FOR AUSTRALIA DAY

We have someone to transport the staging for Australia Day, also a back up—Thank you to the two members who volunteered.

But we would love to have a couple of able bodied blokes available from around 10.30am to help string up PA cabling, backdrop etc - Please ring or e-mail Brian

And being The month after Christmas, I thought this was an appropriate and topical verse.

'Twas The Month After Christmas

'Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The bikkies I'd nibbled, the chocolates I'd taste.
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way that I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---

I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend all summer disguised as a man!"

So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have an ice cream--not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

Author Unknown

Extract from a Letter to the Editor.

I grew up with the words of Jack Sorensen, just one small book at the time, but as he wrote about places and events that were familiar to our family his poems were much more real than those of Eastern Poets, even such names as Paterson, Lawson or Ogilvie.

Poets such as Jack lived the reality, they did not need fancy words to paint their pictures. There is too much make believe in the world today and it is mirrored in many of the verses wrought by our contemporary poets who believe the longer they can spin out their fabrications the better.

Their lines are more like fence lines; they just disappear over the horizon. You need to take a water bag with you to follow them and then wonder why you bothered.

Introducing them to Sorensen today could be helpful to some

John McMicking

I'm inclined to agree with you John, although Henry Lawson certainly knew how to extend a story. But as he was living on the 1d a line he got for his writing, I suppose its excusable in his case - Ed



Probably our oldest "Nationalist" poem. Written by "The Father of Federation", Sir Henry Parkes (1815—1896) it was in a style still popular with many poets of the time, Sir Henry Parkes was Premier of NSW before Federation and was the main instigator of the move to amalgamate the 6 colonies into a single unity

Fatherland

The brave old land of deed and song,
Of gentle hearts and spirits strong,
Of queenly maids and heroes grand,
Of equal laws, - our Fatherland!

Though born beneath a brighter sun,
Shall we forget the marvels done,
By soul outspoken, blood outpoured,
By bard and patriot, song and sword?

Forget how firm and true our sires,
Still lighted by their battle-fires,
'Gainst kingly power and kingly crime,
Long struggled in the darkened time?

How in a rolling sea they stood,
Where every wave was freemen's blood, -
Shall we forget the time of strife,
When freedom's only price was life?

Shall Cromwell's memory, Milton's lyre,
Not kindle 'mong us souls of fire,
Not raise in us a spirit strong -
High scorn of shams, quick hate of wrong?

Shall we not learn, Australians born!
To smile on tinselled power our scorn, -
At least, a freeman's pride to try,
When tinselled power would bend or buy?

The brave old land of deed and song,
We ne'er will do her memories wrong!
For freedom here we'll firmly stand,
As stood our sires for Fatherland!

"Shore Lines" - Bunbury Writing and Performance Festival.

We have just received some entry forms for this event which will take place on Saturday October 16, but entries close on April 16.

There are Open and Junior categories for various writing suitable for performance.

Eligible pieces include ,Prose, Monologue, Stand up Comedy, One Act Plays, Poetry, Speeches and Song. Brochures containing the conditions and entry form (\$10 per entry - max 2) will be available at the January Muster.

December 2009 Wrap—up - by Dot

With many of our audience dolled up in Christmassy attire, the evening promised to be very festive one. After the usual housekeeping notices our **MC Grace Williamson** asked **Rusty Christensen** to start the proceedings which he did with Banjo Paterson's "The Bush Christening". That familiar story of the mother of a ten year old lad, worried that because he had never been christened he would not be recognized in Heaven. So the visiting preacher set out to rectify this. The lad however thought this sounded like branding and so he took off and hid in a log. The preacher had a notion to poke him out with a stick then he could be christened. The lad rushed out but the preacher had forgotten the names, so he threw a flask of Maginnis's whisky at him. Now the lad is grown and is a JP and folk will tell of the joke of how he came to be christened Maginnis Magee.

Shan Rose Brown had another one of Ian McNamara's stories from one of his books. Guess which book I don't have a copy of?? I am really sorry but I can't give you a wrap up of this poem I will try and get a copy of it for next months notes. - See note at the end of this wrap up

With the mouth organ tune of "I am, you are, we are, Australian," to introduce his poem **John Hayes** performed his own "Longing for my Homeland." When you are away you yearn for the sounds of the birds and the sights of the country. Even though the scenery where you are is lovely the best views of all are in his heartland, where the kangaroos go bounding and the breakers are crashing along the endless shore.

With one of Syd Hopkinson's "Christmas Cocktail" **Barry Higgins** told of the fund raiser being held at the local pub. The barmaid doing her bit in a tub of champagne. The night went off with a bang and the funds raised were great. The barman, not wanting to waste the champagne, rebottled it. There was a problem however— it took 12 bottles to fill the tub but 13 bottles were refilled!!

Chris Preece hadn't got one of her own so she borrowed one from John Hayes "Shanty on the Plain" which unfortunately I don't seem to have a copy of and wasn't able to get one in time. Again see note at the end.

Welcome to a new comer **Dave Smith**. Six years ago he heard Rusty perform at Halls Creek or was it Derby, anyway he has slowly worked his way down the coast from there to finally come along to one of our city musters. He read one of his own "Credo Surprise". A tale about some friends of his that enjoy the naturalist lifestyle so it wouldn't surprise him to come across a person with a bare bum pushing a lawn mower but he does prefer them to put on something more than just a hat when serving morning tea and scones.

Then it was my turn with an old favourite for this time of year. "The Night Before Christmas" is a story that our children and grandchildren know very well. It's also a good one to remember for Quiz nights when they ask you for the names of all the reindeers. Dasher, Dancer, Comet and the others?????? Hmmmmm Anyway the poem is now about 187 years old and tells of the family being awoken by Father Christmas as he arrives with all the reindeer. With the sound of reindeer feet tapping on the roof, He arrives down the chimney and fills all the stockings then wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a good night.

With a lovely bouquet of roses **Wally Williamson** performed Banjo Paterson's "A Bunch of Roses", that tells of the roses red and white that bring memories with their scent. These memories continue all his life as their colour and perfume remind him of his lost love. As he stands all alone now he covers her coffin with white roses. This poem is a tear jerker and was done superbly by Wally.

With two short items of blank verse by Brian Dawe **Mary Maude Winter** read for us these Winter Thoughts of the definition of love. A thank you for the love that was given with no matter the outcome. Then with a reminder as you get older and your pants are falling down that love leaves a song or a poem playing over and over in your mind.

With supper of port and pies and extra goodies it was a long time before Grace could get everyone back to settle down for the second half.

Then it was onto the raffle. With about 50 individual prizes to be won and a bit of confusion over ticket colours, it was all a bit hectic for a while, But it all got sorted out To everyone who contributed with their gifts our **Thanks** for your generosity, and to the winners congratulations and a **Very Big Thank you** to everyone for joining in.

Back to the poetry with **Graham Hedley** with one of his, "Six White Quokkas" a take on Rolf Harris's Six White Boomers. It seems that the plans for the Australian run were in disarray because there were no Kangaroos, they had all got terrible diseases. Santa didn't have time to give them names so he called them Quokka 1 & 2 and 3 & 4. They dashed up and down the country but the Quokkas didn't want to stop. "How about lunch?" they asked ."you are lunch" was the reply, so we ended the tale with six white quokkas a-roasting on the BBQ.

Brian Langley then stepped up with two short ones of his which were for this time of the Year. In "Christmas Cards" he deplores Christmas cards all showing snow when Christmas here is stinking % \$#@# hot. In his second "The Silly Season" He laments that he has to be racing from here to there to get to all the different celebrations he is invited to and asks "why do we have to cram it all into just a few short weeks?"

Having heard the traditional version in the first half, **Leslie McAlpine** gave us the alternative, more suited to our conditions, The Aussie 12 Days of Christmas. The folks were just settling down to watch TV when they heard a noise. Racing to the screen door, they saw a rusty old ute pulled by six red roos. Santa was dressed in red stubbie shorts and thongs on his feet. He put surf boards and footie shorts in the stockings and then winked and held up his thumb and wished everyone a "good on ya mate!"

With his second appearance tonight **Dave Smith** was going to do the Bush Christening but Rusty had beaten him to it so he shared with us his poem that he had written for his grand daughters wedding. Loosely based on the structure of the Bush Christening he very carefully wove the story around the young man come to call as he had never had a girlfriend before and if he didn't get married soon they were going to take his Holden Ute off him. He didn't want to be 'branded' so took off for the city but then he realised that marriage would be good so now we introduce Mr. and Mrs. Watts.



With another one of John Hayes' **Chris Preece** presented "Morning Beauty". With the mist on the mountains and the timber of the forest swept by a sea of grass waving gently to and fro, the flowers awaken their petals and in the mornings light the beauty in supreme.

John Hayes stayed with the traditional ones tonight with "Clancy of the Overflow" by Banjo Paterson. The letter had been written but returned because they didn't know where Clancy had gone droving. He was sitting in his dingy little office while he thought of Clancy out where the drovers go, With the dusty dirty city outside where he hears the gutter children fighting, he rather fancies he'd like to swap with Clancy.

With a welcome return **Trish Joyce** gave us one of her own "I Want a Camera for Christmas". Their small boy was told that he was much too young for a camera yet and he would have to wait to get as old as his brothers. He was in tears as he rushed out because he would never be as old as they were!

With one of Banjo's lesser known poems **Ron Ingam** gave us "A grain of desert sand" in which Banjo, whilst in Egypt at the end of WWI reflected upon all that that passed in that part of the world over the centuries, yet through it all the grains of desert sand remain—unchanging. Then he sang from Fiddler on the Roof "Is This the Little Girl I carried" which he had performed at his daughters' wedding.

Rusty Christensen finished off the night with Henry Lawson's perennial poem "Along by Merry Christmas Time", written back in 1913. It is about Christmases of past times when all the old traditions are carried out, silly games are played, Dad recites his poetry and it's time to patch up old quarrels. (*It might be nice to return to those traditions—Ed*)

Then with Bob Magor's "Grandma's Washing Machine" he told of the new washing machine that had a wringer. When grandma was using it she got her apron and dress caught up in the wringer. As the wringer kept on going other bits that were a bit long and dangling also got caught up as well. When she let out a scream everyone rushed to her aid to get her untangled from the wringers. Her personal bits will take a while to lose their bruises!

★ NOTE - Over the years I have had great difficulty at times trying to get the essence of a poem
★ and get it written down in the very short time that I hear it at musters, I'm OK with Banjo and
★ Henry as I have most of their poetry, but some of the lesser known bards as well as contempo-
★ rary poets, including writer/presenters do give me some headaches. **Please—could perform-**
★ **ers either give me a copy of the poem they present, or at the least, a synopsis of it ON**
★ **THE NIGHT** - That way I (or whoever is doing the write up) will be able to give a decent sum-
★ mary of the poem in this column.
★
★
★

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☆☆ Upcoming Events ☆☆

Please let the editor know if you are aware of any event which might be of interest to the general membership

Jan	8	WABP&YS Muster	Auditorium , Bentley Park - NOTE DATE CHANGE
Jan	26	Bush Poetry Showcase	Wireless Hill, Ardross Commencing 1pm
Feb	5	WABP&YS Muster	Auditorium, Bentley Park Heat 2 of Novice Performance Comp (if required)
Feb	18-21	Country Music Festival	Boyup Brook — 2 Poets Brekkys at sporting clubs, Poets in the Park, 2 workshops and the BIG Sunday morning Brekky and a Written comp. The BIG WEEKEND in WA Bush Poetry — See November Bully Tin for details
Mar	5	WABP&YS Muster	Auditorium, Bentley Park - tentative—Festiival of Writers????
April	9	WABP&YS Muster	Auditorium— changed date due to 1st Friday being Easter Friday

Regular events - Albany Bush Poetry group 4th Tuesday of each month Peter 9844 6606

There is a great website for Bush Poets which offers all sorts of info — people, contacts, events, a forum, history, tips - it's all there at www.bushverse.com if you want to become involved in a very active group, you will need to join, but even if you just want to look it's certainly worth the effort

Do you want to be part of the National Scene — Then you might consider joining the Australian Bush Poets Assn www.abpa.org.au Now is the beginning of their year, so it's a great time to join. Annual membership \$30 Stay up to date with events and competitions right across Australia

Muster MCs and Classics Readers are always needed - Please Contact Vice Pres—Grace

Don't forget our website www.wabushpoets.com

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 www.wabushpoets.com Go to the "Performance Poets" page	Victoria Brown CD Peter Blyth CDs, books Rusty Christensen CDs Brian Gale CD & books John Hayes CDs & books Tim Heffernan book Brian Langley books & laminated poems Arthur Leggett books, inc autobiography	Keith Lethbridge books Corin Linch books Val Read books Caroline Sambridge book Peg Vickers books
Members' Poetic Products		

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