

***This Bullsheel is for people who have shown an interest in local (Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poetry)
BGBP events or bush poetry and Australian music etc.****



***Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poets Inc
Coming ...***

Sun April 17th Newmarket BGBP Concert 2.00 pm-5.00 pm

The Newmarket hotel, Corner of Nolan Street and Charleston road.

A great afternoon of Aussie Entertainment is assured, lots of great poets, fun and music. Walk up bush poets & songsters made most welcome in a most supportive atmosphere. No entry fee. Contact Ken Jones on 03 5441 5121 or e/mail kjones158@gmail.com or Geoffrey 0412 725 470 for more details.

Come early and have some great Aussie tucker (12.00-2.00)

Folk News: A roundup of past events ...

February BGBP concert meeting at Newmarket Hotel

This was the 1st concert for 2016 as well is the 1st concert at the Newmarket under new management – the very capable hands of Karen Lyons with Seb our friendly waiter.

Once again terrific to see people from a fair distance away including Malcolm Brodie from Phillip island with Ann. The quality of the entertainment at the concert and the variety was extraordinary. Ken Jones did an amazing poem about dragons from Richard Magoffin; Laurie Webb did a poem about the media not understanding the bush; Julie Morris delighted us once again with the Aussie Sheila and Malcolm Brodie did an absolute classic with a Lawson poem, song of old Joe Swallow. We had our regulars: Colin Carrington, Ken Prato, Clarkie then some new blood with Robbie Daniels presenting a real taste of country. Peter Tunzi, another old Shearer did a poem about Clarkie – appropriately called Clarkie. Tom Kiernan did an amazing Robert service poem about an old actors point of view then Pauline Maslin did some great snippets about her time running the Berlin folk club. Peter Sheehan and the lovely Evelyn gave us a poem and the song – both original and Judy Riley did a poem from left-field about a lamb. The variety continued with Ken Jones doing some yarns, Laurie with the story of mongrel grey; Julie with a Jenny Markwell calm about domestic violence and just when you think you heard it all Ken Prato pops up with an amazing song called Grace from the Irish rebellion in 1916. Mick Coventry presented a John McCutcheon song as a poem and Pete Tunzi a song about a tramps mother.

This concert would have to have had more variety than any other concert we've ever had.

Unfortunately Maggie couldn't make it, and Martin Keating couldn't make it flying to Perth for the funeral of his son-in-law. Our condolences to Martin and his family.

We dusted off our BGBP PA system and used it for the 1st time in quite a while.

18 – 20 March 2016 Narrandera- John O'Brien Festival

A stunning weekend weather wise with a great array of newcomers keen for entertainment and competition. Some old faces; Noel Stallard, Greg North and others as well as newcomers including Wally & Mary Finch and Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne. Poets breakfasts in the park and many events around town with an Irish/Australiana feel. My 1st parade as Banjo standing up in an MGB with both whips cracking.

The main competition winners:

Open Writing Competition Poetry: Tony Hammill; Short Story Section: Margot Ogilvie

John O'B Poetry Recital - Heather Searles

Bush Poetry Competition: Serious – Sue Pearce

Humorous – Rhonda Tallnash

Jim Angel Award- Sue Pearce

More info? check: www.johnobrien.org.au

24th –28th of March – National folk Festival – Canberra.

It's hard to believe it's 50 years since the 1st Festival and what an amazing array of performances and performers. For sheer choice of what to see in all genres in such a friendly atmosphere it would be hard to find another Festival like this. Congrats to Pam and the organisers and the huge volume of volunteers. Laurie McDonald did a great job of organising the spoken word events and the quality of the spoken word reached a new high with astonishing performances from Lenno, Chris, Irish Joe, Sandy and many others. The verse of CJ Dennis was prominent-Stephen and Maggie doing a CD launch-and I had a great response to my 2 performances of "The sentimental Bloke" ably assisted by my brother Ralph and Bob McInnes. Many venues had non-stop chalkboard events where sometimes it was difficult to get a spot at all. The stockman's camp was another highlight with a very strong Australiana feel. Ralph and I did a version of *The Letter* in the song competition and I was privileged to take part in the Peter Ellis tribute concert. Peter, a Bendigonian was always present at the National-his presence was sorely missed.

31st March –3rd April -Man from Snowy River Festival- Corryong.

Once again the weather was wonderful at Corryong. This was my 20th Corryong Festival and has always been a special one for me. With a great crossover between performance and love for horses there is a delightful mix between the 2 groups. The re-enactment was once again huge with astonishing displays from Tim O'Brien and his magical team. Lazy Harry featured amongst the Bush poets and the response to my Banjo show and my *Sentimental Bloke* performances was excellent. By an extraordinary coincidence Rob Christmas was able to bring my brand-new CJ Dennis CDs to Corryong -so I was very happy with that.

Once again Banjo's block was in full swing with Jan Lewis and Linton at the helm with wonderful volunteers. There are always challenges but the end result is always warm fuzzys. My congratulations to all the competitors, judges and helpers.

The main competition results:1st written serious poem – Brenda Joy. 1st written humorous poem – Tom McIlveen. Banjo's MFSR performance 1st Barry Tiffen.

Classical poem performance – women – Sue Pearce; men – Tom O'Connor

Original serious poem performance – women – Rhonda Tallnash; – men – Lynden Baxter

Original humorous poem performance – women – Sue Pearce; men – John Peel

Jack Riley heritage award – Rhonda Tallnash

Open modern poem performance – women – Sue Pearce; men – Lynden Baxter

Open yarn spinning performance – Rhonda Tallnash. Novice poem performance – Ian McDonald

Intermediate poem performance – Julie Morris Matilda award (Best overall female) – Sue Pearce.

Clancy's choice (Best overall Male) – Lynden Baxter.

Special awards Kaylin Handley, Lisa ride, Ruth Davis and Christa Dwyer.

For more info: <http://www.bushfestival.com.au/2016-bush-poetry-results/>

On a sad note – My accommodation at Corryong since 1995 as always been with sister Pat and 2016 is her last year due to retirement. She will be sorely missed in Corryong and to the many people she has been an inspiration to with compassion, goodwill and friendship.

Future Events:

If you are heading south in late April or you have friends around Barwon heads or Cororooke please pass on the following information about a couple of shows I'm doing. The theatre at Cororooke is a fantastic performance space and the Barwon heads performance has been organised by a Corryong original, Kay Middleton and the Barwon Heads fine music Society.

23rd April – Saturday 7:30 PM - Voices of War: An Anzac Story
Red Rock regional Theatre and Gallery, Cororooke.

520 Corangamite Lake Road Cororooke 0488 531 637.

try booking <https://www.trybooking.com/KVDH>

24th April – Sunday – 2:30 PM – Voices of War: An Anzac Story
Barwon Heads community Hall Book online GPAC.org.au or call 5225 1200

24th April – Proclamation Day. An important day for the Irish since the proclamation (100 years ago) to the provisional government of the Irish Republic to the people of Ireland.

29th April – 1st May – Mount Beauty music Festival.

A great festival of music dance and spoken word with heaps of variety – something for everyone.

Google-Mt Beauty Music Festival. This will be my 1st time at this festival so I'm looking forward to it.

After Mount Beauty-I head to Queensland for a whirlwind tour through Cunnamulla, Charleville, Roma, St George, Goondiwindi, Moree and Narrabri-then I hightail it to PortArlington.

13th–15th May -When Bush comes to town Festival- Portarlington



When Bush comes to town Festival, 13th — 15th May 2016- Portarlington

A weekend of fair dinkum Australian stories, music, yarns and classic Aussie poetry . .including dreamtime storytelling, bush poet breakfasts, Art show, workshops et cetera

Geoffrey Graham —performing “The Man From Ironbark”, Jill Meehan — Singer/Songwriter

Freddie Dowling — Story teller & Pangerang Elder, Carol Reffold — “The Poette”

It is hoped that this will be the 1st of many festivals to come – so please encourage your friends to come along and enjoy.

The full program is available at www.timsheedbushpoet.com.au

21st May Book Launch “Celebrating Bendigo women”

1 pm for 1.30 pm-Bendigo town Hall

Edited by Brenda Stevens–Chambers and includes records, narratives from women from all walks of life and backgrounds. For details Ph 5443 4886 or email BendigoWomensBook@yahoo.com.au

Folk News Snippets

John Patrick O’Connor (1929-2016)

Poets will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Jack O’Connor of Shepparton.

Jack suffered a fractured skull as a result of a fall whilst working in the garden at Ave Maria

Retirement Village .The fracture caused an inoperable bleed on the brain and he passed away five days later surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Jack was born in Swan Hill. Soon after the family moved to a property on the Lachlan River at Euabalong. He loved the river and the bush and riding his horse to school. Lack of secondary schooling opportunities resulted in the family returning to Meatian in the Mallee. Jack attended Assumption College, Kilmore where he excelled in athletics and football and made life time friends. He chose a teaching career, teaching at many country schools and playing and coaching football in several different leagues. He won several Club Best and fairest and played in premierships in Sandhurst and Rochester in the Bendigo League and Congupna. He was named in the side of the half century at Lalbert, Shepparton and Congupna. Not a bad effort for a boy who had never seen an Australian Rules games until he was nearly twelve. After football he played golf off a single figure handicap.

He married Fay Mooring in 1957 and had six daughters. He was a devoted father and encouraged the girls in sport, fishing, horse riding and education. In 1958 he moved to Shepparton teaching in several schools and was principal at Guthrie St, Shepparton and at Mooroopna.

Jack's love of poetry led him to the festivals and competitions where he and Fay and Tom and Desma became regulars. He competed from Bundaberg to Benalla and had success in both reciting and writing. He particularly loved Narrandera and Corryong. Jack loved the camaraderie of the bush poets and was always encouraging the younger and newer members. He is survived by his wife Fay and five daughters, his grandchildren, his brother Tom and two sisters.

He was a kind compassionate gentleman who was modest about his personal qualities; he was sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Thanks to Tom and Jack's family for the above information.

To those of us who knew Jack, know he exemplified bush verse and the traditions associated with it. When Jack and Tom were kids they would be enthralled to hear their mother's brothers (there were 7 of them) reading verse regularly around the table at the old farm at Euabalong. With an upbringing like that is it any wonder they had a passion for bush poetry. Both Jack and Tom always threw themselves into delivering the poems with passion and fervour. This same integrity, Jack applied to his work and his sport and his life. A country gentleman. Our thoughts go out to Fay and the many family members. Tom had his 80th birthday last January with some 200 attendees – a timely family get-together. RIP Jack.

Peter Alan Hunt 29.9.49-14.3.16.

The same week we lost Jack, we also lost Peter Hunt in a cycling accident. A keen cyclist, triathlete, inspiring YMCA board member, - a family man and a bloke with a great sense of humour and a strong sense of friendship. My last ride before I went to New Zealand was with Peter and several others – I never dreamt it was to be my last ride with him. Our condolences to Ricky and family. RIP Peter

Future Events:

A reminder about the next BGBP date for 2016. 19th June BGBP concert.



** NB This newsletter is aimed specifically at people who are local or those who have a general interest in Aussie verse & song. More specific details on my own shows will be in a separate Newsletter or on my website dinkumoz.com.au.*

Thought for the day:

*"When we care about someone, they will always shine in our eyes" I
- Renee Scalfani*

Cheers all - Geoffrey - President BGBP The Iron poet

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Hot off the Press - My new CD 'The Sentimental Bloke' is now available.