

## Media release

### ***Back Block Bards* poetry collection printed and ready for launch**

Poetry collection, *Back Block Bards - A Collection of Bush Verse by Bush Bards*, is home from the printers and is ready for its official launch on 13 October 2018 in Hillston NSW.

The collection is part of a fundraising campaign for The Dementia Australia Research Foundation. The campaign also involves artwork sales and other activities throughout 2018.

The inspiration behind this book was Joan Vagg from Hillston NSW who has always enjoyed listening to her extended family reciting their poetry. Many years ago she asked them to write them down so they could be compiled into a book, ensuring they would be retained and shared. More recently Joan refined her idea into a book that could be sold to raise funds for research into dementia.

So after Christmas 2017, the serious work of creating a book began. Eight family members, born and bred in western NSW, contributed to the book. A renowned artist, Joan also illustrated the book including the artwork featured on the cover.

Graham Vagg from Ivanhoe NSW said it was exciting to finally see the end product.

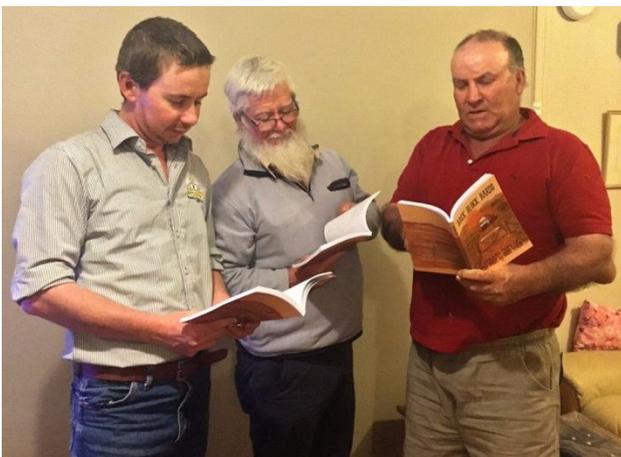
"After months of work, it's thrilling to finally see the book arrive from the printers. We now look forward to the official launch", he said.

This book is a contribution to the rich history of bush verse in Australia. The verses are largely based on the authors' experiences from their lives in western NSW. Being from a number of different authors, readers will observe different styles and content in the poetry.

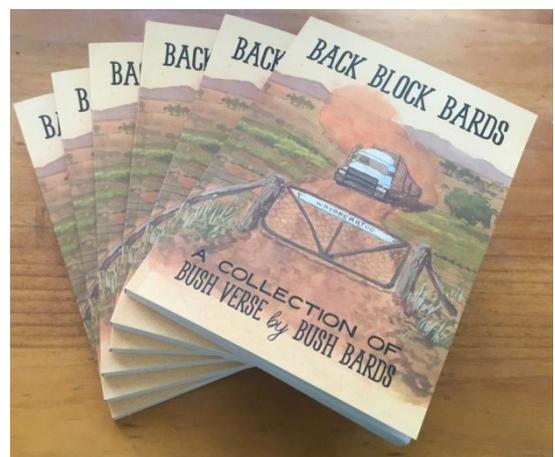
The Dementia Australia Research Foundation funds researchers across all stages of their career but maintains a particular focus on supporting Australia's talented new and early career dementia researchers.

For more information about The Dementia Australia Research Foundation, go to <https://www.dementia.org.au/research/foundation>

The authors are Jim Bryant (dec), Joan Vagg, Moc Parker, Jon Vagg, Graham Vagg, Naomi Vagg, Heather Frewin and Allan Vagg.



Allan Vagg (Hillston), Jon Vagg (Roto), Graham Vagg (Ivanhoe)



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