

Media release

***Back Block Bards* recitals 'tour'**

Back Block Bards poets will begin their recitals 'tour' at Booligal Sheep Races on Saturday 13 April. The following Saturday 20 April they will be at the Hay Yard Dog Trials during the day and at Hillston Showground in the evening.

The Booligal Family Fun Day will be held on the afternoon and evening of 13 April. Some of the poets from *Back Block Bards* will be contributing to the entertainment by reciting poems.

Easter Saturday 20 April will be a busy day for *Back Block Bards*, with some of the poets reciting poems in Hay at the Outback Hay Yard Dog Trial. The induction of shearing legends to the Hall of Fame will occur over the weekend.

The poets will return to Hillston Showground in the evening to be part of the big 2019 TriState 4WD Car Clubs event at the Showground. The TriState is an annual event for owners of 4WD vehicles and this year will be hosted by the Jackaroo Club of Victoria and joined by members from other clubs in NSW and South Australia.

The first TriState event was held at Roto near Hillston in 2001, a spot roughly midway between Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. Since then the clubs have taken annual trips to different country towns, this year returning to Hillston for only the second time. The clubs will be based at Hillston for four days over Easter.

A spokesperson for the *Back Block Bards*, Moc Parker, said the group was proud to be associated with TriState and was looking forward to the poets showcasing their poems at the event.

"The recitals are open to anyone who wants to attend and mingle with the 4WD club members and enjoy a night of bush poetry, Mr Parker said. "The Lions Club of Hillston will be cooking a BBQ dinner from 6:30".

TriState team leader Alan Dash said *Back Block Bards* was not only a great book of poetry but was unique.

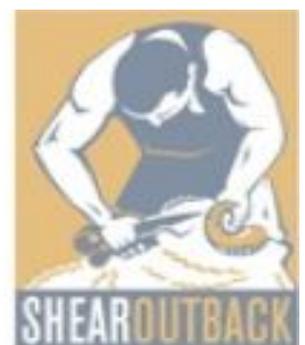
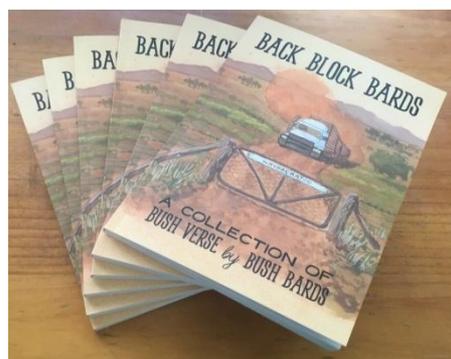
"I'm not aware of another book that contains the family connections this book does", he said.

"Our event has taken on a new focus by providing support to a community experiencing hard times. This year we will be supporting the Hillston district as well research into dementia."

Clubs will conduct a raffle to support their club, Hillston Lions Club for drought relief and RFDS. Prizes will include a signed *Back Block Bards* book. They'll pass around a hat for Dementia Australia Research Foundation.

Back Block Bards is a campaign by members of the Vagg and Parker families from the Hillston/Ivanhoe NSW district to raise funds for the Dementia Australia Research Foundation. It began five months ago at a launch and art exhibition in Hillston and involves sales of a book of bush poetry, artwork and a quilt all produced by the family members.

Books will be on sale at all the recital locations or can be purchased for \$25.00 each at backblockbards.org.au.



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