Structure 6 – The Bush Poet

**Stimulus material**

**Performance focus**
Create a solo performance based on the person(s) of Banjo Paterson and/or Henry Lawson.
In a bid to be reconsidered by the Reserve Bank of Australia to be featured on the new ten-dollar note, the bush poets Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson passionately compete in a ‘poetry slam’. They revive their longstanding rivalry and feud about the Australian identity and mythology surrounding the ‘bush legend’.
Banjo Patterson and/or Henry Lawson do/does this by:

- recreating highlights from some of the poems that reflect their contrasting views on bush life
- comparing Banjo Patterson’s and/or Henry Lawson’s importance to the Australian identity with that of another person represented on Australian banknotes.
- demonstrating how the Australian identity represented within popular culture has evolved.
The Bush Poet

Do this if the following intrigues you:

– 1. Sophisticated/nuanced oration, detailed physical transformations
– 2. Quality and intricate/detailed research into the poems/personalities/events
– 3. Mature Larrikin, poet, articulate, vocally dynamic

Potential Dramatic Element:
Rhythm: The specific cadence, structure and meter of each poet will be vital.

Potential Convention:
Heightened Language: Poetry, prose and speech will play a major role in the solo.