

COBBER SCOOPS THE POOL IN TAMWORTH



WA's Keith "Cobber" Lethbridge came home to Armadale with extra special cargo.

He won both sections of the **Golden Damper** —Established with a poem of Peter Blyth's (Albany WA) "One Of The Best" and —Original with "The Legend of Mother McQ"

Second in the Established Section with a poem by Noel Stallard was Jacqui Warnock reciting "141 Cream Cowrie Shells".

Anita Reed third with "The Waste of War".

Second in the Original Section was Catherine Boomer presenting "Charlemayne" and third was Jacqui Warnock with "Leaving Town".



L-R Anita Reed Qld , Jacqui Warnock NSW, Catherine Boomer NSW, Keith "Cobber" Lethbridge WA

GOLDEN DAMPER FINALISTS



L-R Bill Gordon, Greg Dunn, Tom McIlveen, Tom O'Connor, Heather Searles, Paddy O'Brien, Cay Ellem, Jacqui Warnock, Catherine Boomer, Anita Reed, Mick Martin, Mal Beveridge, Keith Lethbridge



BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE.....

Cobber also took home the Frank Daniels Award with his poem "The Flying Dogma".



THANK YOU

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To all the willing workers who made the **Golden Damper Competition**, **Frank Daniels Award** and the **Workshops** program work so well.

Carol Hutcheson started the ball rolling with invitations to enter the Golden Damper competition and finding some volunteers to Judge, MC and be a general help where needed. She also organised our banner retrieval and Hall Hire.

Local contact, **Jan Morris** was very helpful with trophy and certificate organisation. **John and Kevin Adams** did a great job getting around the Tamworth area delivering flyers. The remainder of the flyers were distributed at Tamworth outlets and bill boards during the week of the festival.

(The question was put to the crowd at the Golden Damper finals where they had received news about the Bush Poetry at the Festival and just as many hands went up indicating flyers and newspaper articles. The majority of hands went up for word of mouth notification. **So keep spreading the word!**)

I would like to extend my thanks also to **Tom McIlveen** and **Ray Essery** for willingly being on the phone whenever a problem came up or a decision had to be made prior to the event. **Susan Ashton** had great ideas for signs and the flyer design and I thank her also.

During a very hot and draining week, I was very appreciative of the assistance with many of the housekeeping jobs that needed to be done. Tea, coffee and water was in constant demand and many hands assisted with this task. Thank you to those who donated biscuits and milk. Chairs and tables were moved speedily when the request was made. Signs put out and collected each day. **Mick Martin** set up much needed extra fans. **Max Pringle** was ever on hand for timekeeping.

I personally think the Golden Damper has a future with the ABPA steering the program and with the continuance of a willing team, I can see many successful competitions ahead.

The Workshops were very well received and the comment that every presenter wants to hear was “the best workshop they had been to”. So many thanks to **Tom McIlveen, Bill Kearns, Rhonda Tallnash and Jack Drake**. I hope this initiative is continued.

To our judges **Trish Anderson, Rob Christmas, Bill Kearns and Ray Essery**, I say a special thanks for a great effort to be so willing to give up their time during the week. I am sure the contestants appreciated the continuity of judging styles throughout the heats and finals.

The MC's **Freda Harvey, Cay Ellem, Manfred Vijars** for the heats and **Gary Fogarty** for the finals held the sessions together with wit and necessary information and your efforts are much appreciated. **Cay Ellem** also lent a hand with the bookstall and in particular was responsible for promoting and selling the Anthology that was very successfully put together by **Will Moody**. Sales of the Anthology were good. Thank you also to **Manfred** for the great photos.

Finally to one special person who I could not have done without, **Penny Broun**, who was ably assisted by **Lynne Finedon** as the doorkeepers, raffles and book sellers. They had a massive job as all the donations for the raffles came pouring in. The decision to sell off some of the books early was a good one as more contributions came in as the week went on. We were able to have a raffle draw each day which made ticket sales easier and many visitors went away with some very good bargains. If this becomes an ongoing idea, more hands are needed to organise these donations. The final auction of the John Dengate prints resulted in one of the prints being snapped up by Bill Kearns and the other two will wait for another time. Also auctioned was a set of Paterson and Lawson books.

The final financial outcome will be available in time but all indications are that we came out ahead so a big thank you to all involved as well as my gopher **Bill Gordon**.

Meg Gordon Co-Ordinator