

You are invited to be part of the 2021 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

The 31st Annual Competition continues the legacy of Tamworth Poetry Reading Group (TPRG). Since 1991, thousands of entries have been submitted, recording many aspects of Australian country and character. Past Award winners provide exemplary guidance for writers seeking rhyme and metre mastery.

“The Blackened Billy Verse competition has encouraged writers to put pen to paper to produce the most incredible range of rhyming verse, over the years honing their skills to now produce some of the best bush poetry ever written, as good as, if not better than Paterson or Lawson.” - Jan Morris, on behalf of the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group (November 2019).

Competition Founder Jan remains a guiding force. The 2021 Billy is in the kiln. Made in the hills of Moonbi, by two blokes who play with clay above where the fibreglass chook is perched to attract tourists and draw attention to the poultry industry. Ian and Fred have been crafting the unique and hard-won Billy trophy annually since 1991.

The Billy plaque will be custom-curved and engraved in Tamworth – as it has always been. The winner’s trophy plaque will be engraved and attached in the community hosting the awards ceremony. The minor question is where will that ceremony be? The more inviting question is ‘Will your name make it onto the Trophy Plaque?’

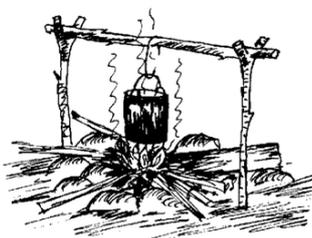
The 2020 Awards Ceremony was celebrated as part of the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. It is anticipated the Awards for the 31st Billy will be announcing during the 2021 Festival, currently estimated to run from 13-20 February. Covid times add question, and Festival organisers will not decide for some time yet about happenings. Late October at earliest. In the interim, entrants should submit the BB2021 entries prior to the 30 November closing date.

In 2020, the Blackened Billy Verse Writing Competition was warmly welcomed by locals, poets and media, with newspaper and television tuning in to capture and share advice of the winners. The success of previous poetry events in Orange has lured an Australian Performance Poetry Championship to Orange for 2021. Excited to see what opportunities are realised, as the Covid-19 saga unfolds.

Entrants for the 2021 Blackened Billy Verse Competition may submit entries via postal or electronic means.

Publication of future Tribute Books containing Blackened Billy Winners is likely. **Will you be in it?**

\$1000 Prize Pool



First Prize	\$500 plus Trophy and Certificate
Second Prize	\$250 plus Certificate
Third Prize	\$150 plus Certificate
Highly Commended	5 x \$20 plus Certificate
Commended	5 x Certificate

2021 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries are to be rhymed and metred bush verse, relevant to Australia or Australians, featuring impeccable spelling and punctuation, appropriate language and providing evocative impact. Offensive language or themes are not permitted. Accuracy of rhyme and meter is a predominant requirement.
2. Entries must be the author's own work, and not previously published for monetary gain by the author.
3. Entries must not have won first prize in any poetry competition by 6 February 2021. Competition organisers are to be advised promptly should an entry become ineligible. The entry fee will be refunded, and the submitted entry withdrawn from the Competition.
4. Entries are to be typed, on an A4 sized page, using 12-point clear typeface (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman), 1.5 line spacing.
5. Rank Order Tally will be utilised to determine winning entries. The 2021 Judging panel is comprised of 3 exceptionally qualified and highly regarded poets, including winners of the Blackened Billy and other notable and prestigious competitions.
6. Entries may be forwarded by post (1 copy, on A4, printed on one side only), or electronically as a Word Document or PDF. The author's name must not appear on any page of submitted verse. It is requested the poem title and 'page number x of page number y' be included as a footer on multi-page entries.
7. Submission of the poem, Entry form detail and Payment of relevant fees is required by Closing Date for the Entry to be deemed eligible
8. Copyright is retained by the author. Copies of the Entries will be printed by the Promoter for the purpose of Competition Administration and Adjudication. Poems will not be returned except where Evaluation has been sought, and the poem annotated by the judge(s). Entrants acknowledge the Promoters right to provide online access to the winning poem, with due credit to the author, and without further compensation.
9. There is no limit to the number of entries. **Electronic submission closes at midnight AEST on 30 November 2020. Postal entries must be postmarked no later than 30 November 2020.**
10. Winning entries will be announced, and prizes presented at a date to be announced, during the 2021 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival.
11. Winners of First, Second and Third Place will be notified prior that one of their entries is in the top three. The Highly Commended and Commended Awards will be announced at the Ceremony with no prior notice provided to entrants. Full results will be made public after the Ceremony.

Email your entries or enquiries to **Lux@blackenedbillyversecompetition.com**
or post your entries and Entry Form to **BB2021, P O Box 644, Gladstone Qld 4680.**

Please retain these terms and conditions for your records.

2021 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Email _____
Telephone _____
Postal Address _____

Title of Entries – *Maximum 3 per form. Use additional forms if required.*

*Critique/Evaluation
Requested? (\$10 per poem)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Entry Fee (\$10 per poem, or 3 for \$25) \$ _____

Critique Fee(s) \$10 per poem \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Payment method CHEQUE BRANCH DEPOSIT EFT DIRECT DEPOSIT (Circle one)

Payment Reference (date, amount, Ref No.) _____

Payment can be made by Cheque or EFT.

Account name - Blackened Billy BSB 484799 A/c 609557083

Please use your surname and initial(s) as the deposit reference and provide notification of your payment to the Competition's postal or email address shown beneath the Conditions of Entry.

Entries will not be deemed eligible for the Competition until payment is received.

By entering the 2021 Blackened Billy Verse Competition, I confirm the submitted verse is entirely my own work. I understand I retain copyright, while the Promoter reserves the right to publish the winning poem, without payment to the author, in official print and electronic media reports of the Competition. I understand I will be contacted for permission prior to any further publication, including future Blackened Billy Verse Competition Tribute Book editions.

I agree to the Conditions of the Competition

Date _____ Signature _____

(To submit this page electronically, please forward a photo or scan of the signed page via email. Alternatively, submission of entry detail, sent from the entrant's email account, along with payment of the entry fees will be regarded as evidence of the Entrant's consent and compliance with the Conditions of Entry)

Entrants in BB2021 seeking to improve their writing are encouraged to utilise the Judges Evaluation offer.

Entrants in BB2020 were provided opportunity for judge critiques, on the same terms as this year - \$10 per poem, with at least 2 evaluations provided. When later asked about these reports, several poets provided such enthusiastic support, permission was sought to share some of their comments.

'Invaluable Feedback Available from Written Competitions

Praise be! Guidance is at hand for writers of Australian Bush Verse. While good rhythm and rhyme are noted on entry forms as requirements... it can be difficult to know where one is falling short.'

'A treasury of valuable advice can be yours in the feedback from judges'

'Continuous reading of the best bush poetry is informative, but a critique of your poem from an expert is immeasurably instructive.'

'It was exciting to have so much detailed comment, and motivational to see where I can improve. The fee can in no way reflect the time spent on each critique.'

'The role of the judge/ critic is vital if we are to improve the standard of our bush poetry writers. As a relative to newcomer to the game I have been helped and encouraged greatly by some of the critiques received and I thank them for that.'

'To continue improving... we need competent, consistent, constructive critiques'.

Entrants in BB2021 are advised that written poem evaluations can be provided, after the Award Ceremony.

The feedback option can be selected at the time of competition entry, or advised later via email to the competition organiser.

Cost of critiques/evaluations is \$10 per poem, with feedback provided from at least 2 members of the BB2021 judging panel.

2021 Blackened Billy Verse Competition Assessment Guide

Modified from guidelines recommended by ABPA Inc. Dated August 2018.

Elements of Evaluation

Does the entry meet competition criteria of relevance to Australia or Australians?		YES	NO
Metre	Is the metre consistent throughout?		
	Do stanzas, or stanza clusters, conform to a pattern throughout?		
	Is the 'flow' of the verse solid, without inversion or syntax to achieve this?		
	Is the metric scheme unusual, adventurous or inventive?		
Rhyme	Are rhymes accurate?		
	Are rhymes unforced and suited to context?		
	Is the rhyming pattern used unusual, distinctive or otherwise notable?		
	Is rhyming pattern maintained throughout the poem?		
Construction	Is the punctuation appropriate for sentence structure?		
	Is the grammar of an acceptable standard?		
	Is the spelling of an acceptable standard?		
Language	Is the language appropriate to the chosen topic?		
	Do word choice, phrasing and diction lend appeal to the verse?		
	Does the verse utilise imagery effectively?		
	Does the language used contribute to conjuring emotional response?		
	Is reliance on cliches minimised, and offensive content avoided?		
Overall	Does the verse engage the reader's interest?		
	Does the story flow logically - clear of factual or other errors - to reach satisfying conclusion?		
	Does the verse provide original or novel approach to the subject?		
	Does the verse offer 'oomph', 'wow' or other factor?		