



BRONZE SWAGMAN TURNING 50 YEARS OLD

The Winton Tourist Promotion Association (now the WBTA) was formed in October of 1967. Because of the connection to Banjo Paterson's 1895 visit to Winton, (his fiancée Sarah Riley lived on a local station, Vindex) and the writing of *Waltzing Matilda* in the area, it was a natural step to look at ways of encouraging the writing of traditional Australian verse that was made so popular by Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson.

At that time Winton had a number of residents writing bush verse, and even more residents interested in bush verse. In 1970, led by Bruce Simpson and his Secretary Clover Nolan, herself a poet, these local poets wrote and produced *Matilda Matilda* – "a swagful of local verse". This was released to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the writing of *Waltzing Matilda*. This booklet proved so popular that the Association decided to run an annual national competition for written bush verse, with the prize a silver swaggie. Miss Daphne Mayo, a famous Australian sculptor, was approached to create the statuette to be used as a trophy. The high cost of silver led to it being cast in Bronze. Each year since 1972 an anthology has been printed with the winning poem and a selection of other verses has been included. 2021 will see not only the 50th edition of poems published, but also a special 50th Anniversary book which will include a list of all poems ever printed in the *Bronze Swagman*, and the authors. *Bronze Swagman* long time supporters have also been approached for a story and photo. A camp fire get together has been arranged for Monday evening, 20th September 2021, and you are very welcome to come. The venue will be perfect – Windemere Station just 10km out of town. You are also very welcome to submit a poem or three into the 2021 competition – now open for entries. See www.bronzeswagman.info for more details. Entry and past book order forms are also on the website

If you would like further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Jeff Close, Hon Co-ordinator closeandmoller@gmail.com

50th BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2021

ENTRY NOW OPEN

Be part of history. Pen a verse or two or three
and enter the 2021 competition.



Entries close 30th April 2021

See www.bronzeswagman.info
or contact

Jeff Close, Hon Co-ordinator
closeandmoller@gmail.com

2021 INVITATION

You are cordially invited to attend the
celebrations for the

50th Bronze Swagman Award For Bush Verse

to be held in Winton on
Monday 20th September 2021
at Windemere Station, just out of town.

You may be interested in also taking in:

- Thursday 16th September 2021 – children's Bush Poetry Performance Festival at Winton Shire Hall. Free entry
- Saturday 18th September 2021 – proposed North Gregory Race Club meeting
- Monday 20th September 2021 – 50th Bronze Swagman Event which will also be our Welcome to the Outback Festival
- Tuesday 21st September to Saturday 25th September – Winton's Outback Festival.

Plan early to be part of the fun and celebrations.

Contact: Jeff Close, Hon Bronze Swagman
co-ordinator at closeandmoller@gmail.com

Website: bronzeswagman.info