

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL at DUNEDOO in 2014

Approximately 80 poets, friends and Dunedoo locals came to listen to many poets entertain their friends with several items of “off the cuff” poetry on Thursday night. This lasted for 3 hours of very enjoyable fun, as friendships were renewed. “Sing Australia” supported the night with many well-known Australian songs.

Friday’s bus trip to Coolah was a success, although the weather was not suited to showing off the town “at its best” to the visitors. Only one bus was able to be filled this year so after stopping at the Patchwork Shop for morning tea while viewing the art of quilting, the visitors then moved onto Pandora Gallery with explanations of its beginning by Michael White, and concluding at the new Octagon building where the lateness prevented Syd Reynolds being able to stay but his position was suitably filled by Irene Osborne, who explained the situation and construction. A leaky tyre on the bus did not allow a smooth day either.

In the afternoon the **Intermediate** section commenced with 6 competitors with **Jason Roweth** from Millthorpe taking out the prize. The **Yarnspinning** was next with 8 people trying to outdo each other with their tall tales. You could feel your sore ribs becoming worse after every yarn. There were some “beauties”. This section was won by **Neil ‘The Drover’ Jones** with his yarn of “Whipped Cream”.

Saturday started at 8:00 in the morning with the **Classical** sections, which are poems written 50 years ago or more, usually by a well-known author. Henry Lawson, A.B. Paterson, Will Ogilvie, John Yates and more authors were well represented in this section. The female winner was **Rhonda Tallnash** from Victoria with her rendition of “Wheat” by C.J. Dennis and the male winner, **Robert Markwell** with “In the Droving Days” by A.B. Paterson.

The **Original Serious** section, are poems written by the presenting poet themselves. There were very interesting and heart wrenching subjects in this section. Winner for the female poem was **Jenny Markwell** with “There Ain’t No Cause to Worry Mum” and **Terry Regan** taking out the male section with “Bullfrog Creek”.

The afternoon moved on to the **Contemporary** sections that are poems written within 50 years and only some are by recognised authors. Many and varied subjects were recited here from a ghost at “Rocky Creek” to “The Nursing Home Breakout” to “Swingers”. The winners were **Rhonda Tallnash** and **Neil the Drover**.

The night entertainment was the **Original Humorous** female and male. Titles were from “The 3 am Demise” to “Brainless”. Well, these poems made the school hall rock on its foundations with laughter and the winners were **Rhonda Tallnash** again and **Terry Regan**.

Rhonda Tallnash and **Terry Regan** were **Overall winners** of the week-end. Competition was of a very high standard with several Judges decisions having to be referred to a count back and even an equal places.

The **Written Serious** section was won by **Ron Stevens** of Dubbo NSW, with his “The Lemon Tree”. Ron was also second in this section with “Readiness”. The winner in the **Written Humorous** section was **Val Wallace** from Glendale, Newcastle NSW, with “The Slater”.

The extremely interesting “Breakfast with the **Poets Brawl**” on Sunday morning was won by an old Dunedoo local **Ted Webber** now from Wagga Wagga with the title “The Drought”. Very clever writing that was appreciated by the loudest applause from the audience.

Speaking with the visitors and poets, they expressed their admiration for the organisation of the Bush Poetry Festival. A lot of work by a small committee and a very devoted group of a few volunteers, certainly made this weekend a great success and cemented the future for many more festivals. We all look forward to support for our 17th Festival on weekend of the **first Saturday in March 2015**.

Eric Beer 2014 Co-ordinator.