

## ***Victorian Bush Poetry Championships at Man from Snowy River Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April.***

**Ken Tough** and **Claire Reynolds** were victorious in the **Victorian Bush Poetry Championships** at the Bush Festival this weekend. Ken won the **Clancy's Choice** award and Claire won the **Matilda** award (and tickets to the 2015 National Folk Festival). Top-scoring Victorians were **Rhonda Tallnash** and **Peter Klein**.

In the '**Man from Snowy River**' **Recital competition**, recordings were judged pre-festival, and at an exciting final, **Rob Christmas** triumphed, and **Neil the Drover** and **Judy Boyd** in second and third respectively.

Despite a very soggy weekend, gathered there within their venue, **Banjo's Block** and **Lions' Youth Hall**, were the poetry pilgrims of the festival, from all states bar NT and Tasmania, now mixing with the locals and rubbing shoulders with Aussie Bush Poetry royalty. Poets and their followers were high and dry in the newly renovated hall, where the poets kept the show rolling with few program changes.

Kicking off on *Thursday* morning with a private show for local Day Activity clients, the poets then watched as crowd quickly swelled at the hall for the **Juniors' Competition**. **Henry Lawson** aka **James Howard** made a short appearance to the enraptured young audience seated cross-legged on the floor.

**Susie & Mel**, from Northern Queensland, bedecked in rhinestone studded shirts with badge-studded akubras, kept the children and adult audience spellbound with their tales of travelling throughout Australia, and adventures criss-crossing our states and New Zealand. The students had dressed up in bush costumes and coloured hair adding to a most enjoyable concert. Mateship was the theme and prizes were awarded to Gr 3/4 Sacred Heart (Primary) and Niam Foxcroft (Secondary), for Mateship as well as a list of other prize winners, including Catie Klippel, Michelle Roberts, Kaylin Handley, Ms Paton's Gr 1.

Thursday evening 150<sup>th</sup> birthday concert was held in the overflowing entertainment marquee, '**Henry Lawson**' and '**Banjo**' with '**Two Short Sheilas**' **Melanie Hall** and **Susie Carcary**. The spirit of '**Banjo**' is present every year as **MC Geoffrey Graham** from Eaglehawk 'becomes' the Banjo, popping up in various places over the weekend. The poets and musicians then headed for meal and night of fun at an excellent walkup at the Bottom Pub with 25 performers.

Other judges and guest performers were **Graeme Johnson** (head judge), **Carol Reffold**, **Trevor Best** and a merry band of poetry entrants, volunteers, friends and devotees.

A highlight when exiting the hall after the beautifully moving **Anzac Concert**, in Corryong's RSL hall (with a cuppa and Anzac biscuits) was being greeted by a handful of Light horsemen heading for the Street Parade. Luckily, our volunteer photographer **Jennifer Fennell** was on the spot.

All in all, an extremely high standard of poetry, mostly smooth presentation of the Championships, in great company. Good camp tucker by **Camp Cooking Club**.

Contact: Jan Lewis 0260774332 or [info@vbpma.com.au](mailto:info@vbpma.com.au) for poetry enquiries or [www.bushfestival.com.au](http://www.bushfestival.com.au) for general festival info.



THANK YOU Locals and visiting Poets and musicians.

A big thank you to locals who support the poetry, including the Lions Club for the use of their renovated hall (now with inbuilt sound!!). Also to the RSL for use of their hall for our wonderful Anzac Tribute where we squeezed in 150 people. We had marvellous crowds all round and maybe have won more poetry fans. Thanks also to Marie and Joe at the Bottom Pub for the use of their venue for Thursday night Walk up. The 2014 core **Poetry team** – Linton Vogel, Graeme Johnson, James Howard, Susan Carcary, Melanie Hall, Carol Reffold, Matt Hollis, Geoffrey Graham, Fred Anderson (Judge of Juniors) Tom and Thea Newton, Barb Klippel, Barb Williams, Sharon and Michelle Roberts, Peter & Karen Purss, Jenny, Bob & Fay Markwell, Kathy and Ross Vallance, Robyn Sykes, Jennifer Fennell, Jill & Bob Winnett, Christine Middleton, Tim Sheed, Rex Tate, Clare & Tony Johns, Kerry Webb, Hugh Crawford, Peter and Karen Purss, Clare and Tony Johns, Tony Lambides -Turner, Alan Nicholas, Pamela Menere (storage of Banjo's stage), Lea and Catie Klippel, and Dave and Joanne Bennetts – your help was appreciated.

Special mention to Anne and John Hayes from WA, Frank and Carol Fayers from Queensland and Susie and Mel, our judges, for their well appreciated assistance in setting up. We were very undermanned and their help saved the day, and our sanity.

Also to the session and campfire entertainers - **Banjo's Block** campfire yarning and singing had a very short run this weekend, and only one Poets' Breakfast being held outside as the wet conditions drove the crowd inside on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Thanks to our loyal Poetry sponsors and trophy makers Linton, Ken Prato and Ray Waters and also to **Albion Park Camp Cooking Club**, for providing us all with great camp tucker under trying conditions. We look forward to your support again 7 – 10 April, 2015 (especially Tuesday set up please!) Jan Lewis

## A HAPPY BUNCH OF BUSH POETS AT VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



# VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

## 01 Written Serious Poem

Tom McIlveen	The Phantom of Stringbark Creek	1ST
Tom McIlveen	Our Mother Bush	2ND
Will Moody	Outlines of the Past	3RD
Brenda Joy	Little Friend	HC
Donald Crane	Westward Quest	HC

## Highest Scoring Novice in Serious

Shelley Hansen	A Lesson in Life	
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## 02 Written Humorous Poem 2014

Brenda Joy	The Last Judgement	1ST
Tony Hammill	The Bandywallop Ball	2ND
Val Read	The Leaping Lizard Episode	3RD
Tom McIlveen	The Breathalyser	HC
Tom McIlveen	New England Gentleman	HC

## 02 Highest scoring Novice Written Bush Poetry

Ted Flaherty	Dimboola	
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## Highest Scoring Novice in Serious & Humorous Written Sections

Shelley Hansen	A Lesson in Life	
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## Written Poetry Champion 2014

Tom McIlveen	The Phantom of Stringbark Creek	
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## 03 BANJO'S MFSR Performance FINAL 2014

Rob Christmas		1ST
Neil the Drover		2ND
Judy Boyd		3RD

## 04 Classical Poem Performance 2014 Women

Claire Reynolds	The Man who Steadies the Lead	1ST
Robyn Sykes	Red Jack (Mary Gilmore)	2ND
Rhonda Tallnash	Wheat (CJ Dennis)	3RD
Kathy Vallance	Fire at Ross's Farm (H Lawson)	HC
Jenny Markwell	The Old Wife and the New (V Daley)	HC

## 04 Classical Poem Performance 2014 Men

Ken Tough	The Lights of Cobb & Co (H Lawson)	1ST
John Hayes	Violets (C J Dennis)	2ND
Jason Roweth	How Gilbert Died (A B Paterson)	3RD
Robert Markwell	One Hundred and Three (H Lawson)	HC
John Davis	Riding of the Rebel (W Ogilvie)	HC

## 05 Original Serious Poem Performance 2014 Women

Claire Reynolds	Leaving Home		1ST
Robyn Sykes	A Feather in a Locket	JR	2ND
Rhonda Tallnash	Bushfire Man	JR	3RD
Jenny Markwell	No cause to Worry Mum		HC
Caroline Touhey	Riverina Rain		HC

<b>05 Original Serious Poem Performance 2014 Men</b>		
Ken Tough	Thomas Saulsbury Wright	1ST
Neil the Drover	Lachie & Lee	2ND
Noel Bull	Curio	3RD
John Peel	A Return to Home	HC
Peter Klein	The Last Tree	HC
<b>06 Original Humorous Poem Performance 2014 Women</b>		
Rhonda Tallnash	The 3am Demise	1ST
Kathy Vallance	Ivan's Great Sport Moment	2ND
Caroline Tuohey	Travelling Work etc (TWITS)	3RD
Claire Reynolds	A load of Old Croc	HC
Sue Pearce	Grandma	HC
<b>06 Original Humorous Poem Performance 2014 Men</b>		
John Peel	Cootamundra Silo Saga	1ST
Ken Tough	Larkin'	2ND
John Davis	The Wombat	3RD
Ted Flaherty	Dimboola	HC
Peter Klein	Guts	HC
<b>06 JACK RILEY HERITAGE AWARD</b>		
<b>Robyn Sykes</b>	<b>Feather in a locket</b>	
<b>07 Open Modern Poem Performance 2014 Women</b>		
Claire Reynolds	Susannah (David Campbell)	1ST
Robyn Sykes	When Elvis Came Back (J Peel)	2ND
Rhonda Tallnash	Swingers (B Kearns)	3RD
Jenny Markwell	The Last Red Gum (D Campbell)	HC
Kathy Vallance	Peddling Pete (B Kearns)	HC
<b>07 Open Modern Poem Performance 2014 Men</b>		
Jason Roweth	When Monkeys Rode the Greyhounds (D Kevans)	1ST
Ken Tough	Down Memory Lane (M Taylor)	2ND
Neil the Drover	Rocky Creek (A Raymer)	3RD
Robert Markwell	Father's Prayer (D Campbell)	HC
John Hayes	From the Lanterns (R Magoffin)	HC
<b>08 Open Yarnspinning Performance Championship 2014</b>		
Claire Reynolds	Spielberg (Original)	1ST
Matt Hollis	1914 (Original)	2ND
Mulga Bill	Woom a Loomie	3RD
Neil the Drover	Puppy Love (Original)	HC
Jason Roweth	Horse Racing/Bush (Dengate/Roweth)	HC
<b>09 Novice Poet Performance 2014</b>		
Judy Boyd	Swagless Swaggie (E Harrington)	1ST
Ian McDonald	Brumby's Run (A B Paterson)	2ND
Ross Vallance	Yobbo Poem	3RD

<b>10 Intermediate Poet Performance 2014</b>		
Jim Lamb	Dipso Dan	1ST
Cowboy Bill	Clancy of the Overflow (A B Paterson)	2ND
<b>11 MATILDA AWARD (Best Overall Female) 2014</b>		
Claire Reynolds		1ST
Rhonda Tallnash		2ND
<b>12 CLANCY'S CHOICE AWARD (Best Overall Male) 2014</b>		
Ken Tough		1ST
Neil the Drover		2ND
<b>SPECIAL AWARDS</b>		
<b>One Minute Poem</b>	Frank Fayers	1ST
	Rhonda Tallnash	2ND
<b>Lawrie Sheridan Encouragement Award</b>	Howard Gadd	
<b>Seniors' Encouragement Award</b>	Neil the Drover	
<b>Jan Lewis Encouragement Award</b>	Dona McQueen	
<b>VBPMA awards (extra)</b>		
Topscoring Victorian female	RHONDA TALLNASH	1ST
Topscoring Victorian male	PETER KLEIN	1ST
Topscoring Victorian Yarnspinner	MULGA BILL	1ST
Topscoring Written Victorian poem	JUDY BOYD	1ST