

ABPA WEST AUSTRALIAN WRITTEN AND PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

REPORT FROM BILL GORDON, WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS PRESIDENT

After all the build-up, Toodyay has come and gone. Our Bush Poetry Festival is well and truly established on the calendar now, and Toodyay can rightly claim to be the "Home of Bush Poetry in WA".

It was a real pleasure to have the ABPA president and secretary, Hal Pritchard and his wife Brenda Joy, with us for the weekend. Both are extremely supportive of all we are doing in the west. They were a great help to us in the running of the State Championships. The new judging guidelines recommended by the ABPA worked very well and they are to be commended for their efforts in standardising and simplifying the management of these events.

Brenda's workshop was well attended and was exceptionally interesting for poets and supporters alike. Brenda's tips for writing and performing, both in competition and in general entertainment, were well received. As a judge Brenda gave encouragement to all competitors and was eager to help individuals improve their poetic skills. Thank you, Hal and Brenda, for coming across and for all your support and assistance. The east-west divide might exist in politics, but it certainly does not in Bush Poetry.

There was an excellent standard of poetry throughout the competition, and also at the walk-ups each day. The Bush Dance could have been better attended, but Les Helfgott and the Southern Cross Bush Band were a big hit with all who were there.

Christine Boulton rose from the ranks of the novices to win the title Champion WA Bush Poet. Brian Langley was runner-up with Peter Blyth third. It was easy to imagine Arthur Leggett sitting at the campfire as he gave his winning yarn in the Yarnspinning. Two of our favorite local writers, Terry Piggott and Peg Vickers won the serious and humorous sections of the Written Competition from a field containing the best writers in Australia. Congratulations to Christine, and to all the winners. Congratulations also to all the competitors. The friendly manner in which the events were contested made it a pleasure to take part.

I am thankful I found myself involved in the WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Assn., and that Meg and I have made such genuine friends through that involvement. The willingness of everyone to volunteer for any task made the organizing of the event so much easier. My personal thanks go to all who attended and who assisted in any way in making the weekend the huge success it was.

Bill Gordon
President

**Winners and runners up for the Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival – 2014
incorporating the ABPA West Australian Written and Performance Championship**

WRITTEN

Serious Poem

1st Terry Piggott WA "Farewell My Love"
2nd Will Moody NSW "An Ordinary Life"
3rd Will Moody NSW "Chorus of the Night"

Humorous Poem

1st Peg Vickers WA "And That's Not All"
2nd Peter Blyth WA "The Tank"
3rd Carol Heuchan NSW "The Dude Ranch Horse"

Very Highly Commended

Terry Piggott WA "A Bloke Called Basil"

Highly Commended

Pauline Haggith Qld "Alone"
Peg Vickers WA "And That's Not All"
Terry Piggott WA "When It's Time to Say Goodbye"
Peter Blyth WA "The Tank"

Commended

Val Wallace NSW "A Brand New Start"
Terry Piggott WA "Beyond the Rabbit Fence"
Trevor Shaw Qld "Larrkardiy and Jilkarr"
Donald Crane Qld "Westward Quest"
Carol Heuchan NSW "The Dude Ranch Horse"

Leading Novice

Gregory Joass WA "The Tale of a Shaggy Dog"

Local Entry

June Eastwood WA "The Martian"

YARN SPINNING STATE CHAMPION

1. Arthur Leggett
2. Peter Blyth
3. John Hayes

PERFORMANCE

WA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Contemporary/Modern

1. Brian Langley
2. Arthur Leggett
3. Christine Boulton

Traditional/Classical

1. Christine Boulton
2. Arthur Leggett
3. Roger Cracknell

Original Humorous

1. Peter Blyth
2. Rhonda Tallnash
3. Christine Boulton

Original Serious

1. Peter Blyth
2. Brian Langley
3. Roger Cracknell

WA Bush Poetry Champion

Christine Boulton

Runner Up: Brian Langley

Third: Peter Blyth

OTHER

Junior Original: Alex Heffernan

Junior Other: Alex Heffernan

Novice Original

1. Christine Boulton
2. June Eastwood
3. Greg Joass

Novice Other

1. Christine Boulton
2. Robert Gunn
3. Alex Heffernan

Local poet's award: June Eastwood

"Roadwise" poetry competition (16 lines)

1. Brian Langley
2. Irene Connor
3. Bill Gordon

Novice Classics Reader

1. Anne Hayes
2. Nancy Coe
3. Jem Shorland

Poet's Brawl

Roger Cracknell