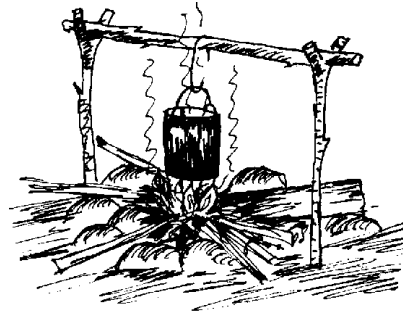


The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2015

- 1st Prize:** *Where Poppies Bloom*
Brenda Joy
Charters Towers Qld
- 2nd Prize:** *Everlasting Soldiers*
Catherine Lee
Tungmahamek Bangkok 10120
- 3rd Prize:** *Soldiers Don't Cry*
Tom McIlveen
Port Macquarie NSW



HIGHLY COMMENDED

<i>Dreamtime Dreaming</i>	Terry Piggott	Canning Vale WA
<i>Bluey</i>	Tom McIlveen	Port Macquarie NSW
<i>Break O'Day</i>	Grahame Watt	Repton NSW
<i>Would you Like a Cup of Tea?</i>	Trevor Shaw	Biloela Qld
<i>Sid the City Slicker</i>	Beryl Stirling	Morisset NSW
<i>The Sheepdog Trial</i>	Bob Magor	Myponga SA
<i>Walers</i>	Tony Hammill	Carindale Qld
<i>Christmas Greetings</i>	Val Wallace	Glendale NSW
<i>Dreams and Dreamers</i>	Brenda Joy	Charters Towers Qld
<i>For Rupert</i>	Val Wallace	Glendale NSW

THE BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION 2015

Judge's Comments

We are celebrating the twenty-fifth year of the Blackened Billy. And we have been entertained and thrilled with the standard of writing over that period of time. The Competition has introduced us to many talented writers, and I have been privileged to adjudicate this wonderful competition over the last thirteen years.

The abundance of well written and imaginative entries, which has become such a regular occurrence over the years, was seen again in this special anniversary year, and of the more than two hundred entries, at least seventy entries were of particularly high standard, making my task of final selections very difficult.

FIRST PLACE: WHERE POPPIES BLOOM **by BRENDA JOY, Charters Towers Qld**

I was visibly moved by the theme in this story and the relationship of soldier with foreign soil. The story is well constructed with good pace and imagery. The writer has managed to create a descriptive outline of all the precious things left at home by the soldier, while the foreign soil is tragic and hopeless. The writer has a great command of language and rhythm to suit the subject matter and the construction of this story is most effective.

A worthy winner of the Blackened Billy for 2015.

SECOND PLACE: EVERLASTING SOLDIERS **by CATHERINE LEE Tungmahamek, Bangkok**

A very impressive entry. The picture writing and command of language is excellent. There have been many stories throughout the years of the horrors of war, and the aftermath of grief stays with the victims for a lifetime. The descriptions in this story have been expressed to convey the sordid and hopeless futility of war and the empathy which results between the soldiers.

Only when they come together in commemoration do we realise the bond of mateship is there, and will remain throughout their lifetimes. The writer has created a soulful scene in this finely constructed narrative.

THIRD PLACE: SOLDIERS DON'T CRY **by TOM McILVEEN, Port Macquarie NSW**

The first thing which stands out in this entry is the efficient detail to meter and rhythm. The writer has captured this soulful situation in a competent manner. The foreboding nature of the journey to the orphanage builds to a well constructed climax and I was fascinated with the narrative throughout. The writer has managed to deliver the story competently and with good command of descriptive prose.

Keith Jones
Adjudicator