

ABPA WA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015 WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

RESULTS

from Rodger Kohn – Co-ordinator

ABPA WA WRITTEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

OPEN SERIOUS

1st	Terry Piggott	<i>The Last Frontier</i>
H.C.	...Shelley Hansen Qld.....	<i>Song of the Seasons</i>
H.C.	...David Campbell.....	<i>A Last Goodbye</i>
COM.	...Terry Piggott WA.....	<i>Along the Canning Track</i>
COM.	...Tom McIlveen NSW.....	<i>Bobby's Return</i>
COM.	...Tom McIlveen NSW.....	<i>We were Soldiers</i>

OPEN HUMOROUS

1 st	Terry Piggott WA	<i>Droving Grasshoppers</i>
H.C.	...Peter Blyth WA.....	<i>Basil's Irish Stew</i>

OVERALL WA CHAMPION POET -- Terry Piggott.....

NOVICE CATEGORY

1st	...Tony Green WA.....	<i>King of the Colourbond Castle</i>
H.C.	...John Dooley Qld.....	<i>No Job for a Shearer</i>
COM.	...John Dooley Qld.....	<i>The Drover, his Mare and the Dingo</i>
COM.	...Carolyn Carvalho WA.....	<i>Jack and Blue</i>

LOCAL – Avon Valley Resident

1 st	...Carolyn Carvalho WA.....	<i>We Shut the Door on City Life</i>
-----------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------------

JUDGE'S REPORT

ABPA/WA CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1 Written -- OPEN SERIOUS

The subjects covered ranged from the love of Australia, to war heroes, to the hardships of farming and to inspirational people. The conditions of entry stated that poems should be '...an original story with an Australian theme'. This was taken into account in the judging. The standard of the top six entries was high and any one of the top three could well have been given first place.

Many other poems displayed good features but the required skills of accurate rhyme and metre let many down. Also, there was a tendency towards poor editing with avoidable errors creeping through.

CATEGORY 2 Written -- OPEN HUMOROUS

Poems in this section generally demonstrated the Australian 'have a go' characteristics. Some good yarns were marred by length. To retain interest, humorous poems need to be sharp, catchy and non-repetitive. Particularly where a poem's comic element is confined to a punch line ending, brevity is a necessity. Some poems reliant on jokes or social comment

could be better suited to performance where the delivery can support/bring out the humour.

NON ABPA/WA CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 3 Written NOVICE

This section produced philosophical thoughts based on a man's shed, a drover's dangers, a shearer's joke and a poignant story about a relationship between a man and a boy. Again, a couple of the poems would have benefitted from a reduction in length.

As there were so many difficulties with Rhythm/Metre in this section, I would recommend that more poets take the option of workshopping or consulting with established poets or of receiving a judge's critique, particularly in the early stages of their development. My aim, as a poet, is always to improve my work and I am ever ready to receive and take into account constructive viewpoints. I have found, through comments received in competitions, that someone fresh to a poem can sometimes spot a minor 'glitch' that is preventing that work from fulfilling its potential. In addition, another poet's objective perspective can often help to rectify a skill or stylistic error that might be hampering a poet across all of his/her works.

CATEGORIES 4 and 5 Written JUNIOR 5-12 and JUNIOR 13-17

We are all aware of the importance of passing on our love of our *genre* to the next generation. It was therefore very disappointing that there were no entries in either of the Junior categories.

CATEGORY 6 Written LOCAL -- Best poem by a resident of the Avon Valley.

Although there was only one entrant in this category, it was delightful to have someone share their feelings towards this very beautiful part of our country. The Avon Valley certainly is a special place to hold a bush poetry event and it is wonderful to have a written component with open, novice and local dimensions as part of the 2015 ABPA/WA Bush Poetry Championships.

OVERALL

I thank each and every one of you who have entered, for presenting your treasured and often heartfelt works for assessment. It has been my privilege to share this small part of your poetic journey with you.

Brenda Joy – ABPA Written Judge