

DUNEDOO BUSH POETRY COMPETITION 2016

WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION JUDGE'S REPORT AND ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Conducted under the auspices of The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

OVERALL COMMENTS

The subjects of poems covered many aspects of life from war to the bush to the sea. It was good to see that the majority aligned, in some way, with the requirement of Bush Poetry competitions that "...poems should be distinctly Australian..."

For the beginning poets – It sounds like a broken record from judges, but it is a pity that a lot of good poems are marred by technical errors. Bush Poetry is an exacting craft and it is the skilful utilisation of the facets of Rhythm/Metre, Rhyme and Language that allows a poem to flow, unimpeded by awkward distractions. There are some wonderful writing tips on the ABPA Website from the late (and great) Ellis Campbell (go to www.abpa.org.au and access under the home page heading 'Techniques'). Don't let glitches bring your poems down.

For the more advanced – It is worth noting that although a poem may fulfil the basic skills, a judge may only score these assessments as 'Satisfactory' or 'Very Good' unless there are effective, unusual or inventive dimensions. It was encouraging to see poets experimenting with different metric and rhyming patterns.

At whatever level we are at present, we should always be seeking to improve the overall poetic standard of our own poems and to maintain and lift the standard and level of acceptance of our specialised *genre*. Thank you to each one of you for your efforts to do this.

Sharing in the love of poetry.

Brenda Joy
ABPA Judge

JUDGE'S COMMENTS RE WINNING POEMS

1st Place WINNER *She Only Speaks if you Listen* by Kevin Pye

In this poem rhyme and metre are retained and language flows. There are some lovely descriptions that evoke the imagery of the past. The poet has written about an era of Australian history that he/she obviously emphasises with. An authentic poem and a very worthy winner of this competition.

2nd Place *September Skies* by Shelley Hansen

This poet's skills are excellent. The comparative structure used works well and provides a poignant way of linking Man and Nature. The subject is topical and well handled. The poem contains some nice imagery.

3rd Place *The 1926 Forrest River Massacre* by Max Merckenschlager

It is commendable that this poet has told a moving, historical episode forcefully and with compassion. Thank you for this poem.

Highly Commended *Regret to Advise* by Kevin Pye

This is a sad story, well conveyed with a good use of poetic skills.

Commended *The Glint* by Max Merckenschlager

There is some good imagery in this poem and the comparison between the inner turmoil of the teller and the outer frivolity/cover up, is very effective. The poem could possibly be expanded further to add even more depth/pathos.

Commended *Gone Metric* by Max Merckenschlager

The rhythm and rhyming pattern in this poem is commendable – particularly the use of 2 internal rhymes. Well done and keep experimenting. This poet shows a good understanding of his/her subject.