

**Judges' Report**  
**The Kembla Flame 2017.**

The judging panel was delighted that more than half the entries were in praise of the beauty of Australia and written in true bush poetry style. The most common fault was in addressing metre. Some Writers commenced in a particular metre and after one or two stanzas suddenly changed to a different metre. Metre can be best explained as the heartbeat of the poem.

Due to poor health, promotion of the competition was less than in previous years, resulting in fewer entries. Overall, the standard of entries was quite high. The results were announced and prizes presented at the Illawarra Folk Festival. Members of the Illawarra Breakfast Poets read winning entries for those who winners could not attend in person. Full results appear below.

The judging panel encourage all participants to keep up the high standard of writing, and we look forward to reading more great work in the future. We encourage writers to enter as many competitions as possible, as participation improves writing skills and ensures the survival of Australian Bush Poetry.

**Results:**

First Place: "In a Bush Clearing Small..." by Jim Kent

Second Place: "As Shadows Fall" by Brenda Joy

Third Place: "Mend and Make Do" by Wendy Seddon

**Highly Commended:**

"A Red Dirt Road to Nowhere" by Shelley Hansen

"Sober and Sane" by Tom McIlveen