

# Boree Log Award 2018

Judge's Report – Brian Beesley

Once again, it was a pleasure to judge this year's Boree Log competition. It is always pleasing to witness the diversity of thought and creativity when presented with a set of competition poems. The subject matter varied to include humour, nature, pathos, natural disasters and one interesting poem featured a cat 'explaining' its life experience in the first person.

I must say, however, that a number of poems failed to make the final cut due to bad rhyming choices – some lines did not rhyme at all in some poems – in/Spring; gloom/roam; off/coffers, are just a few examples. Writing poetry can be frustrating when a great thought produces a powerful line only to find it is impossible to choose a correct complimentary rhyme. It is better to discard the line altogether, or rearrange the words in the line, than to contrive a meaningless rhyme. I have noted in many reports that English does not lend easily to rhyme but it does work if the poet looks for discipline and simplicity.

Good poets will always remain true to a solid rhyming and rhythm pattern, so it is imperative that poets work hard to aspire to that discipline if serious about gaining credit in open competition. I recommend that a rhyming dictionary and thesaurus be kept handy when writing poetry. They do not always solve what one is trying to convey but can help on the odd occasion.

The awarded entries are fine examples of the poet's craft of telling a story with fluency of rhythm and selected rhymes. Congratulations to all those awarded poets and to all others, please keep writing, honing and rewriting.

Results –

**First Place:**

*Riley's Billy Lids* by Tom McIlveen (NSW)

**Second Place:**

*Modern Day Drivers* by Brenda Joy (QLD)

**Highly Commended:**

*The Trouble and Strife* by Jan Foster (Vic)

*The Flower Thief* by Jim Briginshaw (NSW)

**Commended:**

*Boiled Eggs* by Shelley Hansen (QLD)