

## Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival – 2019

The annual Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival was held from the 28<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 and was greatly supported by all of those who travelled far and wide to attend.

The festival kicked off on Thursday evening with the poets and community meeting at Jubilee Hall for the “meet and greet”. A lovely meal was provided by St Michael’s P&F and brawl titles were available for purchase to be presented following Sunday’s breakfast. A great time was had and a few impromptu poems were delivered to top off the evening.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March was the first day of competitions with the Intermediate section held at 4pm and the Yarn Spinning at 7pm at the Dunedoo Sports Club. Everyone was welcomed by the President of the Dunedoo & District Development Group Lloyd Graham and an enjoyable Chinese Smorgasbord was had by all in between the two sections of poetry.

The **Intermediate section** is a combined female and male competition with **David Melville** (Mayfield, NSW) taking out first place with his self written poem “Old Blue”. **Carolyn Maxfield** (Old Bar Beach, NSW) came in second with her recital of Patrick Flynn’s poem “The T.K.O at Paddy’s Birthday” and **Marion Dreyer** (Woy Woy, NSW) was awarded the encouragement award for “Jelly Melons”, a poem by Kim Eitel which had all the crowd engrossed. Thank you to the judges for this section Sandra Nicholson and Greg North along with time keepers Barb Smith and Sue Graham and chief score keeper Dianne Large.

Following the intermediate section spectators and poets enjoyed a lovely Chinese Smorgasbord and a few drinks before the Yarn Spinning competition started at 7pm.

This is always a popular section of the poetry competition with 6 poets in total, all who presented capturing yarns.

**Rhonda Tallnash** was the outright winner of this combined male and female competition with her **yarn** “Waiting for Emma”. The judges for the Yarn Spinning were Sandra Nicholson, Tony Yeo and Norma Gallagher. Thank you again to Barb Smith and Sue Graham for time keeping and Dianne Large and Sharon Nott for scoring.

Saturday was a big day of poetry with the competitions commencing at 8.30am. Again a large crowd supported the poets through out the day.

First up was the **Female Classical** session. This was a well contended competition with **Heather Searles** (Branxton, NSW) coming in first place with “Only a Simple Picture” author unknown. **Rhonda Tallnash** (Violet Town, VIC) came in second place with “The Road to Danahey’s” written by John O’Brien and **Claire Reynolds** (Glouster, NSW) was awarded third place with a John O’Brien poem “Ownerless”.

Following on from the ladies was the **Male Classical** section which was also highly contended. **Ken Tough** (Pretty Beach, NSW) took first place with "The Old Mass Shandrydan" by John O'Brien, with **Bob "Pa" Kettle** (Goodna, QLD) coming in second place with "The Man from Ironbark" by A. B. Paterson, followed by **Andrew Pulsford** (Urangan, QLD) in third place with "The Green Handed Rouseabout" written by Henry Lawson.

The first of the Original written poems was up next with the **Original Serious Female** section. Heather Searles was again successful with her poem "The Hand Shake". **Claire Reynolds** was a very close second with "Leaving Home" and third place was awarded to **Rhonda Tallansh** for her poem "Retribution Road".

Thank you to the MC Lloyd Graham and the judges Des Kelly, Sandra Nicholson and Greg North and the time keepers, Margaret Yeo and Janette Johnson and chief scorers Dianne Large and Linden Ewin for all three of the above sections.

A well deserved break was then had for a bbq lunch prepared by the Dunedoo Bush Poetry Committee along with special thanks to Barry Nott. A special mention also to the Dunedoo AWA ladies who provided tea, coffee and a delicious spread of biscuits, slices and cakes throughout the day.

Following lunch it was on to the Original Serious Male and Contemporary Female and Male sections that would see the afternoon out. Thank you to MC Greg North and Judges Sandra Nicholson, Des Kelly and Alan Walker for overseeing these sections of the competition along with time keepers Margaret Yeo and Janette Johnson and chief scorers Dianne Large and Pat Upston.

The winner of the **Original Serious Male** section was **Ken Tough** with his poem "Boondee's Mob". **Bob "Pa" Kettle** was awarded second place with his poem "The Waiting Woman", and **The Rhymer from Ryde Graeme Johnson** (Ryde, NSW) was successful in third place with "Have you seen my Dad?".

The **Contemporary Female** section was up next with a good number of entrants. **Rhonda Tallansh** came in first place with the Col Milligan poem "I Hate Morris Majors". **Heather Searles** was a close second place with "The Vet from Overseas" by Bob Rush and **Jacqui Warnock** (Narrabri, NSW) gained third place reciting a Phillip Rush poem "Left Handed".

The **Contemporary Male** section was also tightly held with **Ken Tough** again taking out first place with "Gold Star" written by Bruce Simpson. **Paddy O'Brien** was second with his recited poem by David Meyers "Fencing in the Dark" and **Bob "Pa" Kettle** in third place with "Rain from Nowhere" by Murray Harten.

It was then a well deserved few hours of rest for the poets who all had a busy day of reciting and entertaining.

Everyone reconvened along with some more hopeful poets and spectators for the two evening sections of Original Humorous Female and Male. These two

sections are the most popular throughout the festival and it was an entertaining night for all of those in attendance.

Lloyd Graham, President of the Dunedoo and District Development Group opened the evening and welcomed the Mayor of Warrumbungle Shire Council Dennis Todd to address the audience.

The evenings competition then proceeded with MC Lloyd Graham and judges Sandra Nicholson, Greg North and Des Kelly watching over. Thank you to Linden and Linda Ewin for timekeeping and Dianne Large and Sharon Nott for their precise score keeping.

The **Original Humorous Female** section was first with **Heather Searles** being successful again in first place with her original poem "Kate MCreadies Hat". **Rhonda Tallnash** was awarded second place with her poem "The Wrapper" and **Jacqui Warnock** came in third place with her poem "Oodles of Doodles".

A short break was held in between the two humorous sections for supper to be served, which was again prepared by the Dunedoo AWA Ladies.

The **Original Humorous Male** section kicked off and was equally as entertaining with **Ken Tough** taking out a clean sweep in first place with his poem "Larkin". **Andrew Pulsford** received second place with "The Demon Red Ned" and a close third was awarded to **Max Pringle** for his poem "The Celebration of Dead Dog Hill".

At the conclusion of the full competition there were still a few awards to be given. **Overall male winner** was awarded to **Ken Tough** for her performances winning all 4 sections and **overall female** winner to **Heather Searles** who won 3 sections and came in a close seconded in the other.

The winner of the **written section** was also announced and was awarded **Shelley Hansen** for her poem "The Restorer's Tale".

Winners were drawn for the 100 club and raffle prizes.

The crowd were then lucky enough to be entertained by Greg North with a great performance of poetry.

Chloe and Jason Roweth from Millthorpe topped off the evening with their wonderful musical and singing ability keeping the crowd tapping their toes, clapping their hands and singing along in to the night.

Sunday morning saw once again all the poets and spectators get together for breakfast at Jubilee Hall and performances of the **Brawl** titles that were purchased over the past few days. The brawl poems must be no longer than 1min and are decided by the audience with the winner taking all. **Bob "Pa" Kettle** was the winner with his poem "Whimsical Nights".

A special mention must go to the Dunedoo Bush Poetry Committee who this festival wouldn't happen without and also to all of the sponsors. It is the commitment of these sponsors that helps small town events like this one keep going year after year.

A very big thank you to:

Warrumbungle Shire Council, Narranmore Stud, Lonsdale White Suffolk Stud, Wright Partners, Wargundy Angus, Milling Stuart, Dubbo RSL Club, Sharon Nott – The Golfers Den, Bunnings Dubbo, Tanya A Kline – Chartered Accountant, Redbank Gums B&B, White Rose Café, Dunedoo Rural Hardware, The Dunedoo Pharmacy, Dunedoo Caravan Park, S&S Meats, Midwest Foods, Dunedoo SPAR Supermarket, Dunedoo Sports Club and the Dunedoo Bowling Club.

The Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival is held every year on the first Saturday in March. If you would like to sponsor this event or to enquire on how you can be involved please contact the Dunedoo & District Development Group on 63751975.

**Kylie Brougham**  
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**Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival**