

MILTON ULLADULLA SHOW POETRY

The first and second of March saw the 150th running of the Milton show which was a very successful and well patronised event exhibiting all the usual agricultural show events as well as a poetry event encompassing three recited competitions and ran from 8 AM Saturday morning until approximately 1:30 PM Saturday afternoon. These events started with a poets breakfast with walk up competitors competing for a total of \$200 prize money. Prize money at poets breakfast walk ups is unusual and was well supported by a variety of performers. Mick Scott who was the show society's secretary for many years is the sponsor of this event.

The second event started at 9:30 AM and was the Ruth Davis Memorial Junior Poetry Speaking. Once again well supported with 13 nominations unfortunately several failed to appear however nine youngsters competed for the prizes, ribbons, mugs and books on offer. This event is the first of two competitions to be run every year for juniors. The second which is run in September every year usually attracts 20-plus competitors and is not associated with the Milton Show Society. While this event at the Milton show has only been part of the show for approximately 6 years the September event is now in its 13th year. John and Ruth Davis had organised and ran these events for juniors, sadly Ruth passed away in September 2017 and John has continued on his own but fortunately has been able to rely on the help of some very good people.

These competitions for children are sponsored by several local businesses and private people and, starting this year, RM Williams Publishing (publishers of Outback magazine) have come on board with a very generous donation to cover the next two years of a book produced by RM Williams himself of a selection of Australian Bush Classics, poems by a variety of Australian writers and every child that gets onto the stage and performs a poem gets a book as an encouragement awards and even though the emphasis is on Australian Bush poetry children are not restricted in any way on what they wish to perform. At this competition as well as several original compositions poems were performed from the likes of Banjo Paterson, Lewis Carroll, Mary Gilmour, Dorothea McKellar.

The open event commenced at 11 AM and the audience was entertained by some very good performance poetry from a total of 12 competitors and a variety of excellent original poetry and poems by the usual iconic writers such as Paterson, Lawson, Ogilvie and Scott. There were several people this year who had never competed before and they all performed very creditably. As well as several local entries, competitors from as far away as Deniliquin, Wodonga, Wollongong, and one bloke who lives on a motor bike and sleeps where ever he rolls his swag out.

This event carried a total of \$1500 prize money which is fairly large prize money for a poetry competition and is sponsored by several well-known local business identities.

A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors without these people these events just would not happen.

They are:

Open Event – Milton show, Shoalhaven Hot Water, Milton Theatre, Pepperall & Associates.

Poets' Breakfast – Mick Scott

Juniors All Events – RM Williams Publishing, Eye Q Optometrists, Priceline Pharmacy, Chris Dell Elders Insurance, Phillipa Hollenkamp Get Wet in Ulladulla, Bendigo Bank Milton, Ann Sudmalis Federal member for Gilmore, Woolworths Ulladulla, Dee Carrington, John Davis

Results

Walk ups (poets' breakfast): 1st Alex Allitt, 2nd Ralph Scrivens, 3rd John Peel.

Juniors: 1st Lucas McDonald, 2nd Max Chard, 3rd Georgia Clegg, 4th Jennifer Stein, 5th Mia Leighton, 6th Frances Gray.

Open: 1st Alex Allitt, 2nd Ralph Scrivens, 3rd Ezekiel Cameron, 4th Mark Thomson 5th Don Gray, 6th John Peel.

John Davis.