

The Bronze Swagman Award

The Awards were launched as an annual competition to foster the writing of traditional Australian Bush Verse made famous by Paterson, Lawson, Ogilvie and others.

The Winton Tourist Promotion Association was formed in October 1967, and because of the connection to “Banjo” Paterson and “Waltzing Matilda”, it was a natural concept to look at ways to encourage the writing of Bush Verse, which is so much a part of our Australian heritage.

Bruce Simpson, a recognised Bush Poet and living in Winton at the time, was part of the team instrumental in organising the Tourist Promotion Association’s first publication of Bush Verse in 1970, a book called “Matilda Matilda”, featuring a swagful of poetry from local talent.

After the success of this publication, it was decided to introduce a national and worldwide competition for written verse, with the prize to be a Silver Swaggie.

Daphne Mayo, a famous Australian sculptor who had completed the famous fibre-cast swagman for the Winton Shire in 1959, was approached to create a swagman statuette to be used as a trophy.

In 1971, Daphne was given permission to proceed with the swagman, but because of the high cost of silver, the swagman was cast in bronze instead, and a tradition was born.

The Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse rolled its swag in 1972, and has since wandered all over Australia and the World.

Now, after 37 years, and over 11,000 original verses written, the Bronze Swagman Award is the most prestigious in this field and attracts hundreds of entries each year. From the many entries received, a competent panel makes a limited selection for publication in the current year’s Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse.

*The Bronze Swagman Award
2006 Winner at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards
“Judith Hosier Heritage Award”*

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD 2009

*Worldwide Competition for Written
BUSH VERSE, since 1972*



**Winner: Bronze Statuette of the Swagman,
Designed and Sculptured by Daphne Mayo
Plus \$500 Prizemoney**

Runner Up: Trophy, plus \$200 Prizemoney

Highly Commended: Certificate

**Also, selected entrants’ poems will be printed in the
2009 Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse**

Conducted by: Winton Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc.

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD CONDITIONS OF ENTRY - 2009

The aim of this competition is to encourage the writing of new works.
Poem/s must be the entrant's own work and written exclusively for the
2009 competition i.e. 01 May 2008 – 30 April 2009

SUBJECT:

Verse in traditional Australian form (Rhyme and Rhythm) with an Australian bush theme.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. Poem must not have been printed, passed around, or used in any other media.
2. Poem must not have been entered in another competition until after results are announced.
3. Verse (poem) to be limited to approximately 700 words.
4. Entries will be accepted from any country in the world, but poems must be written in English.
5. No one entrant is eligible to win this Award more than once in 3 (three) years

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

1. Closing date: 30 APRIL 2009 (post marked no later than).
2. Each poem to be on a separate sheet/s of paper and typed (if possible).
3. Entry fee: \$15.00 (1 to 3 entries) per entry form. Maximum of 3 poems per form.
4. Name/s of entrant must NOT be shown on poem.
5. Enclose poem/s, with entry form and fee, in suitable package and post to:
Bronze Swagman Award, P.O. Box 120, Winton. Qld. Australia. 4735.
6. Make Cheques payable to Winton Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc.
7. Poem/s will not be returned on completion of the competition.
8. Entrants may photocopy entry form, if more required.
9. The Winner, Runner-up and Highly Commended entrants will be notified, and trophies and certificates posted, after the Judge's decision is available.
10. The entrant grants the Committee permission to publish verse entered in the competition in the Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse 2009.
11. The Committee reserves the right to select suitable verse for publication.
12. All entrants in the Award receive a complimentary copy of the 2009 Book of Bush Verse per each entry form.
13. Contributors to the book will be notified, and they may purchase additional copies at \$14.00 each (inc. Postage)
14. Judge's decision will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.

ENTRY FORM

THE BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2009

Limit three entries to each entry form

Name:

Address:.....

..... Post Code:

Email:.....

Phone: () Fax: ()

No. of entries:

Title of Entries:

1.....

2.....

3.....

**I declare that the attached poem/s are my own work and written
exclusively for the 2009 competition**

i.e. 01 May 2008 – 30 April 2009

**I agree to the Conditions of Entry
and accept the Judge's decision is final.**

Date:...../...../..... Signature:.....

Please send this completed Entry Form,
with \$15 entry fee, and Poems attached, to:
Bronze Swagman Award, P.O. Box 120, Winton. Qld. 4735

