

**GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS OF
WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS**

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Entry Form for Written Bush Poetry Competition	

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS OF WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

Australian Bush Poetry is poetry that tells a story with rhyme and metre about Australia, Australian history, Australians and/or the Australian way of life. Bush Poetry in its written form instantly engages and arouses the reader through its storytelling methodology.

Written Competitions may be run independently or in conjunction with a Bush Poetry Performance Competition. (Note: In order to be eligible for funding from the ABPA, the latter is required for National and State Championships)

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIONS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

- One or two Co-ordinators
- One or more Judges

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF COMPETITION STAFF

Co-ordinator:

The Co-ordinator(s) should have a broad appreciation of Bush Poetry and Australiana, be a competent facilitator, and be familiar with the running of the required Competition or Championships.

Co-ordinators are responsible for receiving Entry Fees and collating information from the Entry Form to the Assessment Sheet, in readiness for the Judge(s). Each poem is assigned a number and this is cross-referenced to the Competitor's Entry Form.

If more than one Category is used in the Competition, the Co-ordinator may be required to collate results onto the Summary Score Sheet, to ascertain the Overall Winning Poem. (This would be relevant in National and State Championships).

It is at the discretion of the Co-ordinators as to when, where and how the Winners and Placegetters of the Competition are announced.

Co-ordinators are responsible for forwarding a copy of the Assessment Sheet to those Competitors who have requested them, after the Winner and Placegetters have been officially announced.

Judge(s):

Organisers are encouraged to source a guest Judge (or Judges) from their local community to raise the profile of Bush Poetry and to provide local support. Alternatively, contact the ABPA for recommendations. (Note: for National and State Championships, the Judge(s) needs to be approved by the ABPA Committee)

The guest Judge(s) should be a competent and well-respected member of the community and have a broad appreciation of Australian Bush Poetry and its importance of entertaining story-telling, **using rhyme and meter that has been passed down to us from the Masters of the past.**

The Judge(s) is to use the most recent 'Assessment Sheet', designed by the ABPA, to score Competitors, and which has been "pre-filled" by the Co-ordinator.

The Judge's score is out of 100. The Competitor with the HIGHEST score is the Winner, with subsequent placegetters ascertained after that.

If advised by the Co-ordinator, the Judge(s) may additionally award Highly Commended recommendations.

The Judge's decision is final and discussions are not entered into with the competitor.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

There are two main Categories for Written Competitions, with an optional Special Category:

- **Original Serious**
- **Original Humorous**
- **Special Categories** – Australian Bush Poetry to suit a festival theme (eg a "Bards of the Past" theme to celebrate the works of Banjo Paterson, or a local area or a specific "day" theme such as ANZAC Day). Special Categories do not qualify for National and State Championships.

COMPETITION CLASSES

There are two Classes for Written Competitions. There is no gender or race criteria within or between Classes.

- **Open Bush Poets Class** – This Class is standard for all Written Competitions and Championships, and open to all Competitors, regardless of their residential address (i.e. International entries are accepted).
- **Junior Bush Poets Class** – This Class is optional for Written Competitions and Championships, for Poets under 18 years of age, and is only made available at the discretion of the organisers (i.e. if a large interest from school-age Poets is evident or encouraged). This Class does not exclude them from competing in the Open Bush Poet Class in the same Competition.

At the discretion of the organisers, sub-classes may be incorporated for Under 7 years, 7 – 12 years and 13 – 17 years.

TYPES OF COMPETITIONS

There are two types of Bush Poetry Written Competitions which are supported by the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc: (i) Standard Bush Poetry Written Competitions and (ii) The Australian Bush Poetry Written Championships (National or State)

Organisers adopting the guidelines for both types of competitions will have the ABPA Inc. approval to publish the following notation on their competition advertisements and forms “Conducted under the Auspices of the ABPA Inc.” plus, priority will be given for Competition articles and results in the ABPA bi-monthly magazine and on the website.

1. Standard Bush Poetry Written Competitions

These Competitions can be organised as an independent Bush Poetry event, or to accompany a Bush Poetry Performance Competition, or be part of a local community event or Festival.

Choice of Categories and Classes – Co-ordinators have the discretion to choose the Categories to use (i.e. Original Serious and/or Original Humorous) and the Class to use (i.e. Open Bush Poets and Junior Bush Poets), with Open Bush Poets Class being standard.

Judge – Organisers are encouraged to source a Judge from their local community, or contact the ABPA for recommendations.

Funding - Organisers are encouraged to seek local funding for running costs and prizes.

Adjudication Sheets - Two adjudication sheets are required to be used for Standard Bush Poetry Written Competitions:

- (i) The Judge’s Assessment Sheet
- (ii) The Co-Ordinator’s Summary Score Sheet.

Both sheets are available on the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

2. Australian Bush Poetry Written Championships – National or State

In order to access funding from the ABPA, it is a requirement of the holding of a National or State Bush Poetry Performance Championship that it be held in conjunction with a Championship Written Competition. However, the Written Competition will not influence, or be part of the results used to determine the Overall National or State Bush Poetry Performance Champion.

The Winner of the Written Poetry Championship will be given the title:
ABPA National Bush Poetry Written Champion, or
ABPA (name of the State) Bush Poetry Written Champion.

Choice of Categories - Organisers must offer both Categories (Original Serious and Original Humorous) within the Open Bush Poets Class, for Competitors to be eligible for the Championship title.

Organisers have the choice to add the Junior Bush Poet Class to the Championships, with the Open Bush Poet Class being standard.

Judge(s) – The Judge(s) needs to be approved by the ABPA Committee, but not necessarily required to be a member of the ABPA.

Funding – Part funding comes under the umbrella of the holding of the Bush Poetry Performance Championships. Organisers are encouraged to seek additional funding to cover costs, from their local community.

Adjudication Sheets - Two adjudication sheets are required to be used for National and State Written Championships:

- (i) The Judge's Assessment Sheet
- (ii) The Co-ordinator's Summary Score Sheet

Both sheets are available on the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

For State Championships, Competitor's residential address does not have to coincide with the "State" in question. It is open to all poets from all States.

CONDITION OF ENTRY FOR WRITTEN COMPETITORS

Written Competitors must complete an Entry Form and submit it with their entry fee to the Co-ordinator by the required date (recommended four weeks before the Awards date).

Entry Form templates for Co-ordinators to prepare specifically to their needs, can be found on the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

The ABPA, in the strongest possible terms, discourages the inclusion in poems, anything that could be considered offensive to an individual or group. If in the process of judging the Judge(s) comes across a poem that does contain inappropriate material, the Judge(s) has the right to contact the Co-ordinator to disqualify the poem without notice, and without the refund of entry fees.

Poems submitted for Competition must not display the name of the Author.

Poems submitted for Competition should preferably be on A4 white paper and typed, or in legible hand-writing.

Judge's decisions are final and shall not be disputed.

If Competitors require a copy of their Assessment Sheet (after the Winner and Placegetters have been officially announced), they must attach a stamped-self-addressed envelope to their Entry Form and tick the required box.

SAMPLE

..... (Competition name and date).....

ENTRY FORM FOR WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Conducted under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

..... (Organiser's contact details).....

..... (Venue address and start time).....

Closing date for entries..... Entry fee.....

Entrant's Name..... Entrant's number.....
(Office use only)

Address.....

Phone Number..... Email.....

Nominated Class
(Open Bush Poets, Junior Bush Poets)



Nominate the Categories you wish to enter by completing the following

Original Serious

1. Title of poem.....

2. Title of poem.....

3. Title of poem.....

Original Humorous

1. Title.....

2. Title.....

3. Title.....

Conditions of entry:

Entry fee is to accompany this form, and returned to the organisers, for competitors to be eligible.

The ABPA, in the strongest possible terms, discourages the inclusion, in content, of anything that could be considered offensive to any individual or group.

Copies of poems submitted for Competition must not display the name of the Author.

Poems submitted for Competition should preferably be on A4 white paper, and typed, or legibly hand-written, with only one copy of each poem required.

Poems submitted for Competition will not be returned to the Entrant.

Copyright on all poems submitted for Competition remains with the Author, and copies of the poem(s) will not be subject to distribution to any outlet without the Author's permission.

Poems are judged on entertainment value, rhyme, metre and story-telling methodology.

Judge's decisions are final and shall not be disputed.

If a Competitor requires a copy of their Assessment Sheet (after the Winner and Placegetters have been officially announced), they must attach a stamped-self-addressed envelope to this Entry Form and tick the box below.

Entrants declare that they are the sole author of the original work.

I declare that I have read the Conditions of Entry and agree to abide by them, and confirm that I comply with the regulations.

.....
Signed by the Entrant Date

Publicity conditions:

I hereby give permission / do not give permission (cross out one) to the Organisers to publish photographs of me and/or poems written by me (cross out either if necessary) for publication in the ABPA Magazine and on the ABPA website. (This is not a condition of entry)

.....
Signed by the Entrant Date

Request for copy of Assessment Sheet(s)



Tick for "Yes"