

You are invited to be part of the 2022 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

The 32nd Annual Verse Writing Competition encourages writers to shape great Australian stories while showcasing rhyme, metre and broader literary mastery. Since 1991, thousands of entries have creatively captured aspects of Australian country and character in handcrafted bush poetry.

Modern support for the Competition is inspiring poets to keep striving. Attendees of February's Award Ceremony were energised by Rupert McCall's message to 'soak up the sentiment of situations', 'light fires in hearts' and 'spark magic' while 'lending words wings'. In June, Issue 137 of R.M. Williams OUTBACK magazine featured Shelley Hansen's 2021 Blackened Billy winning verse 'Bittersweet Harvest'. In August, Russell Harrison, President of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee described how Australian bush poetry practitioners help define 'characteristics of our national psyche'.

In 1866, Adam Lindsay Gordon advised 'Life is mostly froth and bubble. Two things stand like stone. Kindness in another's trouble. Courage in your own.' In 1889, A B Paterson referenced Gordon as 'our chiefest singer yet' in 'Song of the Future'. There is certainly a long tradition of Australian bush poetry and connected stories. This competition is about adding more names to the list of renowned practitioners and collected stories. Two pillars that stand like stone are Rhyme and Metre. Master them, add some great content and literary embellishments, and you are in with a chance to win one of the 13 Blackened Billy Verse Competition Awards.

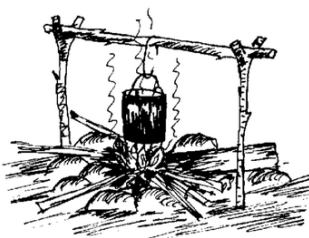
The 2022 Award Ceremony will be held during the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival in February. Plans are for a hybrid event combining in-room and online attendance. Participants across Australia enjoyed celebrating the 2021 Awards together via Zoom. Online attendance will effectively assist again in 2022 to overcome both vast distances and border closures.

Meanwhile, the 32nd Blackened Billy has been baked and is locked in a safe awaiting branding and handover to the winner. For your chance, submit entries prior to closing date, via post or email.

Entrants may obtain feedback from the adjudication panel. Cost is \$10 per poem with at least 2 evaluations provided. Prior entrants have found this useful with one advising that "continuous reading of the best bush poetry is informative, but a critique of your poem from an expert is immeasurably instructive."

Publication of future Tribute Books containing Blackened Billy Winners is likely. **Will you be in it?**

\$1000 Prize Pool



First Prize	\$500 plus Trophy and Certificate
Second Prize	\$250 plus Certificate
Third Prize	\$150 plus Certificate
Highly Commended	5 x \$20 plus Certificate
Commended	5 x Certificate

2022 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries are to be rhymed and metered bush verse, relevant to Australia or Australians, featuring exemplary spelling and punctuation, appropriate language and providing evocative impact. Offensive language or themes are not permitted. Accuracy of rhyme and metre is a predominant requirement.
2. Entries must be the author's own work and not previously published for monetary gain by the author.
3. Entries must not have won first prize in any poetry competition by 8 February 2022. Competition organisers are to be advised promptly should an entry become ineligible. The entry fee will be refunded, and the submitted entry withdrawn from the Competition.
4. Entries are to be typed, on an A4 sized page, using 12-point clear typeface (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman), 1.5 line spacing. Poems are to sit naked on the page, beneath the title, with no adornment of frames, photos or other art. For multi-page verse entries, a footer showing the title and 'page *x* of page *y*' is encouraged.
5. Rank Order Tally will be utilised to determine winning entries. The 2022 Judging panel is comprised of 3 exceptionally qualified and highly regarded poets, including winners of the Blackened Billy and other notable and prestigious competitions.
6. Entries may be forwarded by post (1 copy, on A4, printed on one side only), or electronically as a Word Document or PDF. The author's name must not appear on any page of submitted verse.
7. For the Entry to be deemed eligible, Submission of the poem, Entry form detail and Payment of relevant fees is required by Closing Date 30 November 2021.
8. Copyright is retained by the author. Copies of the Entries will be printed by the Promoter for the purpose of Competition Administration and Adjudication. Poems will not be returned except where Evaluation has been sought and the poem has been inscribed with guidance. Entrants acknowledge the Promoters right to distribute the winning poem online, noting it will be provided with due credit to the author and without further compensation.
9. There is no limit to the number of entries. **Electronic submission closes at midnight AEST on 30 November 2021. Postal entries should be postmarked on or before 20 November 2021.** (Postal delays resulted in receipt of eligible poems up to 2 weeks after closing date last year. For this reason, postal entries are requested to be sent earlier.)
10. Winning entries will be announced and prizes presented on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 February as part of the 2022 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. An Award Ceremony is planned at Duntry League, in Orange NSW, with online attendance via Zoom available to entrants and interested others. The Awards may be conducted via Zoom only should travel restrictions apply at the time. Entrants will be emailed details of the Zoom link in the week prior to the Awards.
11. Winners of First, Second and Third Place will be notified prior that one of their entries is in the top three. The Highly Commended and Commended Awards will be announced during the Ceremony with no prior notice provided to entrants. Full results of Award winners will be made public after the Ceremony.

Email your entries or enquiries to **Lux@blackenedbillyversecompetition.com**
or post your entries and Entry Form to **BB2022, P O Box 644, Gladstone Qld 4680.**

Please retain these terms and conditions for your records.

2022 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Email _____
Telephone _____
Postal Address _____

Title of Entries – *Maximum 3 per form. Use additional forms if required.*

*Critique/Evaluation
Requested? (\$10 per poem)*

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Entry Fee (\$10 per poem, or 3 for \$25) \$ _____

Critique Fee(s) \$10 per poem \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Payment Reference (date, amount, Ref No.) _____

Payment method CHEQUE BRANCH DEPOSIT EFT DIRECT DEPOSIT (Circle one)

Payment Details : Account name - Blackened Billy BSB 484799 A/c 609557083

***Please use your surname and initial(s) as the EFT or deposit reference and provide notification of your payment to the Competition's postal or email address shown beneath the Conditions of Entry.
Entries will not be deemed eligible for the Competition until payment is confirmed as received.***

By entering the 2022 Blackened Billy Verse Competition, I confirm the submitted verse is entirely my own work. I understand I retain copyright, while the Promoter reserves the right to publish the winning poem, without payment to the author, in official print and electronic media reports of the Competition. I understand I will be contacted for permission prior to any further publication, including future Blackened Billy Verse Competition Tribute Book editions.

I agree to the Conditions of the Competition

Date _____ Signature _____

(To submit this page electronically, please forward a photo or scan of the signed page via email. Alternatively, submission of entry detail, sent from the entrant's email account, along with payment of the entry fees will be regarded as evidence of the Entrant's consent and compliance with the Conditions of Entry)

2022 Blackened Billy Verse Competition Assessment Guide

Modified from the 2018 guidelines recommended by ABPA Inc.

Elements of Evaluation

Does the entry meet competition criteria of relevance to Australia or Australians?		YES	NO
Metre	Is the metre consistent throughout?		
	Do stanzas, or clusters of stanzas, conform to a pattern throughout?		
	Does the verse 'flow' naturally with coherent syntax that does not rely on inversion?		
Rhyme	Is the metric scheme unusual, adventurous or inventive?		
	Are rhymes perfect when pronounced as normal conversation would be?		
	Are rhymes unforced and suited to context?		
	Is the rhyming pattern used unusual, distinctive or otherwise notable?		
Construction	Is a rhyming pattern maintained throughout the poem?		
	Is the punctuation appropriate for sentence structure?		
	Is the standard of grammar acceptable and admirable?		
Language	Do well-executed features like enjambment add excitement to the flow?		
	Is the standard of spelling exemplary?		
	Is the language appropriate to the chosen topic?		
	Do word choice and phrasing enhance the story?		
	Is imagery effectively utilised to enhance reader experience?		
Overall	Does choice of language invoke and stimulate emotional response(s)?		
	Is reliance on clichés minimised, and offensive content avoided?		
	Does the verse engage and maintain reader interest?		
	Does the story flow logically - clear of factual or other errors - to satisfying conclusion?		
	Does the verse provide original or novel approach to the subject?		
	Does the verse provide 'oomph', 'wow' or other factors of distinctive merit?		

Capitalisation of Lines

It is a well-known accepted fact that capitalising the first letter on each line reflects the traditional form of Australian Bush Poetry.

Many modern Australian bush poets utilise sentence punctuation to reflect the new ways of the modern movement of Australian bush poetry writers.

In this competition for wordsmiths, both formats are welcome.

Capitalisation at times provides no disruption to 'flow', yet also has been known to impede effective implementation of enjambment and usual punctuation. For these reasons, adoption of sentence punctuation has been encouraged in modern times.

Entrants in BB2022 should feel reassured judges will not take matters of capitalisation or otherwise into account when assessing poems.

Supporting the Blackened Billy Verse Competition

Australia has been fortunate to have a tradition of bush poetry and a long list of renowned practitioners. These men and women help us appreciate the many aspects of life beyond the large cities which assists in defining many broadly accepted characteristics of our national psyche.

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee honours the life and works of one of the initial creators of Australian poetry. We encourage enthusiasm for his contributions but also for the writings of those who have continued the tradition of bush verse.

We are pleased to support the prestigious and long-standing Blackened Billy Verse Competition.

Not only does the competition encourage greater understanding of rhyming verse but may well uncover future poets who excel in further development of more modern insights.

May the entrants in this year's event enjoy being part of this long tradition.

Russell Harrison

President

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc.
(A0049425F)

August 2021

<https://adamlindsaygordon.org>

Blackened Billy Verse Competition

The message from Rupert McCall for the occasion of the 31st Blackened Billy Verse Competition

“The wonderful notion of absorbing inspiration
from the emotional roller coaster that we ride –

connecting with the heartbeat of a moment in time –
summoning the spirit of a humble hero or
capturing the cadence of a character in our midst –
a clenching of the fist -
soaking up the sentiment of situations like these

then,

through the passionate rhythm of words,
lending those words wings –
in a sky of beautiful things...

painting that picture and sharing its canvas
with the eyes and ears of a curious world –
feeding the appetite of an audience unfurled
with something that uplifts their soul,
even if only fleetingly –

lighting a fire in their heart –
creating a small spark of magic where
there might have been none to start...

That,
I feel,
is the essence of what makes my drums beat faster.

That,
when the universes align,
is what poets like Glenny Palmer have mastered...
and it is something very much worth celebrating
as another Blackened Billy Verse Writing Competition unfolds...

Because this much is true –
we are a land of endless stories –
of tough, harsh truths and wondrous glories –
it stirs in our blood and it ends with a chill...
It always has...and it always will...”

Blackened Billy Winners Timeline

<i>Year</i>	<i>Competition</i>	<i>Poet</i>	<i>Poem Title</i>
1991	1st	Bob Miller	The Aussie
1992	2nd	Neil Carroll	Warrego Jack's Galah
1993	3rd	Charlee Marshall	The Mosquito Trap
1994	4th	Ron Stevens	Tourist Guide
1995	5th	Ron Stevens	Identity
1996	6th	Ellis Campbell	Remember Chubby?
1997	7th	Carmel Randle	Just an Isolated Case
1998	8th	Carmel Randle	One
1999	9th	Col Hadwell	Our Youth Our Future
2000	10th	Neil McArthur	The Colt from Old Regret
2001	11th	Glenny Palmer	Shades of Grey
2002	12th	Veronica Weal	The Spirits of the Outback
2003	13th	Joyce Gaul (prev. Alchin)	The Aussie Spirit
2004	14th	Milton Taylor	The Saga of Cecil
2005	15th	Alec Raymer	The Guardians
2006	16th	Carol Heuchan	Why?
2007	17th	David Campbell	Hero
2008	18th	Dean Trevaskis	The Power of Kokoda
2009	19th	David Campbell	Desertion
2010	20th	Ellis Campbell	The Arsonist
2011	21st	Catherine Lee	A Bushman's Last Farewell
2012	22nd	David Campbell	A Father's Prayer
2013	23rd	Milton Taylor	The Passing of a Legend
2014	24th	Milton Taylor	Remember?
2015	25th	Brenda Joy	Where Poppies Bloom
2016	26th	Brenda Joy	Bond of Love
2017	27th	Trevor Shaw	Dentures to the Rescue
2018	28th	Catherine Lee	And did those Hooves
2019	29th	David Campbell	My Father's Voice
2020	30th	Catherine Lee	The Wanderers
2021	31st	Shelley Hansen	Bittersweet Harvest
2022	32nd		



(Last updated 17/2/2021. Next update opportunity is 16/2/2022.)