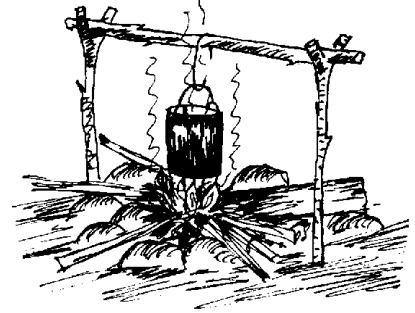


The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2017



JUDGES SUMMARY BLACKENED BILLY 2017

This year saw 146 entries for the Blackened Billy. I enjoyed the many topics covered and the different techniques of writing. I am still amazed by the endless creativity produced by our Australian writers.

Many of the topics covered were of a poignant nature; many covered the sorrow and hardship of war, the difficulties in managing the aged, and the assistance to people who have a difficult lifestyle. These were very adequately handled with creditable description.

The year 2015 saw the production of the Blackened Billy anthology, and this is a fitting tribute to the many creative writers that have been successful in winning the “Billy”. This year sees the high standard continue.

I continue to praise the efforts of Jan, who has carried on under difficulties throughout past years, and it has been due to her tireless efforts that this competition has remained as one of the most prestigious in Australia.

Blackened Billy Highly Commended for 2017:

DRIFTWOOD	Will Moody of Bellingen NSW
THE HARDER ROAD	Kay Gorrington of Morayfield Qld
SAD SCALE SAGA	Wendy Seddon of Medowie NSW
NOTHER DAWN	Brenda Joy of Coochiemudlo Island Qld
THE HEART OF DARKNESS	David Campbell of Aireys Inlet Vic
TO ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE ... G'DAY	Val Wallace of Glendale NSW
ARCHIE McCALLISTER MAKES HIS MARK	Elizabeth Egan of Crookwell NSW
HENRY	Jim Kennedy of Carseldine Qld
GRANDAD'S CHRISTMAS DINNER	Leonie Parker of Ipswich Qld
THE LADY OF THE LAKES	Terry Piggott of Lynwood WA

THIRD PLACE

A MAN ALONE

David Campbell of Aireys Inlet VIC

This is another story of life on the land, its tragic hardships and bitter aftermath in severe and desperate times. This entry aptly describes the effects on the whole family, the struggle to survive and the ultimate consequences. We read of these circumstances every day, and cannot help but be emotionally disturbed. This entry is graphic in its detail of the son's challenge to his father, to defend his mother. Timing and formulation of the subject material is excellent. Congratulations on a fine entry.

SECOND PLACE

ONE GOLDEN AUTUMN DAY

Helen Harvey of Coonamble NSW

This entry is a well-formulated story by a picture writer, reminiscing about happy times and the activities of childhood friends defending their treehouse and playground in the bloom of youth. However, one childhood friend has the magnetic urge to be a real soldier, and as often happens to those serving their country, disaster rears its ugly head. The memories are powerful in this cleverly written description of flashbacks to their childhood dreams and ambitions. I could not stop reading this creation of a very talented writer.

FIRST PLACE

DENTURES TO THE RESCUE

Trevor A. Shaw of Biloela QLD

This is a beautifully constructed and humorous narrative. The writer has managed to tell the story with finesse, leading to the rather macabre climax. It might be a good lesson to take care of one's dentures during an important engagement.

The writer creates a period of high tension and build up, in order to hold the reader's attention. This is a very well written entry, and the writer has planned his story well, with a good mixture of highs and lows, building to the macabre climax.

Congratulations, a worthy winner of the Blackened Billy.