

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

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Supporting Documents (to be made available on the ABPA website)

Entry Form for Performance Bush Poetry Competition

Assessment Sheet for Performance Bush Poetry Competition

Performance Summary Score Sheet

Performance Overall Champion Tally Sheet

} Note: these two sheets
are the same for Bush
Poetry & Yarn Spinning

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS OF PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

Australian Bush Poetry is poetry with rhyme and metre about Australia, Australian history, Australians and/or the Australian way of life. Performance Bush Poetry is all about entertaining an audience with this unique art form. Competitions should be structured and run in a professional way to ensure that the entertainment value is maintained throughout.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIONS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

- One Compere (or one Compere per each Category)
- Three Judges
- Two Scrutineers
- One Time keeper

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF COMPETITION STAFF

The Compere:

The Compere should have a broad appreciation of Bush Poetry and Australiana, be a competent public speaker and be familiar with the running of the required Competition or Championships.

The Compere's duty is to announce the event's proceedings and to fill in between competitors, where necessary for the Judges benefit, with suitable material or information, without wasting undue time.

The Compere should only introduce Competitors by name along with some geographical information. The Compere should not refer to the Competitor's past successes, or standing in the ABPA, or give details which may unduly prejudice judging.

It is the Compere's responsibility to monitor, and intervene if necessary, any unacceptable behaviour by the Competitor. Such instances would only occur where the competitor has not read or not understood the "Conditions of Entry" relating to this topic.

In Awards presentations, the Compere should announce the placegetters in this order: 3rd, 2nd and 1st, including the name of the poem and the author.

Judges:

Organisers are encouraged to source guest 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, all three Judges need to be approved by the ABPA)

Guest Judges selected by organisers should have a broad appreciation of Bush Poetry and Australiana, be competent and be a well-respected member of the community.

All Judges are to use the most recent 'Assessment Sheet', designed by the ABPA, to score Competitors. It is the organiser's duty to pre-fill the 'Assessment Sheet' with the Judge's number and Competitor's details prior to the Competition, to save time for the Judges once the Competition commences.

After the judging of each Competitor, and before the next Competitor is introduced by the Compere, the Scrutineers are to collect the Assessment Sheets from the Judges.

Scrutineers:

Organisers should select two competent people who do not have a conflict of interest with the Competitors, and who are proficient in recording and collating scores accurately from the Judge's Assessment Sheets.

The Scrutineers collect the Judge's Assessment Sheet after each Competitor.

The Scrutineers then use the "Summary Score Sheet" to collate the Judges scores. The Competitor with the HIGHEST Total Score receives FIRST PLACE, with subsequent placegetters after that. In the event of a "Tie", it is the Judge's majority decision to determine the Place.

(Note: To ascertain the National or State Champions, a further "Overall Champion Tally Sheet" needs to be completed by the Scrutineers).

Time Keepers:

Organisers should have a responsible Time Keeper with a stop-watch.

Competitors have an 8 minute time slot in which to perform, which commences after they are introduced by the Compere, and when the Competitor begins to speak to the audience.

If the time limit has been exceeded by a Competitor, the Time Keeper is to advise the Scrutineers.

Two points per every 15 seconds over the limit (or part thereof) should be deducted from the Competitor's Assessment Sheet by the Scrutineers.

CONDITION OF ENTRY FOR COMPETITORS

All Competitors must complete an Entry Form and submit it with their entry fee to the organisers by the required date (recommended three weeks before the Competition date).

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

Where large Performance Competitions and Championships require Heats prior to the Finals Day, the organisers should advertise it as such on the Entry Form for the Competitors to prepare their intended poems.

To enhance audience entertainment value, Competitors are not to perform the same poem in the 'Finals' which they performed in the 'Heats', in the same Competition. Exception is for the Junior Bush Poets Classes.

The ABPA encourages Competitors to change their repertoire regularly, and not to consistently perform the same poem in consecutive competitions.

Poems that have won first place in a competition should not be performed by the same poet in future years in the same competition.

The ABPA, in the strongest possible terms, discourages the inclusion, in content or in performance, of anything that could be considered offensive to any individual or group. If a competitor is doubtful about their material or performance being unsuitable, they should check with the organisers prior to commencement of the competition.

Only one performer (the competitor) is allowed on stage during the allocated competition time, except in circumstances of disability support.

Judges decisions are final and shall not be disputed.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

There are three main Categories for Bush Poetry Competitions, with an optional Special Category:

- **Original** – i.e. Australian Bush Poetry written by the competitor. This category can be divided into "Original Humorous" and "Original Serious" at the organiser's discretion. (Note: "Original Comedy" should be original in idea as well as content, and not be based on a joke).

- **Modern** – i.e. Australian Bush Poetry not written by the competitor, but written by an author since, and including, 1951. It is the individual competitor’s responsibility to seek permission from the author, (or copyright holder) prior to the competition, to perform the specific poem. The ABPA accepts no responsibility for a competitor who fails to do so.
- **Traditional** – Australian Bush Poetry not written by the competitor, but written by an author before, and including 1950. If copyright has not expired, it is the individual competitor’s responsibility to seek permission from the copyright holder prior to the competition, to perform the specific poem. The ABPA accepts no responsibility for a competitor who fails to do so.
Note: Copyright expires 50 years (if the author died before 1955) or 70 years after the death of the author.
- **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 Performance Championships.

COMPETITION CLASSES

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

- **Open Bush Poets Class** – This Class is standard for all Performance Competitions and Championships, and open to all Competitors. Poems must be recited from memory and not read.
- **Junior Bush Poets Class** – This Class is optional for all Performance 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.

For all Performance Competitions, other than National and State Championships, the reading of a poem is permitted and not penalised in the Junior Bush Poets Class, to encourage the younger Poets to become involved in Bush Poetry and to give them a taste of the exhilaration of performing to an audience. At the discretion of the organisers, sub-classes may be incorporated for Under 7 years, 7 – 12 years and 13 – 17 years OR by school year groups: junior primary, upper primary, secondary.

- **Novice Bush Poets Class** – This Class is optional at the discretion of the organisers if it is anticipated that a large number of entries will be received. Entry into the Novice Bush Poets Class is only eligible to competitors who have gained no more than two FIRST places, in any competition, in two consecutive years. After that they are required to compete in the Open Bush Poets Class.

Reading a poem is permitted but will attract 10 penalty points. This Class does not exclude them from competing in the Open Bush Poets Class in the same Competition.

TYPES OF COMPETITIONS

There are two types of Bush Poetry Performance Competitions which are supported by the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc: (i) Standard Bush Poetry Performance Competitions and (ii) The Australian Bush Poetry Performance 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.

Both Competitions allow competitors an 8 minute time-slot in which to compete.

1. Standard Bush Poetry Performance Competitions

These Competitions can be organised as an independent Bush Poetry event, or to accompany other Bush Poetry events (e.g. Bush Poet’s Breakfast), or be part of a local community event or Festival.

Choice of Categories and Classes - Organisers have the discretions to choose the Categories to use (i.e. Original, Modern, Traditional), and the additional Classes to use with Open Bush Poet Class being standard.

Judges – Organisers are encouraged to source Judges 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 Performance Competitions:

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

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

2. Australian Bush Poetry Performance Championships – National or State

Applications to hold the National or State Bush Poetry Performance Championships should be directed to the Secretary of the ABPA for Committee approval.

All such competitions should carry the title:
ABPA National Bush Poetry Performance Championship, or
ABPA (name of the State) Bush Poetry Performance Championship

Choice of Categories - Organisers must offer all three Categories (Original, Modern and Traditional) within the Open Bush Poets Class, for Competitors to be eligible for the Championship title(s), with the option to run separate male and female competitions.

Choice of other Classes -Organisers have the choice to add the Junior Bush Poet Class and/or the Novice Bush Poet Class to the Championships, with the Open Bush Poet Class being standard.

Judges – All three Judges need to be approved by the ABPA Committee, with at least two of the Judges being ABPA members.

Funding - Written Championships must be run in conjunction with both National and State Performance Championships to be eligible for funding from the ABPA. Part funding of the Championships is by way of a Grant from the ABPA as follows:

- (i) for National Championships \$1,000 (currently).
- (ii) for State Championships \$500 (currently).

Organisers are encouraged to seek additional funding to cover costs, from their local community.

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

- (i) The Judge's Assessment Sheet
- (ii) The Scrutineer's Summary Score Sheet
- (iii) The Scrutineer's Overall Champion Tally Sheet

The three 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.

SAMPLE

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

ENTRY FORM FOR PERFORMANCE 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.....

Address.....

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

Nominated Class
(Open Bush Poets, Junior Bush Poets, Novice Bush Poets)
.....

Nominate the Categories you wish to enter by completing the following

Original Category – Original Comedy.....Original Serious.....

You are advised to prepare two poems. If you are successful in the 'Heats', you are required to perform different poem in the 'Finals'. This applies to all Categories, but not to the Junior Bush Poet Class.

Modern Category –You are required to nominate three poems to ensure your selection does not clash with other Competitors. If that occurs you will be notified on a 'first in-first-served' basis.

1.
Title.....Author.....

2.
Title.....Author.....

3.
Title.....Author.....

Traditional Category – Rules the same as the Modern Category.

1.
Title.....Author.....

2.
Title.....Author.....

3.
Title.....Author.....

Note: You may change your nominated poems (providing they do not clash with other competitors) up until the day of the Competition, with approval from the organisers.

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 or in performance, of anything that could be considered offensive to any individual or group. If a competitor is doubtful about their material or performance being unsuitable, they should check with the organisers prior to commencement of the competition.

Competitors have 8 minute time-slot in which to perform. Penalties will apply if time is exceeded.

Competitors are judged on entertainment value, presentation skills and selection of material.

Competitors cannot perform the same poem in the Heats and the Finals in the same competition. (The exception is for the Junior Bush Poet Class only)

Poems that have won first place in a competition should not be performed by the same poet in future years, in the same competition.

Poems performed in the Open Bush Poet Class must be recited from memory and not read.

Poems performed in the Junior Bush Poet Class (except in National or State Championships) may be read, with no penalties applying.

Poems performed in the Novice Bush Poets Class may be read, but 10 penalty points will apply.

Entry into the Novice Bush Poets Class is only eligible to competitors who have gained no more than two FIRST places, in any competition, in two consecutive years.

Entrants reciting in the Original Category confirm that it is wholly their own work.

Entrants reciting in the Modern and Traditional Categories must have sought permission from the author and/or the copyright holder (if applicable). The Modern Category is poetry not written by the entrant, but written by an author since, and including, 1951. The Traditional Category is poetry not written by the entrant, but written by an author before, and including 1950. Copyright expires 50 years (if the author died before 1955) or 70 years after the death of the author.

The ABPA encourages Competitors to change their repertoire regularly, and not to consistently perform the same poem in consecutive competitions.

Judges decisions are final and discussions are not entered into with the entrant.

I declare that I have read the Conditions of Entry and agree to abide by them, and can confirm that I meet the specifications relating to my nominated Categories and Class.

.....
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