

Boondooma Homestead Poetry Competition 26 APRIL 2024

There will be free admission to the homestead on Friday 26-04-2024 provided you have registered for this competition.

Registration is free and will close on 21-04-2024, and can be booked by contacting **Brian Weier on 0418 622 551 or 0428 622 551**, poems must be of Australian content, time limit will be 8 minutes including preamble.

Boondooma Homestead Museum and Heritage Complex and caravan park situated near the junction of Boondooma Creek and the Boyne River @ 8262 Mundubbera Durong Road Boondooma Qld. is the North West gateway to the South Burnett.

In 1847 the Lawson Brothers along with Robert Alexander established Boondooma Station. Traditional aboriginal inhabitants referred to the area as Boondooma, understood to mean a hole dug in the sand from which to obtain a drink. Like most of the stations during that period, sheep were pastured, making wool the main income. Hereford cattle then replaced sheep.

The homestead was built from 1850s to 1870s and added to the heritage register on 21-10-1992. This is one of the few examples of early pioneer architecture available to the public in the South Burnett. The stone store was built to store and dispense supplies to station workers. Constructed of roughly coursed random stone, it was built by German stonemason, Wilhelm Brill between 1854 and 1858.

The complex is a registered caravan park with some powered sites. There is a complex consisting of 6 cabins with share kitchen and disability shower facility. A camp kitchen is available for use by campers, except during festivals where it is utilised for camp kitchen cooking. A separate shower block if needed. 2 other toilet blocks for the public's convenience,

The association hosts 2 festivals per year. Spirit of the Bush in April encompassing Anzac Day with an Anzac Day Parade. Scots in the Bush in August, where in 2023 a parade held in remembrance of Long Tan Day. Also observed are Australia Day and Remembrance Day.

For, many years a number of poets travelled to Bundaberg in July for the annual Bundy Bush Poetry Muster. Unfortunately, after 22 years, 2016 was the last year that this festival was held. At this year's AGM members voted to drop the 'Incorporated' from the club's name and just be known as The Bundaberg Poets' Society. In doing this the club chose four recipients to receive some of the funds held in their bank account and Boondooma Homestead was one of the lucky ones.

The aim of the Bundaberg Poets' Society was always to promote Australian bush poetry and members felt that by donating money to Boondooma Homestead this would be the perfect opportunity to do this at a place which has an historical background. Boondooma Homestead are therefore delighted to run a poetry competition at their Spirit of the Bush festival held in April each year.

The Spirit of the Bush is a fantastic festival with Australian music and what better way to complement the music with Australian bush verse. The poetry competition will be held on the verandah of the historical homestead looking out at trees planted over 100 years ago which makes it the perfect setting to recite Australian Bush Verse. Poetry competition will be for Novices and Intermediate poets.

NOVICE: For poets who have not yet won a poetry competition are therefore eligible to enter the Novice Section.

INTERMEDIATE: For poets who have won a competition in the Novice section but haven't been placed first in an Intermediate or Open category.

NOVICE SECTION:

Traditional: over 60 years.

Modern: Less than 60 years by another poet

Open: own composition written by the entrant.

INTERMEDIATE SECTION:

Traditional: over 60 years

Modern: Less than 60 years by another poet

Open: own composition written by the entrant.

Competition will be held on 26 April, 2024 and winners of the competition proudly sponsored by the Bundaberg Poets' Society will be announced on on the stage in the main venue.

We look forward to seeing you at Boondooma Homestead in April 2024 for the Spirit of the Bush Festival for a week of music, poetry and friendship.

For more information on this poetry competition please contact **Brian Weier on 0418 622 551.**