

JUDGE'S TIPS and COMMENTS

- Australian Bush Poetry has Rhyme and Rhythm, VERY IMPORTANT;
- Create images in the phrasing of words;
- Read your poetry out loud to see if it flows;
- Punctuation IS important as the reader must be aware of where to pause for effect;
- Formatting stanzas assists with the flow of the poem;
- Beginning – capture the readers attention; maintain a strong story line; finish with a powerful ending;
- Monitor the length of the poem – is it too long to maintain the readers interest; also remember length is relative for printing;
- *“I know some writers find me a little pedantic with regards consistent metre and rhyme but these ingredients are what separates us from the writers of blank or free verse. We owe it to the pioneers of this form of verse that modern writers use consistent metre and rhyme. Metre and rhyme are not ends in themselves but they create a rhythm that allows all readers to follow, uninterrupted, the ideas and emotions that are being expressed by the writer. Inconsistent metre and rhyme disrupts the flow of what is being presented and does a disservice to the contents of the poem.”* Noel Stallard OAM
- *“In judging, subjectivity can be broad and not everyone has the same tastes and likes. So we look to a criteria for rhyming poetry that includes the fundamentals of grammar (allowing for Aussie vernacular) as well as punctuation. Not all rhymes end on the endline, so punctuation would clarify enjambment. Metre or rhythm needs to be consistent. If any of these elements are out of sync, the piece would hang or catch in the reading –particularly out loud.”* Manfred Vijars

TIM BORTHWICK MEMORIAL AWARD:

The Borthwick Family have kindly donated this prize in memory of Tim Borthwick for “Best New Talent”, with the hope of encouraging new contributors to enter the Bronze Swagman Award and keep the spirit of bush poetry alive!

SPONSORS:

With grateful thanks to: Corfield & Fitzmaurice; the O’Connell Family; ShopRite Winton; Australian Age of Dinosaurs; Curley Cattle Transport; Red Dirt Tours; Elite Aviation; Wookatook @ Pentland; the Borthwick Family. An initiative of Winton Business & Tourism Assoc Inc.

The 53rd BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD 2024

*Worldwide Competition for Written
BUSH VERSE, since 1972*



Winner: Bronze Statuette of the Swagman
Designed and Sculptured by Daphne Mayo
Plus \$1500 prizemoney

Runner Up: Trophy, plus \$700 prizemoney

Third prize:

Jean O’Connell Memorial Award: Trophy, plus \$350 prizemoney

Highly Commended: Certificate, plus \$100 prizemoney

Tim Borthwick Memorial Award: Trophy, plus \$100 prizemoney

A proud initiative of
Winton Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc.
in association with other Sponsors

THE 53rd BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD 2024

The aim of this competition is to encourage the writing of new works.
Poem(s) must be the entrant’s own work, and not assisted by AI.

COMPETITION RULES:

- 1. Poem(s) to be in traditional Australian Bush Verse form (Rhyme and Rhythm) with an Australian theme.
- 2. Poem(s) must not have previously won a First, Second or Third Prize in any written poetry competition prior to the announcement of the winner.
- 3. Entrants must agree to notify the Bronze Swagman Committee immediately if their entries become invalid, due to any of the Competition Rules, prior to the announcement of the results.
- 4. No one entrant is eligible to win this Award more than once in 3 (three) years.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

- 1. Closing date: 30 APRIL 2024 (post marked no later than).
- 2. Each entry to be on a separate sheet(s) of paper and typed.
- 3. Entry fee: \$25.00 (AUD) per entry form. Maximum of 3 poems per form. This entry fee includes a complimentary 2024 book to be posted when printed.
- 4. Entrants may photocopy/download additional entry forms if required.
- 5. Name of entrant must NOT be shown on the entry.
- 6. Entries preferred in Word format to assist with compilation of the book.
- 7. Preference for submissions is via Email, with Entry Fee paid by Direct Deposit. A confirmation email will be forwarded upon receipt.
Or: post all documents and monies to:
Bronze Swagman Award, PO Box 44, Winton. Qld. Australia. 4735.
- 8. Email all correspondence to bronzeswagmancompetition@gmail.com.
- 9. Poem(s) will not be returned on completion of the competition.
- 10. The Winner, Runner-up, Third Prize, Highly Commended and Tim Borthwick Memorial Prize winners will be notified, and trophies and certificates posted, after the judges’ decision is available.
- 11. The entrant grants the Committee permission to publish verse entered in the competition in the Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse 2024.
- 12. The Committee reserves the right to select suitable verse for publication.
- 13. Contributors to the book will be notified, and additional copies will be available for purchase at \$18.00 each (plus postage \$3.50).
- 14. Judges’ decision will be final and binding.
- 15. No correspondence will be entered into.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- 1. Direct Deposit* details: BSB: 034-228 Account Number: 10-6325
*Please use your surname as a reference, and email deposit confirmation with your completed entry form and poem(s).
- 2. Cheque: Make Cheques payable to **Winton Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc.**

ENTRY FORM

THE 53rd BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2024

Entry fee: \$25 (AUD) per entry form.
Limit three entries per entry form.

Name:

Address:.....

..... Post Code:

Email:.....

Phone: ()

Title of Entries:

1.....

2.....

3.

I declare that the attached poem(s) are my own work, and not assisted by AI.
I agree to notify the Bronze Swagman Committee immediately if my poem(s) become invalid, due to any of the Competition Rules, prior to the announcement of the results.

I therefore agree to the Conditions and Rules and accept the Judges’ decision as final.

☐ Yes, I am eligible to be considered for the Tim Borthwick Award, and confirm that I am a NEW contributor to the Bronze Swagman Award.

Signature:..... Date:...../...../.....

Direct Deposit of \$25 (AUD) made on/...../.....
paid to Winton Business & Tourism Assoc. BSB: 034-228 Account: 10-6325
or ☐ Cheque for \$25 (AUD) attached.

Please email poem(s), completed entry form and deposit confirmation to
bronzeswagmancompetiton@gmail.com
Or: post all completed documents and monies to:
Bronze Swagman Award, PO Box 44, Winton. Qld. Australia. 4735.