



2024 VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

11th-14th April

INFORMATION SHEET

The MFSR Bush Festival Poetry Competition started in 1995 and is regarded as one of the most prestigious events in the country. We are delighted to announce that in 2024 the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships will again be included within the MFSR program of events (with \$5000 in prizes and trophies up for grabs).

Championships aim: *"To foster and encourage the growth of Bush Poetry (and yarns) in Australia."* Entries for all sections should be about Australia, Australians and/or the Australian way of life and have good rhyme and metre.

ENTRY FEES & INFORMATION

Please ensure that you read the "Terms and Conditions of Entry" (herein) carefully and retain a copy for your records.

Judges for our 2024 Written and Performance sections will be **Senior judge**, Graeme Johnson (The Rhymer from Ryde-NSW) Tim Sheed (ABPA President), John Peel & Christine Middleton.

Our **Featured Poets** for the weekend will be Geoffrey.W.Graham, The Rhymer from Ryde, Tim Sheed & John Peel (Reciter of the Year (National Folk Festival 2018) & 2 x times Golden Dampier winner).

We thank them, our Collators, Timekeepers and the rest of our team of volunteers for their dedication to making our event a success.

Pre-festival judging of entries will reveal three finalists to recite Banjo Paterson's epic, *"The Man from Snowy River"* at Banjo's Block on Friday evening the 12th April.

The Written Serious, "Silver Brumby" and Humorous "Corryong Larrikin" sections are judged before the festival. There are also awards for Novice competitors in both Written and Performance sections.

The "Matilda" and "Clancy's Choice" awards are presented for the Victorian Female & Male Overall Performance Champions at the conclusion of the competition sections.

Entry forms can be found here: www.bushfestival.com.au www.abpa.org.au/events.html

(Online entries also accepted).

Entries open: Monday 18th December 2023 **Entries close:** Thursday 29th February 2024

Returning your entry: Post to [MFSR Poetry Entries, P.O. Box 655, West Ryde, NSW, 1685](#).

Unsigned or unpaid entries will not be accepted.

\$10.00 Entry Fee (per poem. Max 3 poems per person) for written sections 1& 2.

\$10.00 Entry Fee One entry, per person, per section for performance sections 3-9.

Three judges will be used for sections 1-9. For performance sections 4-7, the time limit of 8 mins includes pre-ambles. For section 8 (Yarnspinning) the time limit is 8 mins excluding pre-ambles.

Judging sheets for sections 1-9 can be found at www.abpa.org.au/competitions.html

GENERAL SECTION INFORMATION

Bush Poetry must have rhyme, rhythm and metre.

Yarn-spinning is not a connected line of jokes, nor does it rhyme.

Parodies are ineligible for Open sections, but great for Novice, Poets' Breakfasts and Campfire sessions.

Offensive material will not be tolerated and could lead to your removal from the competition section, (without refund of entry fee) All material performed must be family orientated.

Poems and yarns which have won an Open Category at any Victorian State Championship or National Championship are ineligible to be performed by the same competitor in this State competition. However prior winning poems from the MFSR competition when held as Non-Victorian Championship are eligible for entry.

WRITTEN SECTIONS

SECTION 1 & 2: VBPC Written | Max 120 lines.

Typed, double spaced on 1 side A4 paper only. 3 copies of each poem with Cover Sheet. No name on poems. Up to 3 poems per person @ \$10 per entry per section. (Males & Females judged together).

VBPC Overall & Novice Written Champion titles will be determined by the highest aggregate score over sections 1 & 2. If no Novice entrant ranks over both sections, then the Novice with the highest score from either section will be awarded the winner.

PERFORMANCE SECTIONS

Performance entries accepted in order of date received (limit of 20 individual entries in each section-men or women). Fees will be refunded if limit is reached.

Sections 3, 8 & 9 Males & Females judged together. Sections 4-7 have separate Male & Female classes.

SECTION 3: Banjo's MFSR Recital

Enter your recording on sound file, mp3 or CD. Post to [MFSR Recital Poetry Entries, P.O. Box 655, West Ryde, NSW, 1685](#) or e-mail; TheRhymerfromRyde@bigpond.com by Thurs 29th February 2024.

3 Finalists will be notified by approximately 18th March 2024 to perform at Festival on Friday 12th April 2024. No name or preamble on the file.

Official version only of the poem will be accepted. It can be found at: www.bushfestival.com.au

SECTION 4: VBPC Open Classical Poem

Written before and including 1950. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 5: VBPC Open Original Serious Poem

Australian theme. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 6: VBPC Open Original Humorous poem

Australian theme. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 7: VBPC Open Modern Poem

Written since 1951 preferably with author consent. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 8: VBPC Open Yarnspinning

Original or not. Max 8 mins (no preamble).

SECTION 9: Novice Poet

Any Australian rhyming metred poem, original or not. **Max 5 mins** (including preamble).

OVERALL AWARDS

SECTION 10 Matilda: (Female) Trophy (Decided on aggregate totals).

SECTION 11 Clancy's Choice: (Male). Trophy (Decided on aggregate totals).

There is no performance fee or finals competition for these overall awards, but to be eligible to win either Overall Championship Award the contestant must have entered all sections from 4-7.

Competition Assessment Sheets & Entry Forms used in this competition may be found at www.abpa.org.au/events

OTHER AWARDS-One Minute Poem (Entries taken at Festival-Judged by audience).

The **Lawrie Sheridan, Senior & Jan Lewis Encouragement Awards** are awarded at the conclusion of competition sections on Sun 14th April 2024. (There are no entry forms needed for these sections).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Entrants should be prepared to provide a photo and personal details for publication if required.

All sections held on Fri night, Saturday & Sunday are at the Lions Youth Hall or 'Banjo's Block'.

The Judges assessment sheets will be posted to contestants after the conclusion of the festival

Judge's decisions for either the Performance or Written sections are final and no correspondence (either verbal or written) or harassment of any judge or official (by contestants) will be accepted or tolerated.

Poetry Enquiries; All enquiries to the Assistant Poetry Events Manager, Graeme Johnson on 0419415137 or e-mail; TheRhymerfromRyde@bigpond.com

General Festival Enquiries: Contact Festival Office at P.O. Box 144, Corryong, VIC, 3707 or phone (02) 60761992 or e-mail; events@bushfestival.com.au

VOLUNTEERING

To volunteer at the MFSR Bush Poetry event you must complete a volunteer application form available on the festival website, www.bushfestival.com.au

Please ensure you select POETRY when completing the Volunteer Application.

Applications open: 1st October 2023. **Applications close:** 20th November 2023

NB All information contained in this document was correct at time of publication. Any changes to this document will be updated in newer versions of said document posted on the websites contained within it.