

**HUNTER BUSH POETS' POETRYFEST October 2012
AND RESULTS OF THE NSW WRITTEN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
October 2012**

The PoetryFest 2012 weekend began Friday afternoon with arrivals catching up or getting to know newcomers. The initial organised activity was designed to get everyone involved, it was the "Walk Up" where poems are presented by anyone who is willing to recite. The audience participation was a prelude to a wonderful concert of poetry and song presented by Pat Drummond, Noel Stallard, Peter Mace and Carol Heuchan.

Our first meal for the weekend, dinner Friday evening was the first of the wonderful meals provided throughout the weekend by the Albion Park Camp Oven Cooking Club.

The evening continued well into the night with audience participation in "Game On", aimed at improving the poet's vocabulary through fast paced word games. One minute cup titles were also available during the evening. The "One Minute Cup" is open to all attendees who select a random title for a poem to be written for presentation in a competition on Sunday morning. The title "One Minute Cup" refers to the requirement to recite the poem within a timeframe of one minute.

Poet's Walk Ups continued during breakfast at 7.30 as a prelude to Saturday's workshops. Noel Stallard condensed a 3 hour lesson on writing poetry into a hectic but wonderfully informative session which ran overtime due to the interest and audience interaction. Lake Macquarie Fellowship of Australia Writers Jan and Lynda then did a double act on the "Perils of Punctuation" and "Grammatical Glitches". Followed by Milton and Carol presenting a session on "getting inspired" with the central message being, "write about what you know" and everyone has things that inspire them as an individual. After Devonshire or Yorkshire teas there were three sessions on publishing and marketing and pitfalls and intricacies of the industry including local publishing, publishing on demand and to cyberspace and e-books. Pat Drummond then took us through lyrics and song writing as a craft requiring structure, a story and an ending. Afternoon sessions by Noel Stallard on "Doing it out loud" a performance workshop and Anita Reed on voice production and interactive performance were enjoyable and informative for all amateur poets. Saturday evening included one of the highlights of the weekend, the announcement of the winners in the 2012 New South Wales Written Poetry Championships. Two categories are included in poetry competitions, serious and humorous, and from the two, an overall champion is chosen by the Australian Bush Poetry Association accredited judges. Following the championship formalities a relaxing and most enjoyable concert session dubbed "A Swag of Aussie Madness, Verse and Song" topped off an exceptional day.

7.30, Sunday morning provided another opportunity with walk ups at the poet's breakfast prior to the One Minute Cup competition. Noel Stallard then presented a session on "Poetry for Children". The first of two confronting sessions on the day followed, where amateur poets could have their written poems critiqued by the professional judges thereby providing direct feedback on their work and providing suggestions on how they can improve their writing. The two subsequent sessions covered the why, when, who and how of recording your work and marketing the poetry and you. Another constructive word game was the lead in to the second confronting session for the amateur poets by way of a critique session on walk ups or performance. This session provided the amateur

poets the opportunity to obtain immediate feedback from the professionals on their performance and recital skills with the emphasis on positive constructive feedback of options to take away and work on for the future. The weekend came to a close after a round table general discussion session. The poets consensus was that they had enjoyed a fantastic weekend combining a unique learning experience with entertainment, companionship and enjoyable socialising.

A booking was arranged for PoetryFest 2013 and as soon as the details of the weekend and NSW Championships are finalised planning will begin for twelve months' time.

Professional poets in attendance:

Pat Drummond from the Blue Mountains – website: patdrummond.net

Noel Stallard from Queensland – website: noelstallard.com

Milton Taylor from Southern NSW and our very own;

Carol Heuchan from Cooranbong – website: carolpoet.com.au

RESULTS - NSW WRITTEN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012.

OVERALL CHAMPION – David Campbell – ‘My Son’

SERIOUS CATEGORY:

1st David Campbell – ‘My Son’

2nd Brenda Joy – ‘Call of the Kimberley’

3rd Tom McIlveen – ‘Eureka’s Mine Still Smoulders’

4th Brenda Joy – ‘Closure’

5th Tom McIlveen – ‘Kathleen’

HUMOROUS CATEGORY:

1st B.J. Stirling – ‘The Eulogy’

2nd Mal Beveridge – ‘Night Nookie’

3rd David Campbell – ‘The Fools Upon The Hill’

4th Tom McIlveen – ‘When Irish Eyes Are Smiling’

5th Yvonne Harper – ‘Tennis Idle’

Thank you to all the entrants, we had a wonderful response to the championships receiving entries from all the eastern Australian states including Tasmania, also Western Australia, Northern Territory and New Zealand as well as an entry being posted from Thailand. To those of you who took the opportunity to have the judges critique your work we trust the comments were helpful and assist in improving your work and furthering your enthusiasm for the wonderful world of Australian Bush Poetry.

We must also extend a huge thank you to the judges for their efforts in critiquing and scoring the many entries we received.

Kind Regards,

Trevor Harragon

Secretary, Hunter Bush Poets Inc – website: hunterbushpoets.org.au