

## **Official Report – Adelong Show “Best of the Bush” Bush Poetry Competition**

On March 10th 2013, the Adelong Show Society held their second “Best of the Bush” bush poetry competition as part of their annual show.

It was only a small field of competitors but once again there were some very good quality performances on the day. Competitors were able to present two poems and were judged on their best performance of the two. There were two categories in the competition – an open category where competitors were able to present their choice of an original, modern or traditional bush poem; and an Adelong-themed bush poem section.

Mick Donahue of Tumut was the MC of the competition and provided some of his own distinctive poetry between the performances as the judges were completing their judging sheets. He was assisted by up-and-coming country singer, Emily Pike of Carrathool, who also provided some songs in between.

The winning poet in the open category was Sue Pearce of Tumut with an original poem entitled, “The Lone Dog’s Cry” – an emotional poem about an old dog that had lost his master. The runner-up was Jim Lamb of Young with the Banjo Paterson classic, “Song of the Wheat”. Heather Roach of Adelong returned this year and defended her title with another win in the Adelong-themed poem section with her poem “Along for the Ride”. Adelong based performer, John MacKenzie narrowly missed out on being among the placegetters.

After the prizes were presented, competition judge, John Peel of Tumut, presented a mixture of traditional and original poems for the appreciative audience that were in attendance.

This competition will be running again in March next year, so keep an eye out for it, it is likely to be bigger and better than ever.