

**Essential Energy Golden Damper performance competition, Tamworth NSW
21st-25th January 2014**

Established (Traditional or Modern)

- 1st Lyn Tarring, Townsville Qld
2nd Paddy O'Brien, Murwillumbah NSW
3rd Gabby Colquhoun, Gloucester NSW

Original

- 1st Brian Langley, St James WA
2nd John Peel, Tumut NSW
3rd Tom McIlveen, Port Macquarie NSW

**Tamworth Poetry Reading Group Blackened Billy written competition, Tamworth NSW
24th January 2014**

- 1st *Remember* Milton Taylor, Hartley NSW
2nd *For Love of the Sea* Catherine Lee, Bangkok Thailand
3rd *Clothes Maketh the Man* Milton Taylor, Hartley NSW

Highly Commended:

- Farewell my Love* Terry Piggott, Canning Vale WA
A Farmer's Reply V P Read, Bicton WA
Jimmy Tom McIlveen, Port Macquarie NSW
Odds-On That's How it Is Jan Foster, Grovedale Vic
The Trouble and Strife Jan Foster, Grovedale Vic
The Music Teacher Shelley Hanson, West Maryborough Qld
Three Out of Ten Kevin Pye, Mudgee NSW
A Shadow on the Water David Campbell, Beaumaris Vic
Wallace, Dot and Croc Milton Taylor, Hartley NSW
The Lady of the Grand Mal Beveridge, Bracken Ridge Qld

Judge's Comments

Entries for this year realised two hundred and twenty two, which was extremely good, and shows that writers are still keen to enter the major competitions.

I was very impressed this year with the standard of excellence and it is constantly difficult in these circumstances to select the ultimate winners. But it is a healthy situation and indicates that the creative ability is certainly there.

Over my fourteen years as adjudicator, I think this year's entries were possibly of the highest standard that I have experienced. This leads to the sad situation of discarding many entries which would receive high acclaim in any competition. In fact about twenty five in all. And it is not easy to discard entries of such excellence, and is detrimental to my blood pressure as well. I trust that those who missed out will forgive me.

Once again, thank you to Jan Morris for her capable organisation of the Blackened Billy for 2014.

FIRST PLACE: REMEMBER! by MILTON TAYLOR, Hartley, NSW

I was emotionally moved by this sensitive narrative, which outlines the cold, hard facts of the dreaded enemy – dementia, and the subsequent mental effect on family and nursing staff. The writer has penned the story in simple prose, but is able to convey this stark and emotional situation with a great deal of skill and clever combination of dialogue and theme.

A worthy winner of the Blackened Billy for 2014.

SECOND PLACE: FOR LOVE OF THE SEA by CATHERINE LEE Tungmahamek, Bangkok

This is the work of a gifted picture writer, and is a lyrical description of one of the magnificent wonders of the world. The entry contains an almost perfect formulation of descriptive phrasing and syntax. Many facets of the sea are outlined in detail. I could almost feel the power and feel the enigma, as the description is absorbed. Congratulations on a fine entry.

THIRD PLACE: CLOTHES MAKETH THE MAN by MILTON TAYLOR Hartley, NSW

I really enjoyed this clever little story and the way it was written. The prose is witty and well constructed to suit the occasion. The writer has created the story with finesse and skill, building to the "punch line", which to say the least, must have been painful. I was impressed by the clever use of lyrical phrasing to allow the story to bounce along with good timing. Congratulations on your entry.