

Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival – 2018

The annual Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival was held from the 1st-4th March and was greatly supported by all of those who travelled far and wide to attend.

The festival was kicked off by the CWA providing activities and a light lunch at the Dunedoo Bowling Club on Thursday 1st March from 10am. Thursday evening at 6pm the poets and community were invited to a meet and greet at the Jubilee Hall. A lovely meal was provided by St Michael's P&F and brawl titles were available for purchase to be presented following Sunday's breakfast.

Friday 2nd March being the first day of competitions was held at the Dunedoo Sports Club. Everyone was welcomed by the President of the Dunedoo & District Development Group Lloyd Graham who was ready to commence the Intermediate section at 4pm and the Yarn Spinning at 7pm.

The **Intermediate** section is a combined female and male competition with **Andrew Pulsford** who was a definite favourite with the crowd taking out first place with his self written poem "Where have all the Dad's gone?". **David Fatches** was a close second with his poem by A. B Paterson "City of Dreadful Thirst" and **Kerry Sprigg** received the Highly Commended award for her recital of Bob Magor's poem "All the Gates". Thank you to the judges for this section Sandra Nicholson, Greg North and Des Kelly along with time keepers Barb Smith and Sue Graham and chief score keepers Dianne Large and Chris Sullivan.

Following the intermediate section spectators and poets enjoyed a lovely Chinese Smorgasbord and a few drinks before the **Yarn Spinning** competition started at 7pm.

This is always a popular section of the poetry competition with 8 poets in total, all who presented capturing yarns.

Claire Reynolds was the outright winner of this combined male and female competition with her yarn "Shear Gratitude". The judges for the Yarn Spinning were Sandra Nicholson, Tony Yeo and Norma Gallagher. Thank you again to Barb Smith and Sue Graham for time keeping and Dianne Large and Sharon Nott for scoring.

Saturday was a big day of poetry with the competitions commencing at 8.30am. Again a large crowd supported the poets through out the day.

First up was the **Female Classical** session. This was another well contended competition with **Jenny Markwell** (Wangi Wangi NSW), coming in first place with "Pitcher Show" by C.J. Dennis. **Jacqui Warnock** (Narrabri NSW) came in second place with "Red Jack" written by Mary Durack and **Rhonda Tallnash** (Violet Town, VIC) a close third with a Bernard Espinasse poem "Marion Lee".

Following on from the ladies was the **Male Classical** section which was also highly contended. **Bob "Pa" Kettle** (Goodna, QLD) took out the title with "The

Pearl of them all” by Will Ogilvie, followed by **Andrew Pulsford** (Urangan, QLD) with “The Geebung Polo Club” written by A.B. Paterson and **Graeme Johnson** (West Ryde, NSW), known as The Rhymer from Ryde taking out third place with a Thomas Brennan poem “Our Nameless Deed”

The first of the Original written poems was up next with the **Original Serious Female** section.

Heather Searles (Branxton, NSW) was the winner of this section with her poem “C for Charlie”. **Jenny Markwell** (Wangi Wangi) was a very close second with “My Final Song” and close again in third place was **Jacqui Warnock** (Narrabri, NSW) reciting her poem “Dreamtime Cathedral”.

Thank you to the MC’s Lloyd Graham and Chris Sullivan along with the judges Des Kelly, Sandra Nicholson and Greg North and the time keepers, Margaret Yeo and Janette Johnson and chief scorers Dianne Large and Linden Ewin for all three of the above sections.

A well deserved break was then had for a bbq lunch prepared by the Dunedoo Bush Poetry Committee along with special thanks to Barry Nott. A special mention also to the Dunedoo AWA ladies who provided tea, coffee and a delicious spread of biscuits, slices and cakes throughout the day.

Following lunch it was on to the Original Serious Male and Contemporary Female and Male sections that would see the afternoon out. Thank you to MC Greg North and Judges Sandra Nicholson, Des Kelly and Kevin Pye for overseeing these sections of the competition along with time keepers Chris & Therese Sullivan and chief scorers Dianne Large and Norma Gallagher.

The winner of the **Original Serious Male** section was **Bob “Pa” Kettle** (Goodna, QLD) with his poem “What would their Mother’s Say”, **Max Pringle** (Narrabri, NSW) was successful in second place with “The Cycle of Life” and **Andrew Pulsford** (Urangan, QLD) came in third spot with his original recital “Amongst the Wattle and the Sticks”.

The **Contemporary Female** section was up next with a good number of entrants. **Jacqui Warnock** (Narrabri, NSW) was in first place this time reciting a Noel Stallard poem “141 Cream Cowrie Shells”. **Claire Reynolds** (Gloucester, NSW) received second prize for “The Water and the Wells” by Jack Drake and **Jenny Markwell** (Wangi Wangi, NSW) in third place with “Remember” by Milton Taylor.

The **Contemporary Male** section was also tightly held with **The Rhymer from Ryde** coming in first place with “The Grey” written by Rita Diplock. **Max Pringle** (Narrabri, NSW) was second with his recited poem by Carol Heuchan “Rosie” and **Bob “Pa” Kettle** in third place with “The Water of the Wells” by Jack Drake.

It was then a well deserved few hours of rest for the poets who all had a busy day of reciting and entertaining.

Everyone reconvened along with some more hopeful poets and spectators for the two evening sections of Original Humorous Female and Male. These two sections are the most popular throughout the festival and it was an entertaining night for all of those in attendance.

Lloyd Graham, President of the Dunedoo and District Development Group opened the evening and welcome the Mayor of Warrumbungle Shire Council Peter Shinton to address the audience. Peter surprised everyone and performed a wonderful poem he wrote himself for the evening.

The evenings competition then proceeded with MC Lloyd Graham and judges Sandra Nicholson, Greg North and Des Kelly watching over. Thank you to Chris and Therese Sullivan again for time keeping and the always wonderful Dianne Large and Sharon Nott for their precise score keeping.

The **Original Humorous Female** section was first with **Rhonda Tallnash** (Violet Town, VIC) being the clear winner and crowd favourite with her poem "Pumpkin Patch Pickle". Second place was awarded to **Claire Reynolds** (Gloucester, NSW) with "Unfinished Business" and **Jacqui Warnock** (Narrabri, NSW) came in third place with her poem "Leaving Town".

A short break was held in between the two humorous sections for supper to be served, which was again prepared by the Dunedoo AWA Ladies.

The **Original Humorous Male** section kicked off and was equally as entertaining with **Max Pringle** (Narrabri, NSW) winning with his poem "The Frog". **Bob "Pa" Kettle** (Goodna, QLD) received second place with "Matron Brown" and an amazing effort by 98 year old **Les Smith** (Moree, NSW) who came in third place with his fantastic poem "Missed Again".

At the conclusion of the full competition there were still a few awards to be given. **Overall male winner** was awarded to **Bob "Pa" Kettle** and **overall female winner** to **Jacqui Warnock** who both had a wonderful array of entries over the two days of competitive competitions.

The **winner of the written** section was also announced and was awarded to **Tom McIlveen** for his written poem "Won't You Come" (see below).

Winners were drawn for the 100 clubs and an abundance of prizes to choose from in the raffle.

Greg North and Des Kelly then delighted guests with a great performance of music and poetry, a wonderful way to end the evening.

Sunday morning saw once again all the poets and spectators get together for breakfast at Jubilee Hall and performances of the Brawl titles that were purchased over the past few days. The brawl poems must be no longer than 1min and are decided by the audience with the winner taking all. **Jacqui Warnock**

continued her winning streak with a great poem about Dunedoo and some interesting times at the pub!

A special mention must go the **Dunedoo Bush Poetry Committee** who this festival wouldn't happen with out and also to all of the sponsors. It is the commitment of these sponsors that helps small town events like this one keep going year after year.

A very big thank you to:

Warrumbungle Shire Council, Narranmore Stud, Lonsdale White Suffolk Stud, Wright Partners, Leigh Stoddart & Co, Milling Stuart, The Land Newspaper, Dubbo RSL Club, Sharon Nott – The Golfers Den, Bunnings Dubbo, Tanya A Kline – Chartered Accountant, Redbank Gums B&B, White Rose Café, Dunedoo Rural Hardware, Dallmans Mechanical & Tyre Centre, The Dunedoo Pharmacy, John Oliver Electrical, Dunedoo Caravan Park, Sullivans Delta Agribusiness, S&S Meats, Rose Cottage B&B, Chris & Therese Sullivan, Midwest Foods, Dunedoo SPAR Supermarket, Matthew Guan Mechanical Repairs, Dunedoo Sports Club.

The Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival is held every year on the first Saturday in March. If you would like to sponsor this event or to enquire on how you can be involved please contact the Dunedoo & District Development Group on 63751975.

Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival 2018 Written Bush Poetry Competition Results

The written competition of this year's festival had a high number of entrants and was also highly contested. Congratulations to the following winners and to all those that entered the competition.

First: Tom McIlveen – Won't You Come?
Second: Terry Piggott – Looking Back
Third: Tom McIlveen – Bluey

**Kylie Brougham
Coordinator
Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival**