

## ABPA VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS AT MFSR 2019

*The poets came to Corryong! In the Youth Club Hall,  
where the 2019 Championship was fought by one and all.  
A red shirt army of volunteers – to get the jobs all done.  
Lots of work but they also found quite a bit of fun!*

*Apart from shows they featured in, all around the town,  
Friday saw the start of it ... Tom O'Connor knocked 'em down!  
The Man from Snowy River – the hardest poem to say  
and a jam packed Poets Breakfast on Banjo's Block each day!*

Tom O'Connor nailed the MFSR Recital, Classical and Modern sections in the Performance Poetry.

Jenny Markwell won Classical and Modern sections, with **Rhonda Tallnash** from Violet Town and **Max Pringle** from Narrabri won overall top Female and Male Poets.

Written Poem winners were **Robyn Sykes** (overall) and Serious poem section, with **David Campbell** winning the Humorous Section.

An amazing span of poems and songs was presented all through the weekend as we noticed the 'filmy veil of greenness' doing its magic on the magical scenery. Metaphors, similes and abundant alliteration swirled through the weekend as the contestants produced another wonderfully eclectic array of images in rhyme. About 400 readers, performers and all-important listeners travelled from all over Australia to share in this amazing spin-off and celebration of Banjo's amazing poem.

Poems, songs, yarns and jokes drew lots of laughs, and the audience was treated to a feast of words during competitive and non-competitive sections.

Thanks to our team of judges led by The Rhymer from Ryde (Senior Judge), Brenda Joy and Tom McIlveen, aided by a secondary team of judges and collators. Our MCs Geoffrey Graham and his brother Ralph, kept the show moving with great expertise.

Special thanks to the red army of local and away volunteers who assist with admin, set up, take down, door duty, product sales, moving chairs, catering and a myriad of jobs. Thanks to Ayala and the Maccas Takeaway crew for supplying delicious meals and drinks at appropriate times and being very flexible.

What better way to spend a fresh Autumn weekend than to be in Corryong and see such wonderful poets competing, then gather around an open fire and hear an excellent, impromptu range of poetry and music!

See you next year, note: a non-Championship 2020 but we have the Jack Riley Heritage Award for poem yarn or song written about Jack, his life, the Man from Snowy River or the Upper Murray area or Banjo's country. You're all welcome!