

The Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse 2023

The Bronze Swagman Committee is excited to announce that the Judges results for 2023 have been officially announced at a Wine & Cheese event held in the Royal Theatre in Winton on Wednesday 14th June.

A total of 48 poets entered this year's competition with a combined total of 147 poems. This included 12 new poets, an increase from last year. Submissions were received from all over Australia, plus America and France.

The two Judges have completed a mammoth task of reading the entries and collaborating to choose a Winner, Runner up, Third Prize, and 3 x Highly Commended along with the recipient of the Tim Borthwick Memorial Award – for best new entrant to the competition.

And the official results are:

Results of the 52nd Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse 2023

Winner: Catherine Lee, Mona Vale. NSW.
"The Tale of Molly Riley"

Runner-Up: Kelly Dixon, Hivesville. Qld.
"With His Face to the West"

Third Prize: The Jean O'Connell Memorial Award
Keith Lethbridge, Armadale. WA.
"Only a Housewife"

Highly Commended:

Max Merckenschlager, Murray Bridge. SA.
"Spot the Victim"

Kelly Dixon, Hivesville. Qld.
"The Froth on His Glass"

Keith Lethbridge, Armadale. WA.
"Walkabout"

Tim Borthwick Award: Chandra Clements, Helensvale. Qld.
"The Outback Child"



A special thanks to our judges Manfred Vijars and Allan Caswell.

Thanks to our valued sponsors Winton Business & Tourism Association; Elite Aviation; Red Dirt Tours; Shoprite Winton; Curley Cattle Transport; AustralianAge of Dinosaurs; Corfield & Fitzmaurice; Wookatook@Pentland; the O'Connell Family for the NEW Third Prize and to the Borthwick Family for their contribution for continuing to support new talent.

A copy of the "2023 Book of Verse" will be posted once they are received from the printers along with an entry form for 2024 and an order form for additional copies if required or copies from previous years.

Congratulations to everyone and we look forward to an even bigger competition in 2024.

Don't forget the Facebook Page – THE BRONZE SWAGMAN for information.

The results of the 2023 Bronze Swagman Award have been finalised but we invite and welcome your feedback, comments and/or stories on your experience with the Bronze Swagman Award to assist the Committee to keep the bush poetry fires burning bright!

Thank you.

The Bronze Swagman Committee
An initiative of Winton Business & Tourism Association