You are invited to be part of the

2020 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

The 29th Annual Competition continues the legacy of Tamworth Poetry Reading Group (TPRG). Since 1991, thousands of entries have been submitted, recording many aspects of Australian country and character. Past Award winners provide exemplary guidance for writers seeking rhyme and metre mastery.

“The Blackened Billy Verse competition has encouraged writers to put pen to paper to produce the most incredible range of rhyming verse, over the years honing their skills to now produce some of the best bush poetry ever written, as good as, if not better than Paterson or Lawson.” - Jan Morris, on behalf of the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group.

Competition Founder Jan remains a guiding force. The 2020 Billy is ready for branding. Will your name make it onto the Trophy Plaque?

The 2020 Awards Ceremony will be celebrated at the elegant landmark of DuntryLeague Guest House, in Orange, NSW, as part of the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. From 16-23 February 2020, Banjo’s birthday will be celebrated in the region he was born. There will be a wealth of poetry events on offer, including writing workshops, walk-up performance opportunities and live shows. See Events at www.orange360.com.au for current plans and check back regularly for updates.

“I am sure the exciting new venue will put a new energy into poets, providing a new energy to produce new works and encourage audiences to attend the Banjo Paterson Festival in Orange.” – Jan Morris

Over 28 years of Blackened Billy Competition, organisers have never had need to put the highly sought-after Billy Trophy in the post. To maintain this extraordinary record, shortlisted entrants - unable to attend the Awards Event – should consider who will be on hand to accept their Billy if they are successful.

Entrants are also encouraged to utilise the offer to obtain critiques to evaluate and aid their writing skills. Publication of future Tribute Books containing Blackened Billy Winners is likely. Will you be in it?

$1000 Prize Pool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize Level</th>
<th>Award Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Prize</td>
<td>$500 plus Trophy and Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Prize</td>
<td>$250 plus Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Prize</td>
<td>$150 plus Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td>5 x $20 plus Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commended</td>
<td>5 x Certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entrants who visit DuntryLeague during the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival can enjoy food and beverages at Members Prices – just mention ‘Blackened Billy’.
2020 Blackened Billy Verse Competition
Proudly supported by DuntreyLeague Guest House. Be sure to explore www.duntryleague.com

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
1. Entries are to be rhymed and metred bush verse, relevant to Australia or Australians, that features impeccable spelling and punctuation, appropriate language and provides evocative impact. The use of offensive language is not permitted and may be harshly penalised by the judges. Entrants should be aware that accurate rhyme and metre will account for 40% of the potential points able to be awarded by the judges.
2. Entries must be the author’s own work, and not previously published for monetary gain by the author.
3. Entries must not have not won first prize in any poetry competition by 7 February 2020. Competition organisers are to be advised promptly should an entry become ineligible. The entry fee will be refunded, and the submitted entry withdrawn from the Competition.
4. Entries are to be typed, on an A4 sized page, using 12-point Arial or Times New Roman typeface. Single line spacing is acceptable. Entrants seeking Critiques should use 1.5 line spacing so that errors (including metre) can be clearly indicated as part of the evaluation and feedback. At minimum, 2 of the 3 judges will provide feedback for each $10 Critique Fee paid. Delivery of critiques may take up to 3 weeks after the Award Ceremony, or less if electronic delivery is indicated. To ensure this timeline is maintained, the Promoter may engage writing mentors – of equivalent calibre and distinction as the Competition Judges – to critique entries that ranked lower in the Competition Results.
5. Rank Order Tally will be utilised to determine winning entries. The 2020 Judging panel is comprised of 3 suitably qualified and highly regarded persons, of varied gender, including former Blackened Billy and Australian Written Competition Award Winners.
6. Entries may be forwarded by post (1 copy, on A4, printed on one side only), or electronically as a Word Document or PDF. The author’s name must not appear on any page of submitted verse. Entry form detail and payment of relevant fees is required by Closing Date for the Entry to be deemed eligible.
7. Copyright is retained by the author. Copies of the Entries will be printed by the Promoter for the purpose of Competition Administration and Adjudication. All entries will be securely and promptly disposed of after the Adjudication, except where a Critique has been requested. Critiqued copies will be returned to the entrant, or securely disposed of after being forwarded electronically.
8. There is no limit to the number of entries. Electronic submission closes at midnight AEST on 7 January 2020. Postal entries must be postmarked no later than 2 January 2019.
9. Winning entries will be announced, and prizes presented, on 20 February 2020, at the DuntreyLeague Guest House, 23 Linden Avenue, Orange NSW. The 29th Annual Blackened Billy Award Ceremony will commence in the Dalton Room at 11.00am with three performance recitals of past Blackened Billy winners. The Awards Ceremony will conclude at Noon, with refreshments and time for socialising afterwards at the venue. For catering purposes, this will be a ticketed event and all entrants are welcome. Free tickets will be provided to attending entrants as priority. Should demand from entrants exceed room capacity, the rank order result of the Competition may be used to allocate seats.
10. Winners of First, Second and Third Place will be notified prior that one of their entries is in the top three. The Highly Commended and Commended Awards will be announced at the Ceremony with no prior notice provided to entrants. Full results will be made public after the Ceremony.

Email your entries or enquiries to Lux@blackenedbillyversecompetition.com or post your entries and Entry Form to BB2020, P O Box 644, Gladstone Qld 4680.

Please retain these terms and conditions for your records.

---


For rental of cars and people movers during your stay in Orange, we recommend Hertz. Visit www.hertz.com.au or phone 133039 (Mon-Fri 0800 - 2000, Sat-Sun 0800-1700 (EST)}
**2020 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

Name: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

Telephone: ________________________________

Postal Address: ________________________________

Title of Entries – Maximum 3 per form. Use additional forms if required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Entries</th>
<th>Critique/Evaluation Requested?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>☐ POST ☐ EMAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>☐ POST ☐ EMAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>☐ POST ☐ EMAIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entry Fee ($8 per poem, or 3 for $20) $_______

Critique Fee(s) $10 per poem $_______ TOTAL $_______

Payment method: CHEQUE BRANCH DEPOSIT EFT DIRECT DEPOSIT (Circle one)

Payment Reference (date, amount, Ref No.) ________________________________

Payment can be made by Cheque (payable to Blackened Billy)

or direct to BSB 484799 A/c 029729712.

*Please use your surname and initial(s) as the deposit reference and provide notification of your payment to the Competition’s postal or email address shown beneath the Conditions of Entry. Entries will not be deemed eligible for the Competition until payment is received.*

By entering the 2020 Blackened Billy Verse Competition, I confirm the submitted verse is entirely my own work. I understand I retain copyright, while the Promoter reserves the right to publish the winning poem, without payment to the author, in official print and electronic media reports of the Competition. I understand I will be contacted for permission prior to any further publication, including future Blackened Billy Verse Competition Tribute Book editions.

**I agree to the Conditions of the Competition**

Date _______________ Signature ________________________________

(To submit this page electronically, please forward a photo or scan of the signed page via email. Alternatively, submission of entry detail, sent from the entrant’s email account, along with payment of the entry fees will be regarded as evidence of the Entrant’s consent and compliance with the Conditions of Entry)

*BB2020 is proudly supported by Duntryleague Guest House www.duntryleague.com*