Each year since 1976 an energetic group of local volunteers has run the highly successful Henry Lawson Heritage Festival with the wonderful support of community businesses.

Each year the streets of Gulgong are packed with thousands of visitors. Accommodation is booked from year to year and visitors come from far and wide to partake in the delights of not only our Festival but the town and surrounding district of Gulgong. It is a very successful and lucrative event for our community.

An integral part of the Festival is the Annual Henry Lawson Literary Awards Competition. This event attracts some of the best professional and amateur poets and writers on the east coast of Australia and beyond.

The “Henry Lawson” and “Loaded Dog” statuettes are prized and strenuously competed for by all. The Gulgong Henry Lawson Literary Awards hold an important place in the Australian Bush Poetry circuit. It is vital for events such as ours to continue so that Australian Bush Poetry and Literature does not die.

The competitions are conducted in written as well as performance poetry along with prose categories.

**Verse Category**
- **Open Written Poetry** $500 1st Prize each x 2 – Humorous and Traditional
- **Emerging Written Poetry** $200 1st prize
- **Leonard Teale Performance Poetry** $500 1st Prize each x 2 – Humorous and Traditional
- **Emerging Performance Poetry** $200 1st prize

In 2020 a new prize structure will be introduced:
- **Champion Open Written Poetry** 1st prize $500 + “Henry Lawson” Statuette valued at $200
- **Champion Open Performance Poetry** 1st prize $500 + “Henry Lawson” Statuette valued at $200
- **Champion Emerging Poetry** 1st prize $200 + “Loaded Dog” Statuette valued at $200

**Prose Category**
- **Open Written Prose** $500 1st Prize each x 2 – Humorous and Traditional
- **Emerging Written Prose** $200 1st prize

**Champion Open Written Prose** 1st prize $500 + “Henry Lawson” Statuette valued at $200
**Champion Emerging Prose** 1st prize $200 + “Loaded Dog” Statuette valued at $200

ENTRIES FORMS WILL AVAILABLE VERY SOON AND WILL CLOSE April 10th 2020

General information about the Gulgong Henry Lawson Society can be found on facebook and [http://www.henrylawsongulgong.org.au/](http://www.henrylawsongulgong.org.au/)

Alan Walker
Literary Awards Co-ordinator