

## CAMOOWEAL DROVERS' REPORT

Once again, Camooweal came alive for the 2014 Drovers' Camp Festival with the camp, the town and the river vibrant with authentic outback activities and flowing over with travellers happy to join with the locals to celebrate the droving tradition and to welcome the drovers who contributed to Australia's unique cultural heritage. This year there were 40 of these veterans of the land to spin yarns and weave stories of their adventures in the wide open spaces before the times of cattle truck transportation.

Special this year was the unveiling of the commemorative statue of the drover and his horse which now graces the Barkly Highway -- the through road and the main street of this proud little border town. This principle route from Queensland to the Northern Territory is closed off for nearly 3 hours to allow the town to celebrate. Out here you get your priorities right.

Camp drafting, whip cracking, mail racing, street parade, a charity auction, craftsmen working in the memorabilia hall, art displays and stalls all intermingle with camp kitchen happy hours, pub music shows, the Saturday night outdoor concert and the talent quest of ballad, song, yarn spinning and of course bush poetry. It is a great place to be on the fourth weekend of August every year.

Brenda Joy

### CAMOOWEAL DROVERS CAMP FESTIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

#### WRITTEN COMPETITION – 'The Bronze Spur Award'

1 <sup>st</sup>	Donald Crane, Toowoomba	<i>Bush Mother</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Shelley Hansen, Maryborough	<i>The Legend of Tiny Tim</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brenda Joy, Charters Towers	<i>Endurance</i>

#### PERFORMANCE COMPETITION – "The Drovers' Camp Talent Award"

##### Bush Poetry Section

1 <sup>st</sup>	Max Pringle, Narrabri, NSW
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Keith Douglas Jnr, Cloncurry, Qld.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Maureen Luke, Townsville, Qld.

##### Yarn Spinning Section

1 <sup>st</sup>	Keith Douglas Jnr.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Manning, Perth WA
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Max Pringle

##### Song/Ballad Section

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jarrold Slater, Mt. Isa
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Earl Kyle, Mt. Isa
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gospel Band, Lake Nash

#### OVERALL DROVERS' CAMP TALENT AWARD

1 <sup>st</sup>	Keith Douglas Jnr.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Max Pringle
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Maureen Luke





Photos –  
The Drover and his Horse statue  
– Barkly Highway, Camooweal  
Bush Poets John Lloyd, Brenda  
Joy and Carmel Lloyd at John  
and Carmel’s craft stall  
Bush Poet Max Pringle shows  
off his certificates  
Drovers Ray Pearce and Wacca  
Hickey share their yarns