

## Poetry winners at Kangaroo Valley Festival 2015

At the recent Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival the title of 'Reciter of the Festival' was hotly contested with eight men and two ladies strutting their stuff. The field was split down the middle as far as original material was concerned, with the winner, Bruce Latham, delivering a side splitting self penned piece describing the 'romancing' of a star picket. He gets to keep that big lump of timber for a year, have his name put on it and then return to the festival (free ticket) and Judge the next reciter of the Festival in 2016.

The written poetry was also well subscribed this year with entries from all over Australia and New Zealand. The Open section was won by Terry Piggott of WA, with the two HC going to Leonie Parker and Shelly Hansen. It seems to be a fair thing to have fewer awards. This allows authors to re-edit their poem (or not) and send it to another competition. Also with only a first (winning) place and one or two Highly Commended or Commended places, it will give the lesser awards more value. I believe Terry's poem, 'The Last Farewell' will be included in this magazine.

In the junior section, the local Public School (Primary) were very well represented with every class submitting entries, except year 5&6, who were rehearsing for a production. With serious consideration finalists were chosen and came along on Saturday to read their poem. Everyone received a Ribbon Award with Max Hinde receiving the book prize, and a very promising young poet, Amelia Sim, aged 8, receiving the Special Medallion.

The book was a children's picture book depicting 'A Bush Christening.'  
The teenage section was won by Jarrah Carlile.