

Judges Report – The Kembla Flame 2015

Let me congratulate all entrants. We thank you for choosing to present your poems for our attention. Please do not be discouraged by not receiving an awarded. There were very close to 100 poems this year and unfortunately only one can be the ultimate winner. Most of the poems exhibited a good attempt at consistent rhyme and metre. Some still showed a misunderstanding of assonance. There were many entries so close in technical merit that the judging panel commented on the high quality of the body of work in general. In the first run through two of the three judges had placed the eventual winner as their first choice. We encourage all our less experienced poets to keep at it. If you feel you need guidance there are members of the ABPA who are willing to give you pointers on the technical side of writing. Also keep in mind there are tips provided on the ABPA website written by Ellis Campbell. Ellis is the 'Living Treasure' of Australian Bush Poetry and his tutorials are available to the general public. abpa.org.au The Kembla Flame relies on a panel of at least three judges to eliminate any bias for or against a topic or particular style.

The winner of 'The Kembla Flame' 'The Man Who Wasn't There' by David Campbell
This poem and is an outstanding piece of writing. David's story telling ability is totally captivating and heart wrenching. He relates a life story which was, and will be, lived out in many homes and countries. Even the title itself is spellbinding.

Because of the quality of writing the judges decided to award the following:

Highly Commended: 'Angela' by Leonia Parker.

Totally captivating. There are thousands of parents, both male and female caring for disabled children. Many of these children, particularly the mentally disabled, appear to be hale and healthy. The carers wait for one word, one look, one smile. Congratulations Leonie for daring to address this delicate subject.

Commended: 'No Glory Here' by Shelly Hansen

A beautifully written piece on the aftermath of war. We salute our troops, both the fallen and those who live on.

Commended: 'Mates' by Robyn Sykes

Robyn Sykes has made a delightful write by stepping into the 'shoes' of a little man and his mate who watches over him.

The Kembla Star: 'When The Black Swans Nest' by John Davis

A 'local hero' award for the highest scoring poem by a local writer.

Illawarra Breakfast Poets and Illawarra Folk Club would like to thank the entrants and the judges for supporting the Kembla Flame again this year. We feel that competitions serve to encourage the writing and improvement of Australian Bush Poetry. As Frank Daniel used to say "Keep writin' and recitin' ". Zondrae King

Results

The Kembla Flame "The Man Who Wasn't There" David Campbell

Highly Commended- "Angela" Leonie Parker

Commended "No Glory Here" Shelly Hanson

Commended "Mates" Robyn Sykes

'The Kembla Star' for the poem by a local writer that scored the highest
"When the Black Swans Nest". John Davis. Kings Point