

## **Dunedoo 18<sup>th</sup> Bush Poetry Festival 2016**

The 'Meet and Greet' in the newly renovated Jubilee Hall on Thursday evening was witness by approximately 85 poets, friends and locals who came to listen to the many poets that took advantage of the 'open mike' poetry. St Michael's School children joined in the evening by singing several songs that they had been practising for some time. Sing Australia also sang many tunes of Australiana in keeping with the theme, "Love of the Bush".

The bus trip set off on time on Friday morning to a woolshed, allowing the visitors to witness shearing. Although a common occupation in the country, many city folk have not witnessed actual shearing being done 'in the shed and under real conditions'. Following morning tea, the bus continued on to Coolah for lunch in McMaster Park. Following that, Cleon Pearson gave a historic talk on the 'old wooden' Presbyterian Church in Coolah. John Horne assisted, giving a local interest chat en route back to Dunedoo.

Competition started at the Sports Club early with the Intermediate section. Five competitors took part with Jim Lamb from Young, winning with the Henry Lawson poem "The Bush Fire". Following on the always entertaining Yarns was won by 'Pa' Kettle, from Queensland.

Saturday morning started with the Classical Female section. Eight competitors competed with Rhonda Tallnash from Victoria winning from Heather Searles, Jacqui Warnock third and Lois Sanders, Highly Commended. In the Male Classical, Pa Kettle won Terry Regan second, 'The Rhymer from Ryde' third and Max Pringle, from Narrabri, Highly Commended.

The Original Serious Female section was won by Rhonda Tallnash with her poem of 'The Shirt' second was Jenny Markwell, third Heather Searles and Highly Commended Jacqui Warnock. In the Male section 'The Rhymer from Ryde' first, Terry Regan second, Max Pringle third and Highly Commended John Seers from Padstow.

Saturday afternoon started with the Female Contemporary section, where Rhonda Tallnash again won Cay Ellem from Bribie Island second, Jacqui Warnock third and Highly Commended Heather Searles. In the Male Contemporary "Pa' Kettle won, Jim Lamb second, Max Pringle third and Don Clarey from Dubbo, Highly Commended.

The Saturday evening entertainment saw approx. 120 people in the Central School Hall witness great poetry by many artists. Kevin Pye from Mudgee was the winner of Written section with his poem 'She only Speaks if you Listen' and fortunately, Kevin was in the audience and was thrilled to be able to read his poem. Following the Mayor opening the proceedings for the night, the Original Humorous Female section started. Jenny Markwell from Wangi Wangi won with 'Aqua Aerobic Hell', Cay Ellem second, Rhonda Tallnash third and Heather Searles Highly Commended. The Male Humorous was won by Terry Regan from Emu Plains, second was Max Pringle, third was 'Pa Kettle' and Highly Commended Don Clarey. We then had Des Kelly and Brenda Joy entertain us with several audience members being called onto the stage of assistance!

The Overall Female winner was again Rhonda Tallnash with Terry Regan also again taking home the Male prize.

Sunday morning again was at Jubilee Hall with egg and bacon breakfast and the 'Poets Brawl'. This was fun, with 15 poets for one minute with their title that they had acquired over the week-end. Heather Searles took out the coveted prize with her poem about a 'Brown Snake'.

We wish to thank the many volunteers that assisted over the week-end and we look forward to the 19<sup>th</sup> Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival based around the first Saturday in March 2017.

# 18<sup>th</sup> Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival 2016 Results

## Written Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> She Only Speaks if You Listen by Kevin Pye  
2<sup>nd</sup> September Skies by Shelly Hansen  
3<sup>rd</sup> The 1926 Forrest River Massacre by Max Merckenschlager

## Highly Commended

I Regret to Advise by Kevin Pye

## Commended

Gone Metric by Max Merckenschlager  
The Glint by Max Merckenschlager

## Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Lamb  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jeanette Clarey  
Enc Kerry Sprigg

## Yarn Spinning

Pa Kettle

## Classical

### Female

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rhonda Tallnash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Heather Searles  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jacqui Warnock  
HC Lois Sanders

### Male

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pa Kettle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Regan  
3<sup>rd</sup> The Rhymer from Ryde  
HC Max Pringle

## Contemporary

### Female

1<sup>st</sup> Rhonda Tallnash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cay Ellem  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jacqui Warnock  
HC Heather Searles

### Male

1<sup>st</sup> Pa Kettle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Lamb  
3<sup>rd</sup> Max Pringle  
HC Don Clarey

## Original Serious

### Female

1<sup>st</sup> Rhonda Tallnash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Markwell  
3<sup>rd</sup> Heather Searles  
HC Jacqui Warnock

### Male

1<sup>st</sup> The Rhymer from Ryde  
2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Regan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Max Pringle  
HC John Seers

## Original Humorous

### Female

1<sup>st</sup> Jenny Markwell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cay Ellem  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rhonda Tallnash  
HC Heather Searles

### Male

1<sup>st</sup> Terry Regan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Max Pringle  
3<sup>rd</sup> Pa Kettle  
HC Don Clarey

## Overall winners

### Female

Rhonda Tallnash

### Male

Terry Regan