

**2017 ABPA NATIONAL AND WA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS
TOODYA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL, WA**

Conducted under the auspices of The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Male Champion

Winner: Keith Lethbridge
Runner-up: Ken Tough
Third: Peter Blyth

Female Champion

Winner: Sue Pearce
Runner-up: Rhonda Tallnash
Third: Carmel Wooding

WA Champion

Winner: Keith Lethbridge
Runner-up: Peter Blyth
Third: Bill Gordon

Traditional

Male

Winner: John Hayes
Runner-up: Ken Potter
Third: Bob Kettle

Female

Winner: Sue Pearce
Runner-up: Carmel Wooding
Third: Rhonda Tallnash

WA

Winner: John Hayes
Runner-up: Barry Higgins
Third: Keith Lethbridge

Modern

Male

Winner: Ken Tough
Runner-up: Keith Lethbridge
Third: Ken Potter

Female

Winner: Sue Pearce
Runner-up: Rhonda Tallnash
Third: Jacqui Warnock

WA

Winner: Keith Lethbridge
Runner-up: Peter Blyth
Third: John Hayes

Original Serious

Male

Winner: James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up: Keith Lethbridge
Third: Ken Tough

Female

Winner: Carmel Wooding
Runner-up: Rhonda Tallnash
Third: Jacqui Warnock

WA

Winner: James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up: Keith Lethbridge
Third: Roger Cracknell

Original Humorous

Male

Winner: James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up: Keith Lethbridge
Third: Brian Langley

Female

Winner: Sue Pearce
Runner-up: Rhonda Tallnash
Third: Peg Vickers

WA

Winner: James Fitzpatrick
Runner-up: Keith Lethbridge
Third: Brian Langley

Novice original

Winner: Chris Taylor
Runner-up: Ray Parks
Third: David Morrell

Novice other poet

Winner: Peter Marshall
Runner-up: Anne Hayes

Yarnspinning

Winner: Peg Vickers
Runner-up: Peter Blyth
Third: Keith Lethbridge

2017 ABPA NATIONAL AND WA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS

Conducted under the auspices of The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

CLASS NOVICE – CATEGORY SERIOUS

First	Peter O'Shaughnessy	Eaton WA	<i>The Anzac Game</i>
Second	Ray Jackson	Shelley WA	<i>A Challenging Land</i>
Third	Peter O'Shaughnessy	Eaton WA	<i>Crocodilian</i>
Highly Commended	Bill Gordon	Boyup Brook WA	<i>Sandakan</i>
Commended	Norton Palmer	South Yunderup WA	<i>The Orabanda Cup</i>
Commended	Ray Jackson	Shelley WA	<i>Camooweal Billabong</i>

JUDGES' COMMENTS RE NOVICE SERIOUS CATEGORY

There was a range of subjects covered in this section and the majority related to Australia, Australians and our way of life. Most rang with a sense of authenticity, suggesting that entrants were writing from direct experience or about subjects that were meaningful to them.

The winning poem *The Anzac Game*, skillfully juxtaposed the concept of a sporting game with a war game to give a different slant to a deep subject. The second place getter, *A Challenging Land*, is a beautiful, meaningful poem that has the potential to win in Open competition.

Some great ideas were spoilt through technical inconsistencies but most of the poems presented could be developed to a higher standard with careful editing. Judges' suggestions are to look at the 'Tips' on the ABPA Website, find a mentor, seek to obtain critiques wherever possible and '*wrestle with the words until they 'yield'*'. The most important thing is to keep writing and learning about the exacting craft which we all love. Thank you.

CLASS NOVICE – CATEGORY HUMOROUS

First	Peter O'Shaughnessy	Eaton WA	<i>The Gun</i>
Second	John Dooley	Qld	<i>Today's Shopping Habits – or the Good Old Days</i>
Third	David Ellis	WA	<i>On Hot Weekends</i>
Highly Commended	Peter O'Shaughnessy	Eaton WA	<i>Old Bill</i>
Highly Commended	John Dooley	Qld	<i>To the Outback and Back – To Lite 'n' Easy</i>
Highly Commended	Peter Burke	Toodyay WA	<i>Corellas in a Toodyay Park</i>

JUDGES' COMMENTS RE NOVICE HUMOROUS CATEGORY

Humour is one of the most difficult areas of writing so congratulations to all who did well in this competition and to all who took part. There were some good yarns in the selection and some of the resultant poems would be fun to perform. The winning poem *The Gun* was a fine example of Aussie humour.

Congratulations to the winners and to all, the main thing is to enjoy what you do and to enjoy the process of working towards constantly improving both the writing and the oral presentation of your comic stories and experiences. We have enjoyed sharing your submissions. Thank you.

ABPA Judges – Brenda Joy, Gregory North and Robyn Sykes

CLASS OPEN – CATEGORY SERIOUS

First	David Campbell	<i>Sweetwater</i>
Second	Will Moody	<i>Driftwood</i>
Third	Irene Conner	<i>When the Wattle Turns to Gold</i>
Highly Commended	Irene Conner	<i>Re-birth</i>
Commended	Shelley Hansen	<i>On the Brink?</i>
Commended	Paulene Haggith	<i>Procrastinating</i>

JUDGES' COMMENTS RE OPEN SERIOUS CATEGORY

There was a wide range of subjects covered in this category where poems told stories, expressed beauty through, or put forward viewpoints on, poetry and aspects of modern living. As always, some poems showed great potential but were brought down by poor craftsmanship and, in some cases, a lack of care in presentation.

However, the top selection of poems were beautifully written demonstrating both skill and depth and those in the winning bracket were worthy of succeeding at this high level. The first and second placed poems were fractionally divided and the top four place getters stood apart for their lyric, poetic qualities and the moving flow of their language.

The winning poem, *Sweetwater*, where a universal concept of human pathos is placed unmistakably in an Australian environment, is full of the nostalgia and pain of the effect on a partner when the other declines through aging. The runner up, *Driftwood*, interweaves a story of individual love and life into a scene of the fragile interventions of Man and the endurance of Nature.

Congratulations to all who succeeded this time around and thank you to all entrants for sharing the out-pourings of your hearts and minds.

CLASS OPEN – CATEGORY HUMOROUS

First	Shelley Hansen	<i>Buy-Swap-Sell</i>
Second	Will Moody	<i>The Busker and the Bikies</i>
Third	Tom McIlveen	<i>Fishing for a Gucci</i>
Highly Commended	Shelley Hansen	<i>Boiled Eggs</i>
Highly Commended	Tom McIlveen	<i>The Breathalyser</i>
Commended	Glenny Palmer	<i>Bush Justice</i>

JUDGES' COMMENTS RE OPEN HUMOROUS CATEGORY

In this category there was not a lot of 'laugh out loud' poetry but there were, some poems which cleverly brought out the trials and traumas of both country and city life and of both past and modern eras and from these a good selection of worthy winners was possible. Examples are *Buy-Swap-Sell* which is an astute take on the modern throw-away, media-obsessed society and its engendered errors, while the comic twist at the end shows the writer's own 'supposed' entrapment in the lures. *The Busker and the Bikies* maintains comic tension by providing unusual interaction between people of diverse backgrounds.

The top ten poems were well written but some outside this bracket would have scored higher if they had not been marred by technical glitches or inappropriate subject matter. A poem may lend itself to performance at a poets' breakfast or other similar event, but for a competition of this caliber, it must also be a poem that is well written and complies with the high levels required for an ABPA Championship meant to showcase the best writing that poets of our era are producing.

To succeed, sometimes it is only a matter of taking more care in the final editing process and this is well worth the effort both to improve our own work and also to maintain the standards of our genre.

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WITH SECOND PLACINGS IN BOTH THE OPEN SERIOUS AND OPEN HUMOROUS CATEGORIES, THE 2017 ABPA AUSTRALIAN WRITTEN CHAMPION POET Will Moody of Bellingen, New South Wales.

ABPA Judges – Brenda Joy, Gregory North, and Robyn Sykes