

Results of the FAW Eastwood Hills Boree Log Award for Bush Verse
Judge: Brian Beesley

First Place

Wills Brenda Joy

Highly Commended

When Bobby Comes Marching Home Tom McIlveen

Bluey Tom McIlveen

Coal Mine Convict Brenda Joy

Commended

From Alice Springs Hugh Allan

Bushed Carol Heuchan

Eastwood/Hills FAW 2016 Annual Literary Competition Boree Log Award Judges' Report
Brian Beesley

It was a pleasure to judge the Boree Log competition for 2016. However, I do not believe the standard was as high as in previous years. Many entries lacked the discipline of maintaining correct rhythm and rhymes. Rhythm, or metre, is most important to keep the reader interested and captured by the rhythmic flow of the poem. Nothing will break the attention of the reader more than flaws in rhythm.

Obvious mistakes in rhyme patterns were most disappointing. Plural rhymes are not acceptable as in – bought/sorts. Assonance, which is the resemblance of sounds by the rhyming of vowels, or identical consonants with different vowels, is also not acceptable. Some authors gave up all together and failed to rhyme some lines at all. The English language does not lend itself easily to rhyme but it will work beautifully if the writer is prepared to put in the time and hone their work to the sharpest it can possibly be. I mention this because there are many poets writing good quality verse, so to achieve a place in competitions requires one to be conscious of their rhyme and metre.

However, the successful entries in this competition were worthy of their places, expressing humour, pathos and revealing slices of history.

The winning poem is a well crafted piece containing a subtle, unforced mid-line rhyme throughout, telling of little known historical events. This ballad may become published on the Australian Bush Poets Association website. I urge those who did not receive a mention in this competition to try to locate this poem to see the simple artistry of rhyme, metre and language that earned it first place.

Congratulations to the successful entrants. Thank you to all who entered but failed to gain a place, you obviously have a passion to write, so keep trying and keep learning.

Commended	<i>Bushed</i>	Carol Heuchan
Commended	<i>From Alice Springs</i>	Hugh Allan
Highly Commended	<i>Coal Mine Convict</i>	Brenda Joy
Highly Commended	<i>Bluey</i>	Tom McIlveen
Highly Commended	<i>When Bobby Comes Marching Home</i>	Tom McIlveen
First Place	<i>Wills</i>	Brenda Joy