

2025 ABPA National Bush Poetry Championship in Bathurst

In 2025 the National Bush Poetry Championships will be held in Bathurst. The dates for the championship are between the 6th and 9th of November 2025, with the two days of championship competition on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of November. The Nationals will include a written poetry competition for novices and open competitors called ‘A Bush Poets Swag’, with an open theme. A yarnspinning championship, a 1-minute poem competition, and a workshop, (at the National Motor Racing Museum) exploring excellence in bush poetry performance and writing offered with contributions from Carol Heuchan and Tim Sheed (ABPA President). As well, there will be walk up opportunities, a ‘Gathering’ event to launch the championship, a children’s competition, a performance evening where Mel and Susie and the Rhymer from Ryde will be performing and a formal ‘Poet’s Dinner’ on the Saturday night. The Championship will have a male and female section with each of the four standard sections for competition (Traditional, Modern, and self-written Serious and Humorous) but one overall Champion will be declared at the end of the weekend. The championship will also incorporate a novice section to accommodate those poets just starting out or not wishing to compete for the national title. Bathurst is a wonderful part of Australia, it is relatively central and therefore relatively easy to get to from north or south by train, bus, car or plane and it has a host of very suitable accommodation. The four-day event is well supported by local venues and the prize pool for the championship is estimated at \$4000 with cash prizes and trophies for all events. A draft program is offered below. Please consider coming along to take part in or simply enjoy the poetry and experience the hospitality of Bathurst.



Planned Program

Day	Date	Event	Location	Time
Thursday	6 th Nov	The Gathering (walk-ups)	Reckless Brewery	5.30 pm till late
Friday	7 th Nov	Poet’s Breakfast (walk-ups)	TBC	7.30 am – 9.30am
Friday	7 th Nov	Children’s Championship	***CSU (building 1292 / room 223).	10am – 1pm
Friday	7 th Nov	Workshop	**NMRM Conference Room	2pm – 4pm
Friday	7 th Nov	Poetry Performance and Yarnspinning	The Victoria Pub (Little Alberts)	6.30pm – till late
Saturday	8 th Nov	NBPC (Sections 1, 2, and 3)	Panther Club	9am – 5pm
Saturday	8 th Nov	Poet’s Dinner	TBC	6.30pm till late
Sunday	9 th Nov	1-Minute Comp	Panthers Club	9am- 10am
Sunday	9 th Nov	Novice section	Panthers Club	1030am - 1130
Sunday	9 th Nov	NBPC (Section 4)	Panthers Club	1130am – 1.30pm
Sunday	9 th Nov	Prize Giving/Awards	Panthers Club	1.45pm – 2.15pm

Times may be subject to slight change

**NMRM = National Motor Racing Museum

***CSU = Charles Sturt University

NBPC = National Bush Poetry Championship

Judges for poetry championship: The very experienced and most excellent -*The Rhymer from Ryde / Mel and Susie*.

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“See you at the nationals”