

2011 TAMWORTH, COUNTRY ENERGY GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS

by Jan Morris

At the 2011 Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, compere Dave Proust commented on the way this competition has been the launching pad for a great many of the top poets performing around Australia today. This year's competition proved to be no different, with an interesting mix of the old and the new and, in some cases, the "new" showed up some exciting new talent from performers we are bound to see a lot more of.

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group is very grateful for the support of so many of the "older" competitors of the past, who help out with compering, and even helping out with a difficult mike stand during the Heats (thanks Manfred). In particular, we would like to thank all those who helped promote our inaugural Children's Competition and to Geoffrey Graham and Noel Stallard, who made our one and only competitor feel like King of the Kids. We hope to try again next year and will be looking for everyone to spread the word and encourage the kids to enter. Congratulations to Jye Osborne of Moama NSW, who has the honour of being the first winner of the Country Energy Children's Bush Poetry Competition.

The winners for the 2011 Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition are:

TRADITIONAL OR ESTABLISHED WORKS

1ST NOEL BULL, Musk Vic

2ND BRENDA JOY, Coochiemudlo Island Qld

3RD PETER MACE, Empire Bay NSW

ORIGINAL SECTION

1ST GRAEME JOHNSON, West Ryde NSW

2ND JIM RICHES, Albany WA

3RD JOHN BEST, Mango Hill Qld

Thank you to the competitors who travelled from near and far, and especially to the Queenslanders, for whom just getting here must have been a supreme effort.

Jan Morris

NB, the Blackened Billy report will be forthcoming ... (Ed)