CAMOOWEAL DROVERS' REPORT

Once again, Camooweal came alive for the 2014 Drovers' Camp Festival with the camp, the town and the river vibrant with authentic outback activities and flowing over with travellers happy to join with the locals to celebrate the droving tradition and to welcome the drovers who contributed to Australia's unique cultural heritage. This year there were 40 of these veterans of the land to spin yarns and weave stories of their adventures in the wide open spaces before the times of cattle truck transportation.

Special this year was the unveiling of the commemorative statue of the drover and his horse which now graces the Barkly Highway -- the through road and the main street of this proud little border town. This principle route from Queensland to the Northern Territory is closed off for nearly 3 hours to allow the town to celebrate. Out here you get your priorities right.

Camp drafting, whip cracking, mail racing, street parade, a charity auction, craftsmen working in the memorabilia hall, art displays and stalls all intermingle with camp kitchen happy hours, pub music shows, the Saturday night outdoor concert and the talent quest of ballad, song, yarn spinning and of course bush poetry. It is a great place to be on the fourth weekend of August every year.

Brenda Joy

CAMOOWEAL DROVERS CAMP FESTIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

WRITTEN COMPETITION - 'The Bronze Spur Award'

1st Donald Crane, Toowoomba Bush Mother

2nd Shelley Hansen, Maryborough *The Legend of Tiny Tim*

3rd Brenda Joy, Charters Towers Endurance

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION - "The Drovers' Camp Talent Award'

Bush Poetry Section

1st Max Pringle, Narrabri, NSW

2nd Keith Douglas Jnr, Cloncurry, Qld.

3rd Maureen Luke, Townsville, Qld.

Yarn Spinning Section

1st Keith Douglas Jnr.

2nd Richard Manning, Perth WA

3rd Max Pringle

Song/Ballad Section

1st Jarrod Slater, Mt. Isa

2nd Earl Kyle, Mt. Isa

3rd Gospel Band, Lake Nash

OVERALL DROVERS' CAMP TALENT AWARD

1st Keith Douglas Jnr.

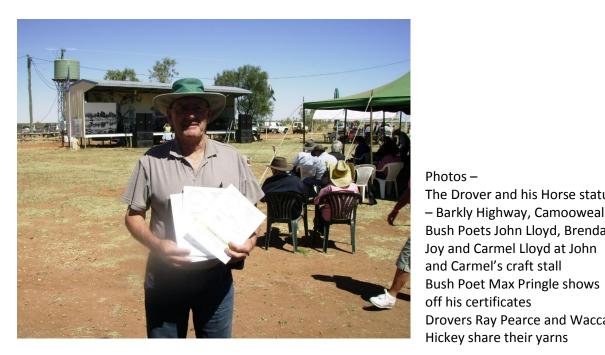
2nd Max Pringle

3rd Maureen Luke









Photos – The Drover and his Horse statue – Barkly Highway, Camooweal Bush Poets John Lloyd, Brenda Joy and Carmel Lloyd at John and Carmel's craft stall

off his certificates Drovers Ray Pearce and Wacca Hickey share their yarns