

Yass Show Wrap 2014

The sounds of shearing were replaced by rhyme, rhythm and a dash of music in the Shearing Pavilion at Yass Show on Sunday morning March 16.

A mix of juniors and adults, bush and contemporary poets gathered for an energetic and exciting morning of poetry. People from Sydney, Canberra, Junee, Canowindra, Tumut and more joined local poets for the performance poetry competition, presentation of the written awards and more.

On a chilly morning, local poets Leigh Brown and Robyn Sykes warmed the audience up with a couple of poems before the competition and awards began. At times the cattle being judged outside contributed their own poetry, which all added to the ambience of the event! The Bowling Club ladies also warmed up the audience with their bacon and egg rolls and tea and coffee.

Sue Pearce from Tumut won a very tightly contested performance section with her original poem 'Danny Boy'.

A strong contingent from Young made the trip to the Yass Show. Ted Webber took home second prize in the adult section and Jim Lamb put in a strong performance to confirm his rapid rise up the bush poetry ladder. At just 12 years of age, Reid Noyes took the crowd's breath away with his rendition of 'The Anzac on the Wall', by Jim Brown, and pocketed the junior winner's cash for his trouble.

In evidence of the popularity of bush poetry and the dedication of bush poets, the bush poetry written awards will be posted all over Australia, destined for Arthur Green from Queensland, David Campbell from Victoria and Terry Piggott from Western Australia. Luckily Roger Buckman was on hand to receive the local poet's encouragement award.

Harmonica-player-extraordinaire Jeff Brown treated the crowd to a few tunes to round off an exceptional morning.

Results of Yass Show Poetry Competition

Open written

1. Colin Campbell, just imagine
 2. Colin Campbell, leaving
 3. Greg Piko, We met in the valley
- HC: Greg Piko, Grown-grey eyes
HC Frank Daniel, Candle in the Dark
HC Will Moody, Diverging views in a free country
C David Campbell, Flight
C Neil Smith, Gap year
C PS Cottier, the changing soundscape of public space
Local poet: Greg Piko

Traditional (Bush) written

1. Arthur Green, Song of the Humpback Whales
 2. David Campbell, Floodtide
 3. Terry Piggott, The Old Brush Hut
- HC Will Moody, A Last Hurrah
HC Pauline Haggith, Alone
C Donald Crane, Bush Mother
C Warren Cox, Swagman
C Helen Harvey, Abandoned
Local Poet: Roger Buckman

Performance

1. Sue Pearce, Danny Boy
 2. Ted Webber, Face-to-Face
 3. Sally Williams, The Sag of the Action Bus
- Local poet: Rob Gorman, How the Fire Queen Crossed the Swamp, by Will Ogilvie.

Junior written

1. Finbar Gallagher, Sydney, Douglas Bader's Lost Leg
 2. Mikaela Allen, Bowning Public, Sunflowers
 3. Abbey Selwyn, Bowning Public, The Bush
- HC Selina Smith, Bowning Public, The Bloke who Learnt to Shoot
HC Jason Davis, Wee Jasper Public, The One-Eyed Bronc

Junior Performance

Reid Noyes, Young, The Anzac on the Wall by Jim Brown.

Judges Report 2014 Yass Show Traditional (Bush) Poetry Written Competition

It is a considerable responsibility that is undertaken when you are asked to judge a poetry competition. I spent many hours reading through all the poems that were submitted this year. It has been a joy to read the ones that have an original story line and are not just variations on the usual outback themes. The bush in 'Bush Poetry' has nothing to do with location, it merely indicates a style of writing. The standard used is set by the Australia Bush Poets Association (abpa.org.au)

Firstly I would like to congratulate all the entrants. It is heart warming to see so many people writing rhyming verse. There were more entries received than last year and generally the standard of writing seems to be getting better. There were five or six poems that stood out from the rest of the entries and with a little bit of advice, or reading up on assonance and metre, the rest of the writers could bring their poems up to the high technical standard that is needed to win these days. However not all poets are that interested in winning competitions and write for their own pleasure. So keep your pencils ready and write down those words when they come to you. Maybe next year it will be your poem that takes home the prize.

My final selection of 'Song of The Humpback Whale' was made after some deliberation. This poem is a great example of an enthralling story written with well executed rhyme and metre. The use of different fonts to demonstrate 'who' is speaking is also a guide to the reader. This poem was chosen for its originality as well as for the skill that the writer has demonstrated.

Thank you for sharing your poems with me. It has been a pleasure and a privilege being able to read them all.

Zondrae King