

THE COPPER CROC POETRY AWARDS 2016

RESULTS:

<u>WINNER:</u>	KELLY DIXON	(Milla Milla FNQ)	“His Mungindi Girl”
2nd Place:	Tom McIlveen	(Port Macquarie NSW)	“The Silence of The Lambs”
3rd Place:	Will Moody	(Bellingen NSW)	“Moonlight on Menindee”

(Introducing my new category ‘Very Highly Commended *Indeed*’ (‘VHCI’) for those who were just a whisker away from placing in the top three.)

<u>VHCI:</u>	David Campbell	(Airey’s Inlet VIC)	“Strangers”
	Brenda Joy	(Charters Towers QLD)	“Love In Love’s Ways”
	Carol Heuchan	(Cooranbong NSW)	“To Youth”

<u>VHC:</u>	Tom McIlveen	(Port Macquarie NSW)	“Bobby”
	Tom McIlveen	(Port Macquarie NSW)	“A Terrible Dream”
	Terry Piggott	(Lynwood WA)	“The Lady of The Lakes”

<u>HC:</u>	Will Moody	(Bellingen NSW)	“The Neck To Knee
Controversy”			
	Tom McIlveen	(Port Macquarie NSW)	“Bluey”
	Donald Crane	(Toowoomba Sth QLD)	“Westward Quest”

<u>Commended:</u>	Zondrae King	(East Corrimal NSW)	“A Boy’s Coo-ee”
	Caroline Tuohey	(Darlington Point NSW)	“The Night The Fairstar Sank At Warren”
	Jim Kent	(Port Fairy VIC)	“Memories Of a River Night”

WILD and WONDERFUL AUSTRALIA

<u>WINNER:</u>	SHELLEY HANSEN	(Maryborough QLD)	“Rich Beyond All Measure”
VHC:	Brenda Joy	(Charters Towers QLD)	“My Sacred Place”
	Tom McIlveen	(Port Macquarie NSW)	“Rainbow Serpent’s Legacy”

nb. I don't usually allocate secondary awards in this category, but these two entries were of such closely aligned skill to the winner, that I really wished to acknowledge them, with these Very Highly Commended awards.

Shelley Hansen has created an harmonious poem well worthy of her first prize in this category. She has lyrically demonstrated her love for our wild and wonderful country throughout, and has deftly woven her 'belonging' into its conclusion. Congratulations Shelley.

THE COPPER CROC POETRY AWARDS 2016

Judge's Report:

I am delighted to advise that there were 85 entries received into this year's competition. I thank each and every one of you for so generously supporting my little venture, and thereby further supporting the promotion of our much loved craft.

Because of the relatively high number of entries it was quite an intense exercise to select the three placegetters from the ultimate top ten. When these ten were shaved to six, I had a rather tough time to choose between them. I therefore created a brand new category "VHCI" (Very Highly Commended *Indeed*)...lol... to honour the three that weren't primarily placed, but who were so very close to succeeding.

I am also delighted to see a good number of new names in the entries, with quite a good level of skill. I must encourage these poets to 'keep on keeping on' as their work shows good promise, and could very well succeed in the future, given further study of their craft.

Overall, the standard of entries was very good indeed, with the common problem of mastering meter being the main detractor.

The second placegetter, the very aptly titled "The Silence of the Lambs" is a controversial piece, concerning child abuse and the clergy. It is impeccably structured in its forthright, yet innocent, direct dialogue between a child and his ecclesiastic governor. My congratulations to Tom McIlveen for this brave, social commentary.

I awarded the third placing to Will Moody for his clever blending of nature's lyricism with war's brutality; a difficult theme to master. "Moonlight on Menindee" delights the reader with some excellent metaphors; eg. "I'd sacrificed my youth to war, my innocence to Mars." Thank you for this very fine piece, Will.

The winning poem, "His Mungindi Girl" is a superb work, (obviously penned from first hand experience) with a narrative that very cleverly combines the harsh realities of droving life, with the tenderness of a new and enduring love. The storyline fluently absorbs the reader throughout, conveying the feeling of 'being there' and being involved in all of the well defined, brisk action, coupled with the softer, subtle heartache, that underscores the piece. The reader is readily introduced to the main characters, creating a somewhat personal relationship with them. I thoroughly enjoyed being taken along on this exhilarating, yet bittersweet outback journey, as I am sure every reader will be. I congratulate Kelly Dixon for his fine creation, and his ultimate first placing.

I thank you all again

Glenny Palmer.