

## **The Banjo Paterson Festival, 2024 in Orange.**

This year's events were carried out over 4-5 days, with many of the usual events scheduled over these days. The **Molong Poetry Brawl** on the Saturday night was a highlight with 16 competitors from across the region and beyond. The winner with a wonderful 1-minute poem was **Deb Butwell**. **Jim Lamb** came second, and **Ted Webber** came third. The gathering was very well attended, and a great night was had by all.

The poetry competition had a new written element this year with the **Open** section being won by **Kevin Pye** (Kevin also came third). The performance event was very well attended and was held on a beautiful day in the Orange Botanical Gardens. The quality of the poetry was high with juniors and novices making a great show of their work, with **Sybilla Chapman** winning the **Junior** section, **Elizabeth Wright** winning the **Novice** section and **Jim Lamb** winning the **Open** section. Judges used the new ABPA 'Rubic' and found it easy to use as it helped with speedy judging. A number of competitors also commented about the value of the detailed feedback they received. While there were only 12 competitors overall the event was enjoyed by a sizeable audience and held in a suitable and accommodating environment. Many of the other events of the festival involved poetry including the Cargo pub, the Ironbark pub, in Stuart town and walks ups at the botanical garden's coffee shop "Eat Botanic". Well done to all the competitors and participants at various events and thank you to everyone who made the events come to life.

David Stanley