

# *You are invited to be part of the 2023 Blackened Billy Verse Competition*

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Verse Writing Competition encourages writers to showcase rhyme and metre with literary mastery, to uphold the technical forms of the *bush poetry* genre. Accurate rhyme and consistent metre are base requirements of the craft. A command of cadence, accompanied by sharing of common experiences and language, has traditionally found resonance with humans. This competition rewards those who excel with flowing words of distinctive Australian flavour and feel.

Australian bush poetry practitioners help define ‘characteristics of our national psyche’  
*Russell Harrison, President of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee*

This competition is about adding more names to the list of renowned practitioners of bush poetry. For a chance to win one of the 13 Blackened Billy Verse Competition Awards, share your verse.

The 2023 Award Ceremony will be held during the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival in Orange, 17 – 26 February 2023. Plans are for a hybrid event - combining in-person and online attendance - on the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 February. In recent years, participants across Australia have enjoyed celebrating the Awards together via Zoom. Online attendance has provided wonderful engagement opportunities. We look forward to inviting poets to connect in Orange.

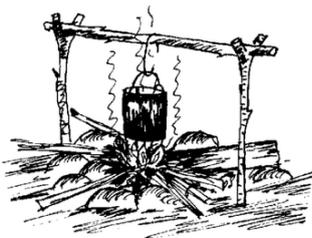
Prizemoney for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Blackened Billy has been increased to \$1000 First Prize. If the winner is on hand to receive their trophy on 22 February 2023, this prize will be doubled. For your chance to win, submit superbly crafted entries prior to 30 November 2022 closing date, via post or email.

Entrants may obtain feedback from the adjudication panel. Cost is \$10 per poem with at least 2 evaluations provided. Prior entrants have reported finding theirs to be helpful and encouraging.

Publication of future Tribute Books containing Blackened Billy Winners is likely. **Will you be in it?**

## *2023 Blackened Billy Verse Competition*

### **\$1500 Prize Pool \***



<b>First Prize</b>	<b>\$1000 * plus Trophy and Certificate</b>
<b>Second Prize</b>	<b>\$250 plus Certificate</b>
<b>Third Prize</b>	<b>\$150 plus Certificate</b>
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>5 x \$20 plus Certificate</b>
<b>Commended</b>	<b>5 x Certificate</b>

First Prize doubled if winner is on hand 22/2/2023 to receive their trophy.  
Promoter reserves the right to increase prizes in line with entry proceeds.

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries are to be rhymed and metered bush verse, relevant to Australia or Australians, featuring impeccable spelling and punctuation, appropriate language and providing evocative impact. Offensive language or themes are not permitted. **Accurate rhyme** and **consistent metre** are predominant requirements.
2. Entries must be the author's own work and not previously presented in the manner provided for consideration. It is preferred all entries are fresh to the Competition. Poems awarded a cash prize in the Blackened Billy Verse Competition are ineligible for entry in the subsequent years of the Competition.
3. Entries must not have won first prize in any written poetry competition by 8 February 2023. Competition organisers are to be advised promptly should an entry become ineligible. The entry fee will be refunded, or credited for later year, and the submitted entry withdrawn from the current Competition.
4. Entries are to be typed, on an A4 sized page, using 12-point clear typeface (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman), 1.5 line spacing. Poems are to sit naked beneath the title, with no adornment of frames, photos, underlining or other art visible on the page. For multi-page entries, a footer showing title on later pages, and 'page *x* of page *y*' on all is encouraged. While author name is not to be contained on the page, all rights will be upheld.
5. Rank Order Tally will be utilised to determine winning entries with a 3-person adjudication panel comprised of well qualified highly regarded poets, including winners of the Blackened Billy and other notable and prestigious competitions.
6. Entries may be forwarded by post (1 copy, on A4, printed on one side only), or electronically as a Word Document or PDF. The author's name must not appear on any page of submitted verse.
7. For the Entry to be deemed eligible, Submission of the poem, Entry form detail and Payment of relevant fees is required by Closing Date 30 November 2022. Entrants reserve the right to submit a revised iteration for entry prior to the Closing Date, though it is preferred such need for change is neither required nor habit.
8. Copyright is retained by the author. Copies of the Entries will be printed by the Promoter for the purpose of Competition Administration and Adjudication. Poems will not be returned except where Evaluation has been sought and the poem annotated by the judge(s). Entrants acknowledge the Promoters right to reproduce the winning poem, in support of the Blackened Billy Verse Competition, in both electronic and print forms, with due credit and without further compensation to the author.
9. There is no limit to the number of entries. **Electronic submission closes at midnight AEST on 30 November 2022. Postal entries must be postmarked on or before 20 November 2022.** (Postal entries close earlier due to delivery delays noted as being up to 2 weeks after sending.)
10. Winning entries will be announced, and prizes presented, on the afternoon of Wednesday 22 February as part of the 2023 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. Details of an Award Ceremony at Duntry League, in Orange NSW - with online attendance available to entrants and interested others - will be provided to all entrants in the leadup to the event.
11. Winners of First, Second and Third Place will be notified prior that one of their entries is in the top three. The Highly Commended and Commended Awards will be announced during the Ceremony with no prior notice provided to entrants. Full results of Award winners will be made public after the Ceremony.

Email your entries or enquiries to **Lux@blackenedbillyversecompetition.com**  
or post your entries and Entry Form to **BB2023, P O Box 644, Gladstone Qld 4680.**

*Please retain these terms and conditions for your records.*

# 2023 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Entries – *Maximum 3 per form. Use additional forms if required.*

*Critique/Evaluation  
Requested? (\$10 per poem)*

- |          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Entry Fee (\$10 per poem, or 3 for \$25)                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Critique Fee(s) \$10 per poem                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      TOTAL                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Reference (date, amount, Ref No.) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method    CHEQUE                      BRANCH DEPOSIT                      EFT DIRECT DEPOSIT                      (Circle one)

Payment Details : Account name - Blackened Billy    BSB 484799 A/c 609557083

***Please use your surname and initial(s) as the EFT or deposit reference and provide notification of your payment to the Competition's postal or email address shown beneath the Conditions of Entry.  
Entries will not be deemed eligible for the Competition until payment is confirmed as received.***

By entering the 2023 Blackened Billy Verse Competition, I confirm the submitted verse is entirely my own work. I understand I retain copyright, while the Promoter reserves the right to publish the winning poem, without payment to the author, in official print and electronic media related to the Competition. I understand I will be contacted for permission prior to any further publication, including future Blackened Billy Verse Competition Tribute Book editions.

## I agree to the Conditions of the Competition

Date \_\_\_\_\_                      **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

(To submit this page electronically, please forward a photo or scan of the signed page via email. Alternatively, submission of entry detail, sent from the entrant's email account, along with payment of the entry fees will be regarded as evidence of the Entrant's consent and compliance with the Conditions of Entry)

# 2023 Blackened Billy Verse Competition Assessment Guide

Elements to consider for Evaluation *Modified from base 2018 guidelines of ABPA Inc.*

Does the entry meet primary competition criteria of relevance to Australia or Australians?		YES	NO
<b>Metre</b>	Is the metre consistent throughout? ( <i>Rhythm set in first sequence of one or multiple lines is maintained without disruption to conclusion.</i> )		
	Do stanzas, or clusters of stanzas, conform to a pattern throughout? ( <i>Stanzas printed complete on a page is a modern preferred standard, though irrelevant for adjudication</i> )		
	Does the verse 'flow' naturally with coherent syntax that does not rely on inversion? ( <i>Sentences should resemble usual speech with an underlying rhythm near unnoticed</i> )		
	Is the metric scheme unusual, adventurous or inventive?		
<b>Rhyme</b>	Are rhymes accurate? ( <i>Review for accuracy noting a word cannot rhyme with itself.</i> )		
	Are rhymes unforced ( <i>i.e. all words stressed in usual spoken manner</i> ) and suitable?		
	Is the rhyming pattern unusual, distinctive or otherwise effectively notable?		
	Is the rhyming pattern meticulously maintained throughout the poem?		
<b>Construction</b>	Is the punctuation appropriate for sentence structure?		
	Is the standard of grammar acceptable and admirable?		
	Is the standard of spelling impeccable?		
<b>Language</b>	Is the language appropriate to the chosen topic and in common use for the time?		
	Do word choice length and alliteration, phrasing and diction enhance the verse?		
	Does the verse utilise imagery effectively to enhance sensory experience of reader?		
	Does choice of tonal mood language contribute to conjuring of emotional response?		
	Is reliance on cliches and words of others minimised, and offensive content avoided?		
<b>Overall</b>	Does the verse engage and maintain the reader's interest throughout?		
	Does the story flow logically - clear of factual or other errors - to satisfying conclusion?		
	Does the verse provide original or novel approach to the subject?		
	Does the verse provide intellectual impact and insight or other factors of merit?		

*Excerpt from a prior year Billy Evaluation - "Punctuation and spelling are faultless, and rhyme unforced. There is one plural word rhymed with a singular in the fifth stanza ('Choke/soaks'), and one very slight imperfect rhyme with 'jammed/land' in the final two lines. However, both of these are relatively minor technicalities and therefore only pointed out as something to note because they can sometimes make a difference between poems of equal quality in a written competition."*

NOTE – In 2022, near half the entries were ranked by at least one of the three adjudicators on the 2022 Competition panel. 14 verses were ranked by 3 judges, another 14 were ranked by 2, with a further 22 fine poems that caught the eye and were considered of merit by 1. A total of 13 poems are awarded by Billy annually. Other entries commonly contained at least 'one very slight imperfect rhyme' or singular disruption of established rhythm which would rightly feature in the adjudication mix of this bush poetry competition. These matters continue to be reported as relevant to the craft. There is a rich lode of contemporary bush poetry and certainly not all are able to be awarded by the Billy.

*2022 Entrant Response to Evaluation - "I would especially like to thank the Adjudicator for taking the time to write the critique for my poem. I greatly appreciate it and welcome your constructive criticism as well as the compliments. I work alone so your comments will help a great deal in polishing this poem further and will also aid when 'penning' future ones."*

## Blackened Billy Winners Timeline

Year	Competition	Poet	Poem Title
1991	1st	Bob Miller	The Aussie
1992	2nd	Neil Carroll	Warrego Jack's Galah
<b>1993</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Charlee Marshall</b>	<b>The Mosquito Trap</b>
1994	4th	Ron Stevens	Tourist Guide
1995	5th	Ron Stevens	Identity
1996	6th	Ellis Campbell	Remember Chubby?
1997	7th	Carmel Randle	Just an Isolated Case
1998	8th	Carmel Randle	One
1999	9th	Col Hadwell	Our Youth Our Future
2000	10th	Neil McArthur	The Colt from Old Regret
2001	11th	Glenny Palmer	Shades of Grey
2002	12th	Veronica Weal	The Spirits of the Outback
<b>2003</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>Joyce Gaul (prev. Alchin)</b>	<b>The Aussie Spirit</b>
2004	14th	Milton Taylor	The Saga of Cecil
2005	15th	Alec Raymer	The Guardians
2006	16th	Carol Heuchan	Why?
2007	17th	David Campbell	Hero
2008	18th	Dean Trevaskis	The Power of Kokoda
2009	19th	David Campbell	Desertion
2010	20th	Ellis Campbell	The Arsonist
2011	21st	Catherine Lee	A Bushman's Last Farewell
2012	22nd	David Campbell	A Father's Prayer
<b>2013</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>Milton Taylor</b>	<b>The Passing of a Legend</b>
2014	24th	Milton Taylor	Remember?
2015	25th	Brenda Joy	Where Poppies Bloom
2016	26th	Brenda Joy	Bond of Love
2017	27th	Trevor Shaw	Dentures to the Rescue
2018	28th	Catherine Lee	And did those Hooves
2019	29th	David Campbell	My Father's Voice
2020	30th	Catherine Lee	The Wanderers
2021	31st	Shelley Hansen	Bittersweet Harvest
2022	32nd	Irene Dalgety Timpone	Elegy
<b>2023</b>	<b>33rd</b>		



*Next update due 22/2/2023*