

You are invited to be part of the 2024 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

For the 34th consecutive year, this Annual Competition encourages showcasing of evocative literary mastery set upon the music of rhyme and metre. **Accurate** rhyme and **consistent** metre are **essential technical requirements** of the Australian *bush poetry* genre.

Command of cadence and repetition of rhyme, accompanied by shared experiences and language, has traditionally resonated with humans. In the days since Australia's First Poet Adam Lindsay Gordon proved the power of poetry was worth celebrating, many have strived similarly and provided powerful impact on public psyche.

This competition rewards elegant writing excellence as modern creators of 'Australian bush poetry' craft flowing words - with distinctive Australian flavour - to stimulate senses and stir human spirit. Billy's annual and enduring mission is to inspire modern inklings, and recognise them as renowned practitioners of bush poetry.

For a chance to win one of the 13 Blackened Billy Verse Competition Awards, share your verse.

The 2024 Award Ceremony will be held during the 11th Annual Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival in Orange, NSW. The Awards will be announced online, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 21 February 2024, with entrants and supporters able to engage and celebrate together, virtually, in real time.

The 34th Blackened Billy winner will be rewarded with \$1000, a First Prize Certificate and keepsake iconic Billy trophy, customised with the name of the poet and the title of the winning poem.

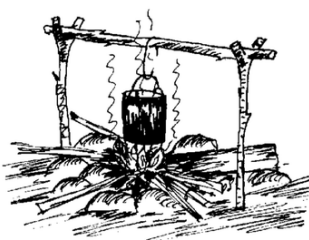
For your chance to win, submit your superbly crafted verse entries, via post or email, prior to the 30 November 2023 closing date. Entries are restricted to a maximum of 3 per poet.

*** Early bird prize draw – Enter by 14 November 2023 for your chance to WIN a \$300 Akubra Voucher

EVALUATION OPPORTUNITY

Entrants may obtain feedback from the adjudication panel. Cost is \$10 per poem with at least 2 evaluations provided. Prior entrants frequently report finding these both helpful and encouraging.

\$1500 Prize Pool



First Prize	\$1000 plus Trophy and Certificate
Second Prize	\$250 plus Certificate
Third Prize	\$150 plus Certificate
Highly Commended	5 x \$20 plus Certificate
Commended	5 x Certificate

2024 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries are to be rhymed and metered bush verse, relevant to modern Australia or Australians, featuring impeccable spelling and punctuation, appropriate language and evocative impact. Offensive language or themes are unwelcome. **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 prior Blackened Billy Verse Competitions are ineligible for future entry in this Competition.
3. Entries must not have been awarded first prize in any written poetry competition by 8 February 2024. 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 A4-sized page, using 12-point clear typeface (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman), 1.5 line spacing. Poems should sit naked on the page, with only the below footer detail and, if deemed warranted, a brief author's note permitted. Adornments of borders, art or other embellishments risk disqualification of entry as a potentially identifiable 'tell' indicative of author. For multi-page entries, a footer showing title on later pages and 'page x of page y' on all pages is required. A template is available on the website to assist.
5. Rank Order Tally will be utilised to determine winning entries and will be adjudicated upon by 3 highly regarded poets with reputable technical proficiency. The 2024 competition will be judged by 2 past winners of multiple notable and prestigious poetry writing competitions. The 3rd member is a published poet of renown, with a quality reputation developed from decades of experience creating - and performing - many contemporary and popular works.
6. Entries may be forwarded by post (1 copy, unstapled, 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 2023. Please note that revision of earlier entries, prior to the Closing Date, will require submission as a new entry.
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 unless Evaluation has been sought or constructive comment, or poems have been annotated by the judge(s). Such notes may be forwarded as support or suggestion for entrants to consider. Please advise if you would prefer to not receive uninvited adjudicator feedback. 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 a maximum limit of 3 entries per poet. **Electronic submission closes at midnight AEST on 30 November 2023. Postal entries need to be received by 30 November 2023.** (Delivery times vary and entrants should ensure they allow sufficient time for receipt in Gladstone Qld 4680 from their location)
10. Winning entries will be announced, and prizes presented, during a live online Ceremony on the afternoon of Wednesday 21 February during the 2024 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. Details will be emailed to entrants in the leadup to the event and made available on the website for supporters to join the fun.
Winners of First, Second and Third Place will be notified prior that one of their entries is in the top three. The First Placed poem will be read or recited, by either the poet or a proxy, after awarding. The Highly Commended and Commended Awards will be announced during the Ceremony. Full results of Award winners will be made public after the Ceremony and emailed directly to all entrants.

Email your entries or enquiries to **Lux@blackenedbillyversecompetition.com**
or post your entries and Entry Form to **BB2024, P O Box 644, Gladstone Qld 4680.**

Please retain these terms and conditions for your records.

2024 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Postal Address _____

Title of Entries – *Maximum 3 entries.*

*Evaluation
Requested
(\$10 each)* *Unsolicited
Feedback
(Y/N)*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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.
Entrants will receive a Confirmation of Entry after eligibility including payment is received.***

SIGN BELOW

By entering the 2024 Blackened Billy Verse Competition, I confirm the submitted verse is entirely my own work and complies with the Conditions of Entry. I understand I retain copyright, and that the Promoter reserves the right to publish the winning poem, in perpetuity, without further payment to the author, in official print and electronic media related to the Competition.

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)


2024 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
Metre	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>)		
Construction	Is the metric scheme unusual, adventurous or inventive?		
	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?		
	Is the punctuation appropriate for sentence structure?		
	Is the standard of grammar acceptable and admirable?		
	Is the standard of spelling impeccable?		
Language	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?		
Overall	Is reliance on cliches and words of others minimised, and offensive content avoided?		
	Does the verse engage and maintain the reader's interest throughout?		
	Does the story flow logically, without factual or other errors, to a satisfying conclusion?		
	Does the verse convey the subject with an original or novel approach?		
	Does the verse provide thought-provoking impact and insight or other factors of merit?		

Words on the 13 Awarded Works of BB2023 - Shown in no particular order, these snippets of Adjudicator comments were shared when the Award-winning works were announced in February 2023. Entrants may wish to consider relevance with regards to their particular poem(s) being crafted and considered as an entry of merit in BB2024. Note the 3 members of the competition adjudication panel differ annually.

Do not be afraid to use an exclamation mark; think of your poem as prose, like a newspaper article, and punctuate it as such; a moving poem with good imagery; well-crafted with a uniquely new approach; entertaining poem with a serious message; lovely and lyrical, beautifully written; artistic literary talent with excellent imagery and effective alliteration; quirky, unusual, refreshingly different; twist ending was commented on as clever by all 3 adjudicators; 'engaging poem of succinct form though a longer form would suit this particular competition' versus 'perhaps too long for today's readers'; language applauded for invoking haunting imagery; internal rhyme and unusual metric pattern won favour; enjoyed for its original storyline

EARLY BIRD Prize Draw	You could win a \$300 voucher!	
	1 chance per poem entry	
	IF RECEIVED BY 14/11/2023	

Blackened Billy Winners Timeline

Year	Competition	Poet	Poem Title
1991	1st	Bob Miller	The Aussie
1992	2nd	Neil Carroll	Warrego Jack's Galah
1993	3rd	Charlee Marshall	The Mosquito Trap
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
2003	13th	Joyce Gaul (prev. Alchin)	The Aussie Spirit
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
2013	23rd	Milton Taylor	The Passing of a Legend
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
2023	33rd	Tom McIlveen	Freddy 'K'
2024	34th		



Next update due 21/2/2024