2027 VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
8th-11th April
INFORMATION SHEET

Championships aim: "*To foster and encourage the growth of Bush Poetry (and yarns) in Australia."* Entries for all sections should be about Australia, Australians and/or the Australian way of life and have good rhyme and metre.

We are delighted to announce that in 2027 the **Victorian Bush Poetry Championships** will again be included within the MFSR program of events. The 2027 Championships continue to create history with a record **$8000** in total prizemoney (including trophies) on offer. As well as the usual **$4000** worth of prizemoney offered for the Written & Performance Sections there will be 3 separate **$1000** prizes offered as well. These will be for the **Overall Written Champion**, the **Overall Performance Champion** & the **Overall Grand Champion** (best combined aggregate score over both the Written & Performance sections). (**$1000** worth of trophies are presented as part of the total prizemoney figure quoted above).

ENTRY FEES & INFORMATION

Please ensure that you read the "Terms and Conditions of Entry" (herein) carefully and retain a copy for your records.
Judges for our 2027 Written and Performance sections will be **Senior judge**, Graeme Johnson (The Rhymer from Ryde-NSW), David Stanley (2025 NSW Overall Bush Poetry Champion) & Noel Bull (Golden Damper Champion).
Our **Featured Poets** for the weekend will be Geoffrey.W.Graham, David Stanley, The Rhymer from Ryde & Noel Bull.
We thank them, our Collators, Timekeepers and the rest of our team of volunteers for their dedication to making our event a success.
Pre-festival judging of entries will reveal three finalists to recite Banjo Paterson's epic, "*The Man from Snowy River"* at Banjo's Block on Friday evening the 9th April.
The **Written Serious, "Silver Brumby"** and **Humorous "Corryong Larrikin"** sections are judged before the festival. There are also awards for Novice competitors in both Written and Performance sections.
The **"Matilda"** and **"Clancy's Choice"** awards are presented for the Victorian Female & Male Performance Champions at the conclusion of the competition sections.
Entry forms can be found here: **www.bushfestival.com.au** **www.abpa.org.au/events.html**

Entries open: **Monday 2nd November 2026** **Entries close**: **Friday 26th February 2027**
Returning your entry: **Post hard copy written & performance entry forms to MFSR Poetry Entries, P.O. Box 655, West Ryde, NSW, 1685**. Unsigned or unpaid entries will not be accepted.
Entry Fees (for both sections) are to be paid by Direct Deposit to the **Man from Snowy River Bush Festival Income Account** at BSB: 633 000 Account No. 1536 14573 Reference Your Surname (& Poet)
$10.00 Entry Fee (per poem. Max 3 poems per person) for written sections 1& 2.
$10.00 Entry Fee One entry, per person, per section for performance sections 3-8.
$5.00 Entry Fee One entry, per person, per section for performance section 9.
Three judges will be used for sections 1-9. For performance sections 4-7, the time limit of 8 mins **includes** pre-amble. For section 8 (Yarnspinning) the time limit is 8 mins **excluding** pre-amble. For section 9 (Novice) the time limit of 5 mins **includes** pre-amble.

Judging sheets for sections 1-9 can be found at **www.abpa.org.au/events.html**

GENERAL SECTION INFORMATION

Bush Poetry must have rhyme, rhythm and metre.
Yarn-spinning is not a connected line of jokes, nor does it rhyme.
Parodies are ineligible for Open sections, but great for Novice, Poets' Breakfasts and Campfire sessions.
Offensive material will not be tolerated and could lead to your removal from the competition section, (without refund of entry fee) All material performed must be family orientated.

Poems and yarns which have won an Open Category at any Victorian State Championship or National Championship are ineligible to be performed by the same competitor in this State competition. However prior winning poems from the MFSR competition when held as Non-Victorian Championship are eligible for entry.

WRITTEN SECTIONS

SECTION 1 & 2: VBPC Written | Max 120 lines.

Typed, double spaced on 1 side A4 paper only. **3 copies of each poem with Cover Sheet**. **(Failure to provide 3 copies of each poem will lead to this this poem being disqualified from judging). (*NB*A "Cover Sheet" contains the poem section entered (i.e. humorous or serious) the poems name, the poem's line count, the authors name, address and phone number)**. **No name on actual poems please**. **Poets names on actual poems will lead to automatic disqualification**. Up to 3 poems per person @ $10 per entry per section. (Males & Females judged together).

The **"Silver Brumby", "Corryong Larrikin"** & Novice Written Champion titles will be determined by the highest aggregate scores over individual sections 1 & 2. If no Novice entrant ranks over both sections, then the Novice with the highest score from either section will be awarded the winner.

PERFORMANCE SECTIONS

Performance entries accepted in order of date received. Due to time restrictions imposed by the festivals programme **a strict limit of only 12 individual entries in each male & female section of sections numbered 4,5,6 & 7 will be accepted. (12 overall contestants will be accepted for Section 8 & 12 contestants will be accepted for Section 9).**

Sections 3, 8 & 9 Males & Females judged together. Sections 4-7 have separate Male & Female classes.

SECTION 3: Banjo's MFSR Recital

Enter your recording on sound file, mp3 or CD. Post **to MFSR Recital Poetry Entries, P.O. Box 655, West Ryde, NSW, 1685** or e-mail; **TheRhymerfromRyde@bigpond.com** by **26/2/27**.

3 Finalists will be notified by approximately 19th March 2027 to perform at Festival on Friday 9th April 2027. No name or preamble on the file.

Official version only of the poem will be accepted. It can be found at: **www.bushfestival.com.au**

SECTION 4: VBPC Open Classical Poem

Written before and including 1950. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 5: VBPC Open Original Serious Poem

Australian theme. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 6: VBPC Open Original Humorous poem

Australian theme. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 7: VBPC Open Modern Poem

Written since 1951 preferably with author consent. Max 8 mins (including preamble).

SECTION 8: VBPC Open Yarnspinning

Original or not. Max 8 mins (**no** preamble).

SECTION 9: Novice Poet

Any Australian rhyming metred poem, original or not. **Max 5 mins** (including preamble).

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

SECTION 10 Matilda: (Overall Female) Trophy (Decided on aggregate totals).

SECTION 11 Clancy's Choice: (Male). Trophy (Decided on aggregate totals).

There is no performance fee or finals competition for these awards, but to be eligible to win either award *the contestant must have entered all sections from 4-7.*

Competition Assessment Sheets & Entry Forms used in this competition may be found at **www.abpa.org.au/events.html**

OTHER AWARDS-One Minute Poem (Entries taken at Festival-Judged by audience).

The **Lawrie Sheridan, Senior & Jan Lewis Encouragement Awards** are awarded at the conclusion of competition sections on Sun 11th April 2027. (There are no entry forms needed for these sections).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Entrants should be prepared to provide a photo and personal details for publication if required.

All sections held on Thurs, Fri, Saturday & Sunday are at the Lions Youth Hall or 'Banjo's Block'. **The Judge's assessment sheets (for the performance sections) will be posted to contestants after the conclusion of the festival. The judge's assessment sheets for the TOP 10 written Humorous & Serious poems ONLY will be posted to contestants after the conclusion of the festival.**

Judge's decisions for both the Performance & Written sections of the competition are final and no correspondence will be entered into. **Harassment of any judge or official (by contestants) before, during or after the competition (whether said harassment be either verbal, written or electronic) will not be accepted or tolerated. Harassment of any sort will see the perpetrator banned from entering said Victorian Bush Poetry Championships for a period of 3 years!**

In light of the recent increase in AI generated text and documents and to guard against plagiarism in our 2027 Written Sections ALL WRITTEN ENTRIES will be run through the "Turnitin" programme App for our 2027 event to safeguard everybody concerned. Authors submitting entries for the 2 Written Sections of our competition in 2027 should be aware of this fact and accept this procedure as part of their entry process. By signing the 'Declaration' on page 2 of the "Adult Written Entry Form" authors are declaring that all written poems submitted are WHOLLY ORIGINAL IN CONTENT and contain no text generated by an AI programme or text plagiarised from other authors past or present. Work discovered to contain AI generated or plagiarised text will be AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED from our 2027 written competitions. (Entry fees will not be refunded under these circumstances).
Likewise any performance poem found to have originated from an AI generated written poem will also be AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED from our 2027 performance competitions. (Entry fees will not be refunded under these circumstances).

Poetry Enquiries; All enquiries to the **Poetry Co-Ordinator**, Graeme Johnson on **0419415137** or e-mail; **TheRhymerfromRyde@bigpond.com**
General Festival Enquiries: Contact Festival Office at P.O. Box 144, Corryong, VIC, 3707 or phone (02) 60761992 or e-mail; **events@bushfestival.com.au**

VOLUNTEERING

To volunteer at the MFSR Bush Poetry event you must complete a volunteer application form available on the festival website, **www.bushfestival.com.au**
Please ensure you select **POETRY** when completing the Volunteer Application.
Applications open: Ist September 2026. **Applications close:** 20th November 2026

NB All information contained in this document was correct at time of publication. Any changes to this document will be updated in newer versions of said document posted on the websites contained within it.