

MEDIA RELEASE

BUSH POETRY TRIBUTE TO LATE BOBBY MILLER

Bush poets of all ages will gather at the Stockman's Rest area at the RNA Showgrounds on Saturday, August 10, for the Ekka's National Bush Poetry Competition, sponsored by the Caravan Industry of Australia (Qld).

This year's event is being held in tribute to the late, much-loved, Bobby Miller, who compered the competition since its inception four years ago. Long time supporter and friend of Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, will take on the job this time round.

Head of the ABC's Regional Services, Colin Munro, will again act as Chief Judge, assisted by Gary Fogarty and Shirley Friend.

More than \$2,500 in prize money is available in both Traditional, Original and Junior categories. Contestants must appear in person to present their original works.

A special prize for humorous verse will again be awarded from the two main category presentations.

Chief Executive of the Queensland Caravan Industry, Ron Chapman, said he spent the entire day at Ekka's Bush Poetry last year and was delighted, not just with the standard and scope of the presentations, but with the way audiences reacted to the poets and poetry.

"It is entirely appropriate that in the Year of the Outback we are placing great emphasis on the culture of the bush and the good humoured satire of so much of this poetry, both traditional and original," Mr Chapman said.

"Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson were among the first to express the influence of the outback on the Australian psyche, but the great thing is that today we have a host of modern poets, including youngsters, who are keen to express the same feelings".

Bush poetry can also be heard in the Fleece Expo area adjacent to the Wool Pavilion in Alexandria Street.

Entry forms for the National Bush Poetry Competition are available by calling 3253 3923.
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For further information please call Nan Dwyer 3253 3923 or Mobile 0417 738 240