



5 March 2010

Tell your tale to win

If you've got a tale to tell and you're good at rhyme then your effort could win you up to \$150 in this year's Urban Country Music Festival bush poetry competition.

Burpengary-based bush poet Wally "The Bear" Finch, who is one of the organisers of this year's competition, said contemporary Australian stories were ideal sources of inspiration.

"There's no set theme this year, but we'd like to see some entries about the here-and-now and it wouldn't hurt to lean towards comedy," he said.

"Last year we had a lot of entries which drew on historical events. That's great, but remember that the Man from Snowy River has already been written. My advice would be don't copy what has been done in the past, come up with something original."

Wally said persistence could pay with bush poetry and that previous entrants who hadn't won should not be discouraged from trying again.

"We get a very high standard of poetry in this competition, and there often isn't much between the top 10 entrants. If you didn't win previously, take out that poem, dust it off, review it, fix it up if it needs fixing and try again.

"Just make sure your poem follows the basic bush poetry rules with attention to rhyme and meter."

Wally said getting the meter right was something that people new to bush poetry often found difficult to master.

"Read your poem aloud. Then give it to someone else to read. If the meter isn't working you'll soon hear it," he said.

The Urban Country Music Festival's bush poetry competition is open to all ages with both local and interstate entrants encouraged.

Entry forms are available through the Urban Country website at www.urbancountry.com.au and poems must be submitted by Friday, April 16.

Winners of the competition will be asked to read their poems at the bush Poets Corner in Town Square on Sunday, May 2.

Entry is free for the Junior category (for poets under 16) and the junior winner will take home \$75, while second prize is \$40.

The open section for poets 16 years and over costs \$2.50 per poem with a maximum of four poems allowed. First prize is \$150 with \$75 offered for second place and an Angus & Robertson book offered as an encouragement award.

This year's Urban Country Music Festival, from April 30 to May 3, features four jam-packed days of entertainment and activities including free concerts, whip cracking, markets, a talent search, a Beaut Ute Show and heaps more. Most activities are free.

The festival, organised by Moreton Bay Regional Council, is supported by major sponsors the Caboolture Shire Herald and Grand Prix Mazda.

For further details please see the festival's website at www.urbancountry.com.au or phone the festival hotline on 1800 810 400.

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