



April 8th - 11th 2010

..Where Legends Perform

JUNIOR BUSH POETRY IN SCHOOLS

28th January, 2010

Attention English and Literacy teachers and Librarians

This project is an initiative of “Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Story Tellers” (TOMPABS) who help organise Poetry & Music section of the bush festival. We would like to see Australian Bush Poetry (rhyme and rhythm or metred verse) become a part of the English curriculum. For the last two years local primary and secondary participated in ‘**Poetry in schools**’. Students were encouraged to read, perform and write Australian Bush Poetry, which is our heritage. TOMPABS members were delighted with the response from teachers, children and from the parents who supported their children and drove them to Tintaldra for competition.

We also encouraged juniors to enter the *Man from Snowy River Bush Festival* competition. There are Written and Performance sections for all ages, from preps to under 18 with cash prizes and certificates for every participant in all sections. All members of the community are invited to attend the Junior Performance competition which will be held on Sunday 11th April outside on Banjo’s Block or inside the Lions’ Youth Hall, cnr. Strezlecki Way & Donaldson Streets, Corryong. Juniors can also perform amongst adults at Poets’ Breakfasts Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning at Banjo’s Block.

As the festival will be held in the middle of the school holidays, we realise it will be impossible to collaborate with teachers for a similar successful Thursday afternoon Junior competition as 2009, however, we hope you will assist us in helping to keep children’s enthusiasm for Bush Poetry alive.

Bush Poetry has great value as a learning tool, because it..

- 1) stimulates imagination
- 2) improves vocabulary and spelling
- 3) improves reading and memory skills
- 4) when performed, Bush Poetry promotes self esteem and confidence
- 5) helps keep Australia’s heritage alive

Betty Walton & others have offered to come to local schools for a poetry work shop, (in class time or lunchtime) so ring Betty on 0260779201 or myself on 0260774332.

Australian bush poetry is enjoying resurgence throughout Australia, not only in poetry groups but also among young people and school groups. We have a perfect bush festival reason to foster this interest in “the Man from Snowy River” country.

Enclosed is the entry form & rules for the written and performance competition. These can be downloaded from the www.bushfestival.com.au website, or ring the festival office to ask for emailed or printed copies.

Entries close on 12th March and should be posted/handed to Jan Lewis, c/o MFSR Festival Office, Post Office, Corryong 3707 (with \$1 fee per entry). ‘Tips for Teachers’ are also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Lewis, **Voluntary Event Manager of Poetry & Music events.**



POETRY IN SCHOOLS – Tips for teachers

It would be wonderful if students could be encouraged to be enthusiastic about Bush Poetry by school staff, by.....

- 1) making Australian poetry books/poems available during library and reading times
- 2) encourage students to read or perform poems at assembly with award certificates
- 3) teachers read either a traditional or contemporary Australian bush poem each day
- 4) encourage students to act poems while being read; such as Waltzing Matilda
- 5) encourage students to enter the MFSR bush festival Poetry & Music competition
Present entry forms so students and parents are aware of the closing date for entries
(Ring festival office 0260761992 for emailed copies or printed copies)
- 6) encourage students to find the entry forms on the www.bushfestival.com.au website
- 7) Radio Upper Murray is very happy for students to perform live, or record for the radio. Ring Betty to arrange this.
- 8) After entries close Friday, 12th March 2010, focus on improving performance skills
Please contact Betty Walton on 0260779201 to arrange times for her to visit local schools for a Poetry workshop (even during lunchtime).

enclosed are copies of the Entry form and rules for Junior Poetry competition.

Many thanks

Jan Lewis