

Australian Railways Contemporary Song and Poem Competition 2009

The Rail Tram and Bus Union Award for Poets and Songwriters

Contemporary Railway Themes.

The Rail Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Award for Poets and Songwriters continues a tradition that has been associated with Australian Railways for over 150 years.

From convict days when human power was used to propel railway carriages at Port Arthur, to early steam rail openings, through two depressions, a general strike, two world wars and changing technologies, railway workers and those who used Australian railways have endured the good and the bad. While doing so they have often reflected upon the times with music, songs, poems, tall stories and other art forms.

The collecting of this valuable social record of Australian Railways continues in the union movement and Australia's Heritage and Folk organisations. The RTBU is seeking an original songs or poems that reflects on any aspect of Australian Railways today.

Australian Railways never seem to be out of the daily news with issues that affect our daily life. Songwriters and poets wishing to join the ongoing recording of events that surround one of our major industries are encouraged to use one of these many issues as a theme for their entry.

These subjects include such topics as: What role railways could play in lowering the impact of carbon on the environment, the need for new railway infrastructure, fast trains and the advantage of general public railway services over the car.. Writers employed in the railway industry on the other hand may want to focus on such things as industrial relations associated with their employment conditions in this era or the effects of the economic crisis that in part has been brought about by the excessive privatisation of sections of the public transport industry as a means of maximising profit at the tax payer expense.

The Award

The RTBU is providing \$1000 as a prize for the winning entry. However the award for the winner and other entries provides much more in the form of wide public exposure of the winning song or poem, and the artist (or artists.) through RTBU publications and our association with other organisations in Australia and Internationally

Entry Rules

1. Entry is by submitting together a C.D.recording and lyric sheet of the song, or a typed poem, with a completed entry form. Entries will be acknowledged on receipt.
2. Entry is free but restricted to ONE song or poem per writer.
3. Up to ten finalists will be selected to perform their entry at a special concert during annual Werris Creek Railway Festival in October 2009 (or another appropriate venue) to finalise the competition. Local entries for the best railway song or poem will also be a feature of several other poetry and music festivals, either as workshops or concert performance between January 2009 and October 2009. With the winning act being presented to the International Railway Heritage Event in Brisbane November 2009.
4. Closing date for entries is Friday, 4th September, 2009

5. The entry must:
 - a) be an original work written by the entering composer(s). One song only per songwriter or poet may be entered.
 - b) not have been previously published in any form, nor awarded a prize in a songwriting or poetry competition. (Writers however are invited to register previously published works for consideration in a book of Australian Railway songs and poems that is being considered by the RTBU. and for archival purposes All copyright conditions apply.)
 - c) use an original tune, or a traditional tune, and this must be stated on the entry form.
 - d) be no longer than 4 minutes.
 - e) if a song, is recorded for judging it have a maximum of two voices and one instrument with no double tracking. Poets may also submit a recorded presentation of their poem.
 - f) enclose a C.D. and an A4 typed / printed lyric sheet - both containing only the song or poem.
 - g) be performed (without changes) at the final, if selected. A maximum of two singers and one musician will be used. Song entries will be presented simply, because the song writing is being judged, and not the arrangements. However, concert organisers at major festivals may welcome full-on arrangement by groups and individuals. Please check with them.
6. Judges may consider the content of poems, lyrics of songs, melody, audience appeal, sing ability, social relevance, message, emotional qualities and general compliance with the guidelines and rules. Failure to comply with rules must result in disqualification. Please triple check all points in Rule 5. The judges' decision will be final and not open to any discussion.
7. The entrant gives the Rail Tram and Bus Union the right to publish and record the song for use in its journal, web site and exhibition. The entrant will confirm the holding of copyright to the work for all other purposes by marking the entry XXXXX. Normal copyright will apply in any negotiations for the recording of songs and poems or any other use (eg. in a book of Australian Railway songs and poems published by the RTBU).
8. Entries in the Australian Railway Contemporary Song and Poem Competition will be past on to the Werris Creek Railway Museum for archiving unless a sufficiently stamped, addressed packet is supplied for their return or no request for their return is made
9. Entry implies acceptance of these Entry Rules and the conduct of the event.

The Australian Railway Contemporary Song and Poem Competition ENTRY FORM

Entry Title: _____

Approximate Length: _____

Original words: YES NO

Original music: YES NO

Name: _____

Address: _____ P/Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I agree to the Entry Rules and my entry complies with these rules. I indemnify the organisers against any claim or loss that may appear to arise from any non-compliance with copyright laws. These rules are as revised on July 19, 1999, and supersede all previous rules. I give my permission to the festival to record and publish my song for promotional and archival purposes and confirm that copyright for all other reasons remains with me.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Final check list:

- Typed words / lyrics, title only, single side A4
- C.D recording, title only
- Stamped addressed return envelope
- Completed and signed entry form

Send entries to: Song / Poem Competition, RTBU National Office,
83-89 Renwick St, REDFERN NSW 2016.

Ph: 02 9310 3966