



2025 TAMWORTH BUSH BALLAD AWARDS CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND CRITERIA

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Eligibility period of material released is from 1 January 2024 to 30 March 2025.

Awards entry will open 1 February 2025 and close 30 March 2025.

Late entries will not be accepted.

Male and Female Balladeer of the Year

To be judged on one song with regard to the artist's overall performance, quality of lyrics, and recording.

Songwriter Balladeer of the Year

Must be Australian story content. Lyrics to be supplied with entry.

Instrumental Balladeer of the Year

The entrant's instrumental work must be a prominent part of the recorded track and must musically be recognised as a bush ballad.

Australian Ballad Of the Year

Must be an Australian story. To be judged on artist's overall performance, quality of lyrics and recording.

Australian Ballad of the Year entries do not fall under the same criteria as the bush ballad musically, however, must have a traditional, Australian feel, ie not country folk, rock or rap etcetera.

Best New Talent Balladeer or Encouragement Award

To be judged on performances during the qualifying period. Attitude and future potential in the industry will also be taken into account. This award is not by nomination.

Recognition Award For Bush Balladeer Of the Year

The recipient of this award is not determined by nomination but will be selected by a panel of expert judges in the bush ballad field. This award is judged over a two-year period on several fronts and reflects the artist's overall performance and commitment to the bush ballad genre. It will also take into consideration quality of work, amount of touring and any special events or projects undertaken which support the genre and the industry example organisation of festivals and concerts that assist all artists and encourages up-and-coming artists.

CRITERIA AND RULES (Courtesy of the CMAA)

A bush ballad is a lyrical narrative that describes the places, people, events and/or attitudes of the Australian bush. It must be presented in a traditional manner which exhibits an understanding of the genre's musical and cultural values in the style established by Australia's pioneer performers. It may combine lyrics previously published as poems or ballads with new music or vice versa, creating a substantially new song. The Bush Ballad of the Year shall be judged on the submitted recording, whether or not the performer is a recognised balladeer.

Note: Please ensure that, before entering a song in this category, you carefully read and understand the criteria above and the following explanation.

A bush ballad entry must be clearly related in lyrics, form, content, musical arrangement, instrumentation and presentation to the traditional roots of Australian country music as exemplified by pioneers and other early performers.

- All entries to be submitted to the online entry platform, Song Central Pty Ltd.
- Entry fee of \$20 per category.
- Entrants must be an Australian citizen.
- Entries must be of a commercial standard.
- A maximum of one song to be entered per category. A track can be entered in more than one category, if applicable.
- Entries must include entrant name, contact details, track title, songwriter/s, MP3 and lyrics.
- All entries must be of commercial standard.
- Material entered must be written by an Australian songwriter/s as the bush ballad is our Australian genre. The entered track must be a new recording and original Australian new work and commercially released for the first time during the eligibility period. It must not be a cover version or a re-recording of previously recorded material. Material must be commercially released by 1) cd album; 2) part of a compilation cd; 3) ep; 4) single; 5) digital platform eg iTunes, Spotify or media release platform eg Blue Shamrock, CRS etcetera.

- Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), in any manner, in the material entered, is not allowable.
- A number of qualified, specialist judges will be appointed to the judging panel whose decisions will be final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into the results of the awards. Judging will be strictly confidential. Any entrant in an award category will not be a judge in that category.
- Offensive material or language will not be accepted and entries not eligible for an award.
- By entering this contest, the entrant accepts the rules and conditions of the Tamworth Bush Ballad Awards.
- Three finalists will be announced in each category and will receive two complimentary tickets to the awards.
- The winner of each category will receive a uniquely crafted Tamworth Bush Ballad Awards trophy and runners up will receive a framed certificate.
- Finalists will be announced 1 May 2025 via the [Hats Off To Country website](#) and on social media and are encouraged to be present at the Tamworth Bush Ballad Awards concert in Tamworth on Saturday 12 July 2025.