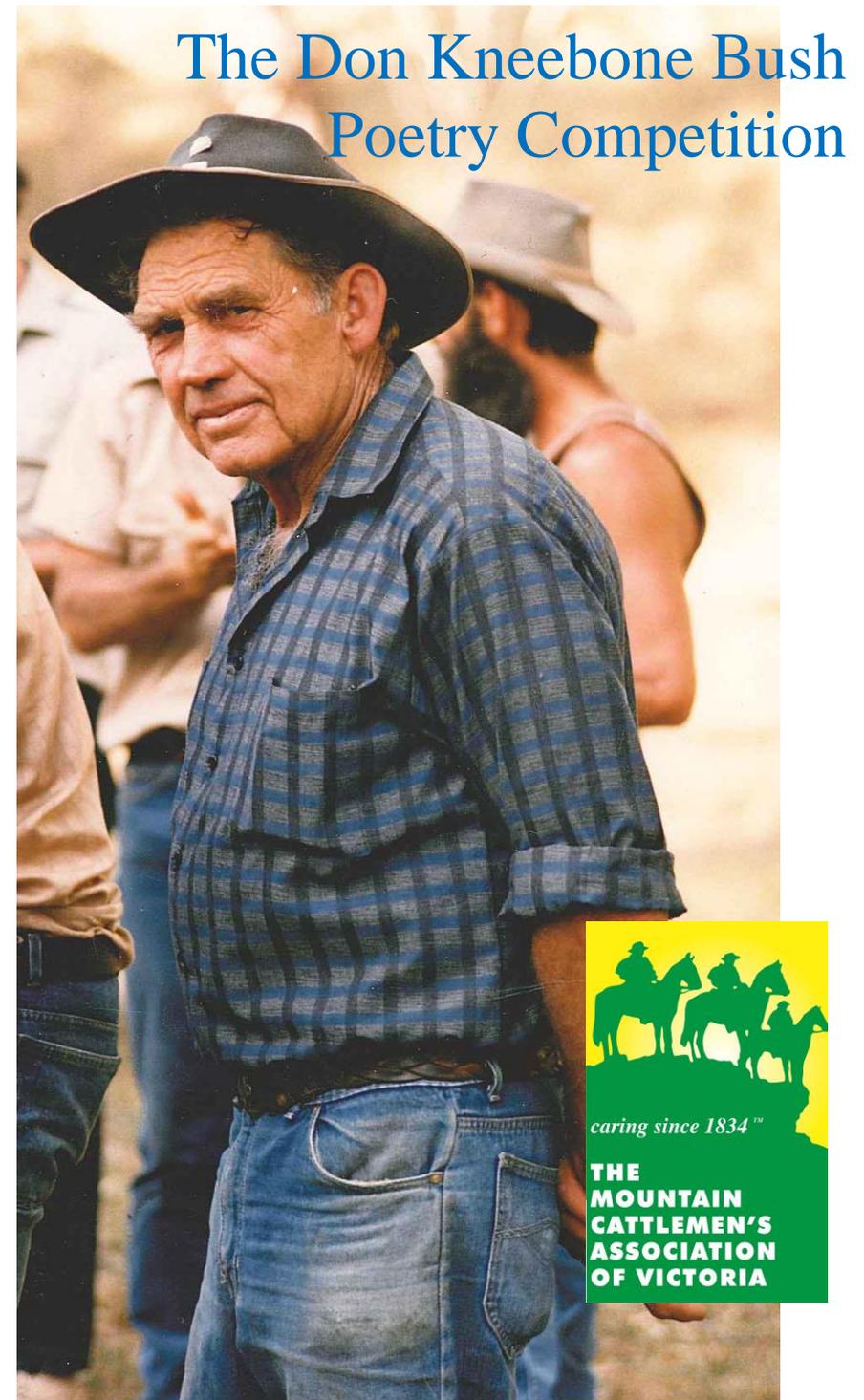# THE COMPETITION

The Don Kneebone Bush Poetry Competition is open to performers of Bush Poems & Bush Songs.

Judging criteria is favorable to themes based on of the Mountain Cattlemen and their cause. All entries must be original work (except the JT Traditional). Presentations may be delivered with props, yet it is preferred if entries are performed from memory.

The 'Don Kneebone' at the MCAV Get-Together consists of the following separate sections:

1. **The Don Kneebone (amateur bush poet)** is a performance competition and the entry must be original. The poem/song is permitted to be read and Bush Poets/Singers can only win the Don Kneebone once.
2. **The (Don Kneebone runner up)** is for the runner up of the Don Kneebone.
3. **The Bill Hicks Bush Minstrel (established bush poet)** is a performance competition, but is only eligible to be won by past Kneebone winners or professional Bush Poets/Singers.
4. **The Peter McCormack Bush Laureate (written entry)** is a written competition.
5. **The Jack Treasure Traditional** performance, Traditional Bush Poetry
6. **The Jim Commins Judges Choice**. Where Judges may award a good performance which may not fit other categories.
7. **The Laurence Webb Junior Award** - Juniors are defined as 16 years and under and are eligible for each category with the exception of the Bill Hicks Bush Minstrel – unless they have won the Don Kneebone.

Further information at
www.mcav.com.au

The Don Kneebone Bush Poetry Competition

caring since 1834 ™

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Who are they?

Don Kneebone
Farmer, bushy, witty thinker and performance poet, Don Kneebone is the inspiration for the Mountain Cattleman's Bush Poetry competition at each Get Together.

Jack Treasure
First president of the MCAV; was the founder of the concept for the Get Togethers. Jack came from Dargo and was a self-published poet.

Bill Hicks
A Dederang Cattleman, he was known as an honourable man who had an amazing ability with and love of horses and was admired for his clear incisive reasoning and retentive memory.

Peter McCormack
A kindly man from Merrijig, farmer and grazier who was everybody's friend and an untiring worker in his community.

Jim Commins
A farmer and grazier who devoted himself for 20 years to the MCAV. He was president during the tumultuous years of the fight to retain High Country Cattlemen's runs during the creation of the Alpine National Park.

Laurence Webb
A city bloke, a self published poet and an encourager of young people, Laurence has also ridden in the High Country with McCormack's and Stoney's.

The Don Kneebone Story

Don Kneebone was a talented Bush Poet who walked in the footsteps of Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson. A founding member of Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria, Don would recite his descriptive verse on cattle drives, at cattle sales and in the hotel after the sales. Don also performed his poetry at many schools throughout Victoria in order to encourage poetry as a form of both expression and entertainment, but also to promote the Cattleman's cause.

Don Kneebone was born at Beechworth in September 1922. One of a family of ten, he went to school at Whorouly. His Grandfather, Albert Kneebone, was the first white child born in the Ovens Valley. From his early teens he handled mountain cattle, becoming familiar with Alpine grazing from Mount Bogong to Mansfield. A noted bushman, he also had a passion to work Clydesdale teams.

As a poet he was inspired during long rides through his beloved bush, to write and describe the mountains with vivid powers of observation and a remarkable memory.

Don Kneebone passed away in 1991; the recording of his poetry and his book 'Where the Giant Eucalyptus grow & Other Verse' was produced into print and vinyl with the backing of supporters.

The MCAV and supporters keep the history, tradition and custom of the Mountain Cattlemen and all things dinky di Australian. We take our hats off to Don Kneebone. He is remembered at every Get-Together with the celebration of the Don Kneebone Award which encourages poets to perpetuate their work.

Please continue to support this important link with our past.