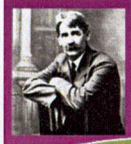
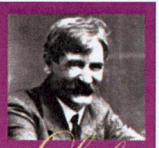


HENRY LAWSON MEMORIAL & LITERARY SOCIETY INC.

(A0025176D)



Lawson. Literature. Life.

PRESS RELEASE **24 September 2017**

BARRY COLLIER TAKES OUT PRESTIGIOUS HENRY LAWSON AWARD

Sydney poet Barry Collier has been awarded first prize for the Free Verse poetry section of the 2017 Henry Lawson National Literary Awards.

Barry's poem *Millennium Drought* was selected by well-known Australian poet David Campbell (who judged both traditional and free verse poetry sections). Terry Maher judged short story entries.

Millennium Drought was chosen from the many entries for free verse, with awards for all three sections of the competition presented in Melbourne on 16 September.

Poetry judge David Campbell says he was impressed by the calibre of entries in this year's Henry Lawson literary awards. "What generally made the winning poems stand out was the language ....turns of phrase or metaphors that brought images vividly to life or caught an emotion in just a few words."

"*Millennium Drought* poignantly illustrates a grim, haunting scenario that is all too familiar in drought-stricken areas of Australia – the toil of generations comes to nothing as a family's property falls to 'the bankers with their high-priced silks'."

On hearing of his award, Barry was elated. "As one who has never previously had a winning poem, I am delighted to have been awarded my *first first* by the prestigious Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society. I congratulate the Society on its National Competition and for its work in keeping the spirit of Henry very much alive, nearly a century on."

Other place getters in Free Verse section included Penny Lane (Nelson Bay NSW) for *A different now*, and Roger Vickery (Freshwater NSW) for *Ghost Morse*.

A full list of prize winners in all three sections is available on the Henry Lawson Society website http://henrylawsonsociety.org/