



“JOHN BOURNE - Australian All Over”

Perpetual Trophy, donated by Ian McNamara.



“BILL SCOTT - Australian All Over”

Perpetual Trophy, donated by Ian McNamara.

BEST JAM DROPS

1996	Sharon McNamara	2011	Manny Sorley
1997	Marilyn Caldwell	2012	Rebecca Pope
1998	Pat Smith	2013	Phillipa Fletcher
1999	Lesley Sorley	2014	Manny Sorley
2000	Cathy Jackson	2015	Manny Sorley
2001	Manny Sorley	2016	Manny Sorley
2002	Carol Sorley	2017	Manny Sorley
2003	Manny Sorley	2018	Jill Facer
2004	Kay McKinlay	2019	Manny Sorley
2005	Manny Sorley	2020	Manny Sorley
2006	Manny Sorley	2021	Houston Schwerin
2007	Manny Sorley	2022	Rachelle Ryan
2008	Manny Sorley	2023	Sharon McNamara
2009	Manny Sorley	2024	
2010	Helen McKee		

**Bell's winning jam drops hit
Malcolm Turnbull's sweet spot**
www.newsregionalmedia.com.au 2017

The Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Turnbull surprised residents by attending the 59th Bell Show on Saturday afternoon. There he was presented with some of Ms Sorley's winning jam drops.



BEST JAM DROPS BY A SCHOOL STUDENT

2006	Cory Cooper
2007	Kristen Fisher
2008	Will McGregor
2009	Kristen Fisher
2010	Will McGregor
2011	Kristen Fisher
2012	Jamie Hine
2013	William Green
2014	Will McGregor
2015	Imogen Staunton
2016	Aleesil Sanewski
2017	Sarah Morrow
2018	Sarah Morrow
2019	Abigail Ryan
2020	Anita Jones
2021	Abigail Ryan
2022	Mia Ryan
2023	Zoe Brooks
2024	

Apron's off in jam drop war
www.warwickdailynews.com.au 2011

The township of Bell has long claimed to be the national epicentre for jam drop cooks.

Each year the biscuit baking section of the annual Bell Show is flooded with entries from across the country and around the globe.

Bell Show secretary Pat Tynan writes on one of her town's jam drop featured postcards:

“We have the recipes, the expertise, the reputation and the postcards to prove Bell is the jam drop capital of Australia.”

JAM BELL DROPS.

Way up in a little Queensland town,
They're becoming quite renown.
There's a special contest at Bell Show,
The best cook, they want to know.
You are asked to make Jam Bell Drops,
Just your four best and leave home the flops,
But, be prepared for hard yakka,
Cause a critic that hears it all, is good old Macka.

A generous teaspoonful, you'll need to roll,
Into a ball. so keep in control.
Make sure your smoothing efforts, aren't lacking,
They're aiming at Jam Drops, with no sign of cracking.
You can use, whatever you may choose,
For that circular depression, but, no jam must ooze.
It's the Judge's dream, for a neat jam cap,
But, when they break them, no crumbling on their lap!

So, as you bake your special batch,
You'll guard them, as if, a chicken trying to hatch.
Fired to perfection, with just a touch of gold,
No bumps or holes, as the Judge, takes up to hold.
They'll appreciate same colour, top, bottom and sides,
With a nicely domed shape, besides.
Now, you've probably heard before,
There's a common cooking law.

Find a good and tried recipe,
And the benefits, you will clearly see.
Be prepared to practise,
Don't fret, if the first lot is cactus.
Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day,
And your hard work and efforts will pay.
Now, as you go about your task,
Lovely Jam Bell Drops, is all that we ask.

May Bell's sound be clearly repeated,
Summoning cooks, not lightly defeated.
With their Show Bench, jam packed,
Hundreds of tiny drops, highly stacked,
So, give it a go, you just never know,
You, could be the winner, at Bell Show,
Good luck, as this Bell tolls, anew,
Ringing in, that elusive, First Prize for you!

Written by Rosemary Mowat,
Stradbroke,
Victoria.
2004..

From a Judge's point of view.

"JOHN BOURNE - Australian All Over"

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OPEN DIVISION

Jam Drops, (4) red jam only.

1st \$25 donated Bell Show Society.

2nd \$20 donated by Bell Show Society.



2023 winners will receive an
"Australia All Over" T-shirt

Thanks Macca

"BILL SCOTT - Australian All Over"

Perpetual Trophy, donated by Ian McNamara.

BEST JAM DROPS BY A SCHOOL STUDENT

Jam Drops, (4) red jam only.

1st \$20 donated Bell State School P&C Assn.

2nd \$10 donated by Bell State School P&C Assn.

Good Luck
Rosemary
2005

ODE TO THE JAM DROP COMPETITION

Listening to Macca I heard of your quest
To find the jam drops that are simply the best
A recipe I had to find, and set out to bake
But I was faced with this quandary
Which one should I make?
There was one of my Mothers'
A recipe tried and true
Then there was one from my Aunty
Oh, what should I do?

So, after a while I made a decision
Jam drops have to be made
with skill and precision.
Should I put in the jam before ... or after?
I asked my hubby
and he collapsed with laughter.
I said "This is serious business!"
As the champion did quote
She'd put in the jam after
Because I'd made a note

After sifting and folding and then gently beating
I remembered that the proof of the jam drop is in the eating.
After much confusion and much more laughter
Does it matter if the jam's in before or after?



BELL SHOW SOCIETY HAS DECREED:

All Jam Drops are to be baked using the traditional method with jam placed in each biscuit before baking in a moderate oven until golden brown. Jam to be dark red only.



Danny & his son Harrison. Photo courtesy of Rohan Aldous.

JAM DROP COMPETITION

2023 winners will receive a T-shirt courtesy of the "Australia All Over" team

Who is John Bourne?

"He was the bloke who made some ceramic fingers specifically to use when making jam drops after he heard Macca talking to a lady in Chillagoe one morning who was making jam drops and using her finger. Ceramic fingers became all the rage."

Ian McNamara

Who is Bill Scott?

"Bill wrote a poem called 'Jam Drops' which we put to music and is on one of our albums.

Bill Scott was an author, poet and song writer."

Ian McNamara

MACCA HAS BEEN TO BELL THREE OR FOUR TIMES, ONCE TO DO A CONCERT, ONCE TO DO AN OUTSIDE BROADCAST AT THE SCHOOL AND A COUPLE OF TIMES AT THE SHOW.



2023 Judges' comments:

May Gossow and I would like to thank you for inviting us to be your baking judges at the Bell Show 2023 on Friday. We both thoroughly enjoyed the day. Your stewarding team made us feel most welcome, the lunch and support team were so delightful; we were impressed with the organisation of the competition, and its number of entries, particularly for a small local show. We wish your exhibitors and the baking team all the very best moving forward.



We would like to donate these books to:

- Olivia Kane
- Carmel Hartman
- Cathy Wicks
- Sharon McNamara
- Kirsten Harpley
- Zac Weisse
- Ryan family
- Brooks family
- Lambert family
- Bell State School
- Dalby State High School



Mary Reid (Author and Judge)