2025 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards
Shortlisted, Highly Commended and Commended Poems

Shortlisted

Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lower Primary Section			
Emma Chen	8	A violin's heart	Abbotsleigh
Jude Eldahr	8	Galaxy	St Anne's Catholic Primary School
Claudia Vedelago	8	Coco My Best Friend	All Hallows' School
Elysia Roselle Woo	6	Discovery	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Lily Zhang	8	The Fox's Plea	St Columba Anglican School
Upper Primary Section			
Deeshna Ashok	11	The Essence of Beauty	Alamanda K9 college
Matilda Bennett	12	Sky	Blue Gum Community School
Matilda Bennett	12	Water	Blue Gum Community School
Tom Evans	10	The River	Sydney Grammar School Edgecliff
Ruby Johnson	9	The Dangers And Thrills Of The Sea	Dubbo South Public School
Peppa Keith	11	Blue	Moonee Ponds West Primary School
Olivia Li	10	Sunset	Mount View Primary School
Moses Morrison	12	War is a Storm	St Philip's Christian College
Elmina Ng	12	What Earth Has Told Me	Abbotsleigh junior school
Charlotte Seeto	10	Shifting Perspectives	Our Lady of Good Counsel
Ava Schutz	11	Whale Sharks	Mullaley Public School

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Aurora Taing	10	All The Beautiful Things	Gosford Public School
Annabelle Gervaise Yi Ling Woo	9	Nascence	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Assisted Learning Primary Section			
Bill Peng	9	Fireworks	Redeemer Baptist School
Vera Trevitt	11	Washing cars	Redeemer Baptist School
Junior Secondary Section			
Claire Gardner	14	Between Two Worlds	Tamworth High School
Molly-Rose Hackett	14	Firestarter	St Thomas More College
Arabella Hope	14	where did we go?	All Hallows' School
Lilly Irving	13	Make Best of Things Small	Bega High
Avi Jain	13	Stardom	Canberra Grammar School
Esther Li	13	Papyrus Wings	Queenwood School for Girls
Sophie Magee	13	I Am Not Whole Without Their Ache	A.B. Paterson College
Wanjiku Muriithi	14	Yin and Yang	St Thomas More College
Isabella Sanchez Bolivar	14	Through the Shelves	St Thomas More College
Amritha Vakeesan	13	The Mountain That Watched Me Grow	Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
Lauren Woo	12	All The Beautiful Things	Ravenswood School for Girls
Senior Secondary Section			
Gizelle Fourie	17	half-tongue	Killarney Heights High School
Gizelle Fourie	17	light, again	Killarney Heights High School
Ethan Handunneththi	16	Fractured	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Juliet Johnson	17	Grey Matter	mercy catholic college chatswood
Kate McGuire	15	The Fox	Presbyterian Ladies' College
Huntar Paterson	17	You asked me to tell you about love	St Thomas More College
Isabelle Reyes	16	Lumeria	Regents Park Christian School
Helena Tang	17	The Thaw	PLC
Chloe Whitfield	16	Insomniac	Mount Alexander College
Leanna Yong	17	The Time between Midnight and Morning	Presbyterian Ladies' College
Assisted Learning Secondary Section			
Curtis Lin	12	Symphony of Nature	Carlingford High School
Ethan Wilson	14	The Ocean	Redeemer Baptist School
Lucas Yuning	13	Time	Redeemer Baptist School

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Highly Commended

Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lower Primary Section			
Harrison Bailey	9	The Outback School - A Haiku	Kalgoorlie School of the Air
Clarisse Kang	8	The Beach	Grace Lutheran Primary School
Ava Laracy	9	One, Two, Three, Four	Hay Public School
Celina Liu	8	Arch of Connection	Abbotsleigh
Lily Nixon	9	Fireworks	Tamworth Public School
Alice Wall	8	All the beautiful things	Hay Public School
Elysia Roselle Woo	6	Misunderstood	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Emma Xu	8	In the Garden of Wonders	Integrated Education Centre of Excellence
Upper Primary Section			
Rosie Adams	11	Night	Mullaley Public School
Deeshna Ashok	11	Everyday Beauty	Alamanda K9 college
Jing-Yu Chen	10	Pyronado	Smalls Road Public School
Mia Healey	11	Ordinary Beauty	Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School
Andy Keane	11	The Beast	Regents Park Christian School
Annabel Ling	12	Two Children	SCEGGS DARLINGHURST
Tiana Manoushian	12	She Is	Galstaun College
Lucy Orford	9	I have a Poetic License	St John's Lutheran Primary School
Charlotte Roempke	12	Q	Canberra Grammar School

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Alyssa Simonds	11	The Perfect Sister For Me	Loreto Kirribilli
Sophia Southwell-Keely	11	The Trees	Normanhurst Public School
Elle van Rooyen	11	Ferocious Storm	Brigidine College
Junior Secondary Section			
Pasanya Abeyratne	14	A Craving For Freedom	A.B. Paterson College
Meral Asad	14	Palestine, War (2 poems)	Fahan School
Jasmin Diu	14	Wing and Claw	St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead
Ruby Dodds	13	Buried beneath the stories	St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead
Shenaya Hook	13	Poetry	Burgmann Anglican School
Danielle Hu	13	When Politics Kill	Pymple Ladies College
Danielle Hu	13	the weight of unspoken words	Pymple Ladies College
Vikrant Karthik	14	When Maps were made of Stars	Carlingford High School
Isaac Kent	14	Autism (Slam Poem)	Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt
Emma Whitehouse	14	To Me	Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
Senior Secondary Section			
Ives Hatherall	17	in the dark	Centennial Park School
Ives Hatherall	17	Us	Centennial Park School
Joshua Heylin	17	English was never his strong suit so I must explain these simplicities to him	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown
Juliet Johnson	17	The Duality Of Ember and Ash	mercy catholic college chatswood
Kanas Ka Wan Leung Ka Wan Leung	15	Beauty: Reflective Humanity	Carlingford High School

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Freya Karlsrud Diano	15	Savage Love	The Friends' School
Afraaz Siddiqui	16	Grammar Nightmare	Brisbane School of Distance Education
Amelie Singer	15	Icarus	SCEGGS
Ethan Ton	15	Descent	St Thomas More College
Leanna Yong	17	Shhhhh (and don't pick at the scabs)	Presbyterian Ladies' College
Assisted Learning Secondary Section			
Theodore Christofi	12	The Thunder War	Redeemer Baptist School
Amrut Mogarkar	13	The Comet Tail	Redeemer Baptist School
Nihal Ramchandani	13	The Evil White Beach	Redeemer Baptist School
Ethan Wilson	14	Revealing Light	Redeemer Baptist School

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Shortlisted, Highly Commended and Commended Poems

Commended

Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lower Primary Section			
Ellie Aanerud	8	Rushing Rivers	Our Lady Star of the Sea Terrigal
Oliver Acland	8	Our Changing World	St Columba Anglican School
Rose Allan	7	The Pretty Roses	Dubbo South Public School
Callie Bowman	8	Mountain Dreaming	Grace Lutheran Primary School
Maeve Chambers	7	Bula	Our Lady Star of the Sea Terrigal
Charlie Collins	8	Australia Zoo	Grace Lutheran Primary School
Julia Corral Ondrejkova	6	Nature	Our Lady Star of the Sea Terrigal
William Foley	8	Annabel	Caulfield Grammar School, Malvern Campus
Frankie Gurr	6	I Love	Fahan School
Elle Karakasch	9	Guardians of the Ocean	Dubbo South Public School
Kavneer Kaur	6	Grandma	Holy Cross College
Isabella Lange	8	Seasons	Our Lady of the Rosary, Wyoming
Kalliopi Laskaris	6	Buddies	Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School
Sarah Lin	8	My Family	Smalls Road Public School
Jonah Maybury	8	A Dandelion	Tamworth Public School
Patrick McKinnon	9	Dandelions	Tamworth Public School
Lily Meredith	7	Up in the wonders of space	Dubbo South Public School
Sasrutha Mudiyanselage	7	Drought	Tamworth Public School

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lucy Parsons	9	Sunflowers	Tamworth Public School
Shobika Rajesh	7	Harmony	A.B. Paterson College
Myah Rose	7	The Mallee	Tamworth Public School
Boris Song	7	The Wild Heart of Australia	Holy Family Catholic Primary School -Lindfield
Clement Teng	9	Music	Sydney Grammar - Edgecliff Preparatory School
Audrey Treloar	8	Sad Town	Tamworth Public School
Georgia Wilkinson	7	Mallee Sky	Tamworth Public School
Emma Xu	8	Seasons of Beauty	Integrated Education Centre of Excellence
Upper Primary Section			
Liat Archie	12	Dreams	Mount Sinai College
Anna Brandweiner	11	Coastal Dreams	Loreto Kirribilli
Alexander Chilov	11	Beautiful Beach Time	Sydney Grammar School
Alexandra (Sasha) Entina	10	Koala's Hope	St Hilda's School
Tom Evans	10	The Blue Groper	Sydney Grammar School Edgecliff
Vivian Fay	9	My Dog	Fitzroy Community School
Etta Fraser	11	Shewglie Farm	Clovelly Public School
Anton Giannikos	11	A Strange Feeling	The Scots College Preparatory School
Mukta Gilda	11	Whitening the Seas	Cherrybrook Public School
Danielle Guanlao	11	Biome Poem (Tundra)	Loreto Kirribilli
Eleanor Ha	10	I Ate The Dog	St Andrews Cathedral School
Lara Hanslow	11	The Magnificent Tree House	MountainsChristian College

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Maya Haysom-McDowell	11	Devastation	MLC School
Cecelia Ho	11	The Purple Balloon's Life	Enfield Public School
Xiaoyuan Huang	12	The Osmanthus Tree	Cherrybrook Public School
Gabriella Lam	10	Becoming	St. Andrew's Cathedral School
Zachary McCoy	11	A Gentle Day At The Beach	Balgowlah Heights PS
Aira Nambiar	11	How to act like you know what you're doing (but you really don't)!	Mount Pleasant Road Primary School
Erica Natawardaja	11	Temperate Forest	Loreto Kirribilli
Gauri Nimmagadda	9	The Sky	Oatley West Public School
Alora PaK	11	A Ruined Toy	Enfield Public School
Flora Pak	11	The Balloon	Enfield Public School
Harry Quince	11	Do you know it?	Maroubra Junction PS
Jack Rathe	10	My Home	East Kimberley College
Roman Reale	12	Awakening	Blue Gum Community School
Taqwa Saleh	11	All the Beautiful Things	Carey Baptist College - Forrestdale
Alexandra Simpson	10	One Petal Drops	Middle Harbour Public School
Lily Sindel-Marshall	12	The Great Barrier Reef	Homeschool
Harriet Thomas	11	The call of the river	St Michael's Collegiate School
Elle van Rooyen	11	They'll Always Want More	Brigidine College

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Miriam Weir	11	Dark Brightness	Dubbo South Public School
Monica Wu	11	The Way Through	Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School
Austin Zheng	10	Home	St Ives North Public School
Assisted Learning Primary Section			
Rozaliah Azzi	7	COCKATOOS	Redeemer Baptist School
Sarah Bahe	7	CATS	Redeemer Baptist School
Leagsaidh Brannan	7	COCKATOOS	Redeemer Baptist School
Ajak Gaker	6	Little Sister	Holy Cross College
Shagan Kaur Chhina	8	Red Admiral Butterfly	Redeemer Baptist School
Jiaying Li	9	Mountain Viscacha	Redeemer Baptist School
Henip Patel	9	Lion	Redeemer Baptist School
Maksim Radulovich	9	Cherry blossom	Wanniassa Hills Primary School
Cheryl Wu	8	Maned Wolf	Redeemer Baptist School
Junior Secondary Section			
Amelie Albury	13	Dear Ukranian girl	Elizabeth Macarthur High School
Ananya Amin	12	pink lace in a cage	Chatswood High School
Loukya Balasuriya	13	The Fire Regime	Melbourne Girls Grammar School
Alma Brijesh	14	Beautiful Things	St Thomas More College
Alice Brookes-Kenworthy	13	Anxiety	Kent Street Senior High School
Alishba Bukhari	12	Where the River Remembers My Name.	IQRA College

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Mahreen Bukhari	13	How the Mirror Rebels	IQRA College
Cynthia Cai	13	A Show of the Beautiful Things	SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Trixi Dingemanse	13	Real Rose	Launceston Christian School
Trixi Dingemanse	13	A Tinman's First Song	Launceston Christian School
Ruby Dodds	13	Never Meant To Meet (where the sky meets the sea)	St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead
Nina Holland	14	The Folly of Faith	Cherrybrook Technology Highschool
Arabella Hope	14	Blink Twice	All Hallows' School
Tabitha Imms	15	There Is a Boy	St Thomas More College
Gaayathri Jeyaseelan	11	Another Wave, Another Breath	Parramatta High School
Jacob Keegan	14	Whispers at the Shore	Scotch College
Namita Khatri	14	The key to create the best poem	Our lady of the Sacred Heart
Rachael Lambert	12	Moon Moth	Homeschool
Siena Lanzarone	13	Books Through Time	home schooled
Jasmine O'Neill	14	The Match Girls	Covenant Christian School
Elsa Parsons	14	Ice	Launceston Christian School
Aditya Paul	13	The River	Individual entry
Abigail Pye	13	Icarus	Darwin Middle School
Zoe Robotham	14	I suppose it was year 3 when it started	Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt
Eithne Rooney	15	All The Beautiful Things	Lakes Grammar an Anglican School
Luca Sing	14	The Field Between Two Villages	St Thomas More College
Nadia To	13	Memory Food	Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Joseph Um	14	Born From their Sacrifice 희생이 그들을 지금의 그들로 만들었다	Redeemer Baptist School
Sophia Van	14	The Scroll	St Thomas More College
Rafael Widjaja	14	Water on a Taro Leaf	Kennedy Baptist College
Anna Xue	13	Paradise	Ravenswood School for Girls
Senior Secondary Section			
Isabelle Boardman	15	upon throwing up in a paris hotel, boxing day	Perth College
Charlotte Brown	16	The man and the Magpie	Ravenswood School for Girls
Diane Eo	16	All the Beautiful Things	Carlingford High School
Ives Hatherall	17	The Binary	Centennial Park School
Joshua Heylin	17	fledglings	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown
Cassandra Hill	15	To live or to exist	St Joseph's Regional College, Port Macquarie
Emilia Jamieson	15	What Beauty Did	Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
Auriah Jordan-Smith	17	Proof of Life	Orange High School
Sanuli Karunaratne	15	All The Beautiful Things	Marist Regional college
Georgie Lewis	17	In case we forget	Frensham Schools
Georgie Lewis	17	Summer bruises	Frensham Schools
Georgie Lewis	17	a letter to the moon	Frensham Schools
Zoe Lindner	17	Generational	SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Kate McGuire	15	The Rabbit	Presbyterian Ladies' College

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Kate McGuire	15	The Deer	Presbyterian Ladies' College
Brooke Mienert	16	Silenced by the System, Singing Anyway	St Thomas More College
Imanina Sahira Muhammad Tani	16	Unseen	Henley High School
Yoav Nasayao	16	The Lighthouse that Guides None	Wollemi College
Ummuhani Oladele	15	CHROMA TA	Marist Regional College
Anton Shawn Rajaratnam	18	Grove of Roots	Redeemer Baptist School
Ridhaan Seth	15	Whispers from the Stars	Carlingford High School
Simran Sethi	17	The Girl of the Rarest Beauty	Brisbane School of Distance Education
Angelina Singh	16	Redamancy	Parramatta High School
Olivia Smith	17	Complicit	St Thomas More College
Helena Tang	17	dear radio	PLC
Charlotte Victory	16	A scripture of me (free form)	University Senior College
Chloe Whitfield	16	Two Sugars	Mount Alexander College
Veronica Xie	15	Rain, Rain Come Again	Meriden
Hwee Lin Yee	15	Heliocentric	St Michael's Collegiate School
Carmen Zuhair	16	Dear Men	St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead
Assisted Learning Secondary Section			
Isabella "Bella" Cooper	15	What is Beautiful?	Oakwood School
Tristen Ibrahim	15	Victory at Sunrise	Redeemer Baptist School
Ivan Pronin	13	The Ace	Redeemer Baptist School
Ivan Pronin	13	Mountain	Redeemer Baptist School

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Nihal Ramchandani	13	An Ordinary Tree	Redeemer Baptist School
Kesan Scanu	17	Money	Oakwood School
Lucas Yuning	13	All Beautiful Things	Redeemer Baptist School