2026 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards
Shortlisted, Highly Commended and Commended Poems

SHORTLISTED (Alphabetical order by first name)

Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lower Primary Section			
Amaanat Chandi	8	Baby Elephant	The Hills Grammar School
Drew Stimson	9	Flood	Tamworth Public School
Eva Adriaenssens	8	The Feather	Petersham Public School
Fred Outhred	6	The Bumblebee	St Andrew's Cathedral School
Henry Hills	8	The Jellyfish	Our Lady Star of The Sea Catholic Primary School
Jacinta Gilchrist	8	Tin Can Trouble	Ascham School
Kaira Lal	8	Dear Daddy	MLC School
Marlow Guilbert	8	Creatures	Fitzroy Community School
Patrick Kay	8	Enchanted End	Urbenville Public School
Spencer Russell	7	Wildlife in Our School	Turramurra Public School
Upper Primary Section			
Alby Simpson	11	Uncle	Tighes Hill Public School
Doris Mai	11	The Three Little Pigs	Ravenswood School for Girls
Elizabeth Cotter	9	The cake that knows the way	Ravenswood School for Girls
Ethan Xie	11	Sometimes	Matthew Pearce Public School
Mia Wang	12	The Classroom Clock	Redeemer Baptist School
Skylar Schmidt	11	Monarch Travellers	Laguna Street Public School

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Sophie Grey	10	Treasure	Fahan School
Stanley Yu	9	After Rain	St Ives North Public School
Victoria Lee	11	Miss Wigglesworth	Meriden School
Willow Smyth	11	Smells From The Back Seat	Tamworth Public School
Assisted Learning Primary Section			
Chloe Bahe	11	My Grandma's House	Redeemer Baptist School
Dan Riju	12	The Sun	Tamworth Public School
Henip Patel	10	The Cricket Match	Redeemer Baptist School
Junior Secondary Section			
Aaryah A C	14	Silence of Grief	The Essington School
Alizetta Dawson	13	The Seat Beside Me	Merewether High School
Ayesha Gupta	13	Loneliness fleeting	Parramatta High School
Ayesha Gupta	13	Home is me	Parramatta High School
Ching Lin	14	The Anatomy of a Goodbye	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School
Eleanor Ng	14	Eleanor Ng	Donvale Christian College
Hayley Pack	14	Missing Person Report	Homeschooled
Maisie Sparks	15	Liturgy of Want	Camberwell Girls Grammar School
Payten Bailey	15	Rain Fall	Chatham High School
Scarlette Goh	14	Mothball	Donvale Christian College

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Senior Secondary Section			
Grace Chirwa	17	Made from Adam	Ambarvale High School
Imogen Ferguson	15	What You Learnt Not to See	Sacred Heart College
Jenny Nguyen	15	I am from departures	St George Girls High School
Maya Yamauchi-Blach	17	Berry-stained	Ryde Secondary College
Nalani Baker	16	The Years I Grew Through	Newman Catholic College
Nidhi Kiran	15	Between Silent Breaths	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School
Tanishqa Cheeran	16	Guerlain Shalimar	Baulkham Hills High School
Wendi Khloe Fu	15	Weight	Haileybury College

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HIGHLY COMMENDED (Alphabetical order by first name)

Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lower Primary Section			
Alina Jovanovski	8	Silently	PLC Sydney
Arthur Gilbert	8	The Traveller	Fitzroy Community School
Ava Dasey	9	Bombala	St Joseph's Primary School
Avery Cheng	8	Majestic Place	Tara Anglican School for Girls
Elysia Roselle Woo	7	The Attic	St Joseph's Catholic College
Mila Ryan	9	Soccer	Laguna Street Public School
Niamh Landers	12	Seasons	Launceston Church Grammar School
Olivia Tanahill	6	My Dad The Traveller	Normanhurst Public School
Suyan Ma	8	The Beach	St Ives Public School
Thomas Edwards	8	Trapped	Canberra Grammar School
Upper Primary Section			
Candice Li	9	The Kindness Ripple	SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Charlotte Lu	10	The Ballad of the Kit Kat Chunky	Danebank - An Anglican School for Girls
Eloise Hing	11	Tennis Ball	St Andrew's Cathedral School
Isabella Goh	9	Bush: Fire and Life	Turramurra Public School
Logan Marshal Cormack	11	The Traveller	Maryland Public School
Maya Tobin	11	Seasons	Cherrybrook Public School
Mohan Lu	12	The World Felt Kind to You	Ravenswood School for Girls

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Orion MacNamara	9	Kookaburras	Canberra Grammar School
Zarah Wood	11	Over The Horizon	Tamworth Public School
Assisted Learning Primary			
Ainika Renjith	9	A Perfect Day at the Beach	Tamworth Public School
Angel Okeudo	9	A Day at the Beach	Tamworth Public School
Deetya Dutt	12	The Traveller	Woolgoolga Public School
Elara Ross	11	A Ballerina's First Twirl	Laguna Street Public School
Harry Giang	9	Shadows	Redeemer Baptist School
Jeremy Sun	10	bushfire	Cherrybrook Public School
Miley Dunmore-Kemp	8	My Australia	Tamworth Public School
Sebastian Young	12	The Family Road Trip	Dubbo South Public School
Junior Secondary Section			
Ibrahim Ali	14	Measured	Picnic Point High School
Lauren Woo	13	shotgun	Ravenswood School for Girls
Senior Secondary Section			
Kayley Swart	16	A Daughter Trying To Understand	Berri Regional Secondary College
Salma Mohdar	16	Draft #1	St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Assisted Learning Secondary Section			
Sean Zhang	13	Midnight Luna	Redeemer Baptist School

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COMMENDED (Alphabetical order by first name)

Student name	Age	Poem	School
Lower Primary Section			
Alfie Draper	6	Where I Am	St Andrew's Cathedral School
Alina Herr	7	The Traveller	A B Paterson College
Angus Gillespie-Jones	9	Farm Life out Here	St Joseph's Primary School
Annabelle Paris	12	Whatever Name You Call It	Adelaide Botanic High School
Ariana Azimi-Tabrizi	9	Sky Traveller	Canberra Grammar School
Ashwin Newman	8	To the Moon and Back	St Andrew's Cathedral School
Bailey Nibbs	9	Bombala	St Joseph's Primary School
Boris Marsh	9	Motorbikes	Rocky River Public School
Bowen Li	9	If I Could Go Anywhere	Canberra Grammar School
Brielle Bao	7	The Travelling Pea	Pymble Ladies' College
Chloe Henry	8	Under the sea	St Ives Public School
Connor Belcastro	9	Scarecrow’s Miserable Day	Bennett Road Public School
Elise Dethridge	9	Instruments	St Andrew's Cathedral School
Emily Czyzewski	9	Heat and Flame	Hamilton South Public School
Felix Gough	9	Monster Fish	St Joseph's Primary School
Grace Elam-Rye	9	The Possum	Normanhurst Public School
Grace Naidoo	7	The Bravest Traveller	St Andrew's Cathedral School
Harriette Murdoch	9	Skiing	St Joseph's Primary School

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Imogen Clews	9	Winter	Fahan School
Lance Creech	7	The Hopping Mouse	Radford College
Layla Drake	8	A Tiger Shark's Journey	Manly West Public School
Leo Bedford	7	The Life of a Dirtbike	Urbenville Public School
Lucy Campbell	8	Jazz	Turramurra Public School
Ruby Gibson	8	Crystals in the Sky	St Michael's Grammar School
Ruby Kerr	8	Honey Bee	Canberra Grammar School
Thomas Van Hoorn	7	The Reef Wish	Brighton Grammar School
Tilly Pepping	8	The Biggest Sun	Clovelly Public School
Vivienne Hart	9	Our World	St Philip's Christian College
Yusuf Kazmi	8	The traveller	Australian International Academy, Kellyville
Zidane Shahriar	9	Echoes	St Michael's Grammar School
Upper Primary Section			
Akshana Ashok	10	When the Heavens Opened	Alamanda K-9 College
Alexander He	11	The Code	Sydney Grammar School - Edgecliff Preparatory School
Alexander Stass	12	Sunrise Journey	Tamworth Public School
Ava Treece	10	"Tell me about ADHD"	Our Lady Star of The Sea Catholic Primary School
Celine Foo	10	The Internal Journey	Melbourne Grammar School
Chloe Lyons	11	Lest We Forget	Fahan School
Christian Irons	10	Camp Courage	Brighton Grammar School
Claire Huang	10	Woven With Love	Pymble Ladies' College

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Student name	Age	Poem	School
Claudia Vedelago	9	Flying Feather	Christ the King School
James Nicholls	9	The Travelling Raindrop	Normanhurst Public School
James Purdy	11	A Haiku	Wycliffe Christian School
Lyla Bullock	10	Our Creations	Scotch College - Mitcham Campus
Maia Liu	9	The Journey	Tara Anglican School for Girls
Mitchell Nicholas	12	True Autumn Beauty	Tamworth Public School
Olivia Wong	11	Ready or Not, Here I Come.	Wenona School
Olivia Zhu	11	Throughout the World	Tara Anglican School for Girls
Pari Kulkarni	11	The Little Pecker	Matthew Pearce Public School
Rumaysa Alam	10	The Ocean Wanderer	Australian International Academy, Kellyville
Sam Williamson	11	Sorry Day	Cherrybrook Public School
Skylar Schmidt	11	A Turtle Back to the Blue	Laguna Street Public School
Stanley Yu	9	Growth	St Ives North Public School
Stanley Yu	9	Freedom	St Ives North Public School
Stephanie Pontifix	11	The End and The Beginning	Ascham School
Assisted Learning Primary Section			
Charlotte-Cecilia Daher	9	The Wind	Redeemer Baptist School
Ishan Arun	9	Beach Days	Tamworth Public School
Jacob Cannon	7	Belly of a Backpack	Redeemer Baptist School
Ryder Ibrahim	11	Summer	Tamworth Public School
Seth Hodgson	9	Wind	Redeemer Baptist School

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Shagan Kaur Chhina	9	Cats	Redeemer Baptist School
Yashwardhan Sahni	7	Travel	Redeemer Baptist School
Junior Secondary Section			
Olivia Ross	15	Polaroids	Chatham High School
Shamsia Rahman	12	The Birds Nestled in my Ribcage	St George Girls High School
Senior Secondary Section			
Eva Motti Abraham	17	Given Not Chosen	Penrith High School
Joseph Um	15	Sovereign	Redeemer Baptist School
Kayley Swart	16	The Things That Carry Us	Berri Regional Secondary College
Qinxi Jiang	15	Under Fremantle Stars - after Dylan Thomas	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School