



# 2026 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards

## Shortlisted, Highly Commended and Commended Poems

### SHORTLISTED (Alphabetical order by first name)

| Student name                 | Age | Poem                        | School                                           |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lower Primary Section</b> |     |                             |                                                  |
| Amaanat Chandi               | 8   | Baby Elephant               | The Hills Grammar School                         |
| Drew Stimson                 | 9   | Flood                       | Tamworth Public School                           |
| Eva Adrianssens              | 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                         |
| <b>Upper Primary Section</b> |     |                             |                                                  |
| 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           |
| <b>Assisted Learning Primary Section</b> |     |                           |                                  |
| 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          |
| <b>Junior Secondary Section</b>          |     |                           |                                  |
| Aaryah A C                               | 14  | Silence of Grief          | The Essington School             |
| Alizetta Dawson                          | 13  | The Seat Beside Me        | Macquarie College                |
| 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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|---------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Senior Secondary Section</b> |     |                            |                                  |
| Grace Chirwa                    | 17  | Made from Adam             | Ambarvale High School            |
| Imogen Ferguson                 | 15  | What You Learnt Not to See | Tangara School for Girls         |
| 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                                  |
|------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Lower Primary Section</b> |     |                                  |                                         |
| Alina Jovanovski             | 8   | Silently                         | Pymble Ladies' College                  |
| 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                 |
| <b>Upper Primary Section</b> |     |                                  |                                         |
| 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               |
| <b>Assisted Learning Primary</b> |     |                                 |                                      |
| 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            |
| <b>Junior Secondary Section</b>  |     |                                 |                                      |
| Ibrahim Ali                      | 14  | Measured                        | Picnic Point High School             |
| Lauren Woo                       | 13  | shotgun                         | Ravenswood School for Girls          |
| <b>Senior Secondary Section</b>  |     |                                 |                                      |
| 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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|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------------------------|
| 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                       |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Lower Primary Section</b> |     |                           |                              |
| 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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| Student name                 | Age | Poem                    | School                                                    |
|------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                               |
| <b>Upper Primary Section</b> |     |                         |                                                           |
| 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 Terrigal |
| 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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|------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 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                                |
| <b>Assisted Learning Primary Section</b> |     |                            |                                              |
| 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          |
| <b>Junior Secondary Section</b> |     |                                            |                                  |
| Olivia Ross                     | 15  | Polaroids                                  | Chatham High School              |
| Shamsia Rahman                  | 12  | The Birds Nestled in my Ribcage            | St George Girls High School      |
| <b>Senior Secondary Section</b> |     |                                            |                                  |
| 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 |