

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2018

Commended, Highly Commended and Shortlisted
Poems

Primary School Judges: Catherine Bateson & Leonie Tyle

Secondary School Judge: James Roy

LOWER PRIMARY

Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Sofia Berkovic	Emanuel School, Randwick	<i>I Have Promises to Keep</i>	"A good and original take on the theme."
Sophie Marshall	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, Tarragindi	<i>Watching a Dolphin</i>	"Some good imagery in a poem that could easily be clichéd."
Jessica Rapp	Mayfield West Demonstration School, Mayfield West	<i>Dance Party</i>	"A read-aloud poem with good energy."
William Xu	Oxley Christian College, Chirnside Park	<i>Surprises in my Garden</i>	"Close attention to details makes this poem commendable."

Highly Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Ella Davey	Mount Annan Christian College, Currans Hill	<i>The Bush is Like Home</i>	"Some really lovely original images used in this celebratory poem."
Liam Griffiths	Tamworth Public School, Tamworth	<i>Outside</i>	"Good use of language throughout."
Victoria Zhao	Tara Anglican School for Girls	<i>Me-Stew</i>	"A playful poem with great rhythm."

UPPER PRIMARY

Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
William Griffiths	Wyvern House- Newington College, Stanmore	<i>Poster</i>	"An understated poem which reveals war propaganda".
Elektra Katsalidis	Melbourne Girls' Grammar School, South Yarra	<i>Equal Love</i>	"A thoughtful poem which deals with a complex social issue."
Georgina Lewis	Gib Gate, Mittagong	<i>Drought</i>	"A sparse and accurate account of drought breaking."
Nyasha Muwomo	Nambour Christian College, Nambour	<i>Light & Dark</i>	"A layered and competent exploration of contrasts."
Grace Myers	Fitzroy Community School, North Fitzroy	<i>Promises</i>	"This is a thoughtful and imaginative response to the theme."
Lucy Nightingale	Newcastle Grammar School, Newcastle	<i>The Jungle's Haiku</i>	"Good rhythm and imagery."
Kaitlyn O'Donovan	Cherrybrook Public School, Cherrybrook	<i>Promises</i>	"An original take on a subject that leant itself to clichéd banality."
Lauren Osterlund	Cherrybrook Public School, Cherrybrook	<i>My Dog</i>	"Good use of compound words to celebrate one of our favourite pets."
Brenda Vuong	Sutherland Public School, Sutherland	<i>Four Seasons</i>	"A pared down celebration of the seasons."

Highly Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Chevonne Kim	Cherrybrook Public School, Cherrybrook	<i>I Like Noise</i>	"A charming poem which has an integral and logical structure."
Grace Martinez	Oakleigh South Primary School, Oakleigh South	<i>Time</i>	"A poem that personifies time in a thought-provoking way."
Mollie Pontin	Gladesville Public School, Gladesville	<i>Spring</i>	"An evocative poem with good imagery."

Shortlisted

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Mia Akyol	Yarraville West Primary School, Melbourne	<i>Raindrops</i>	"A thoughtfully crafted poem."

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2018
Commended, Highly Commended and Shortlisted Poems

Otto Smyth	Individual Entry from Grimwade- Melbourne Grammar School, Caulfield	<i>Unfolding</i>	<i>"This poem had a strong beginning and an original use of metaphor."</i>

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LEARNING ASSISTANCE PRIMARY

Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Sharon Zhang	Camberwell Girls Grammar School	<i>Poor Piano</i>	<i>"A fun poem with a twist."</i>

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JUNIOR SECONDARY

Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Lucia Gelonesi	SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Darlinghurst	<i>Little Manly</i>	"I snake from my clothes". "I squint at an architect's model." And that last line in particular - really lovely stuff."
Tia McNeill	Distance Education Centre Victoria, Thornbury	<i>The Inside</i>	"Simple but powerful imagery. Very nicely understated."
Rhea Pathak	Glenwood High School, Glenwood	<i>Running Away from Reality for Love</i>	"The passion and tension in this poem is strong, and the last two lines lead the story into the reader's imagination."
Lilly Power	Dubbo School of Distance Education, Dubbo	<i>Fool</i>	"A lovely, simple examination of something that isn't simple at all - the path of true love."
Oli Rogers	Central Coast Grammar School, Erina Heights	<i>My Second Home</i>	"I've never been to Portugal, but I think I want to, now. Great imagery, and a clever handling of the passage of time."
Abigail Sarangaya	Our Lady of Mercy College, North Parramatta	<i>A Summer from a Child's Memory</i>	"To express the passage of time in such an eloquent way is the mark of a serious poet. Nice work."
Gabriella Steinberg	Moriah College, Bondi Junction	<i>The Stoney Field</i>	"The only thing letting this poem down is that it's slightly long. Otherwise a nicely developed and structured poem."
Alana Zhang	Hornsby Girls' High School	<i>Her Heart</i>	"Short but brutal. This is poetry being used exactly the way it was designed to be used. Great stuff."

Highly Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Munira Tabassum Ahmed	Baulkham Hills High School, Baulkham Hills	<i>Yours</i>	"A moving poem about the planet's resilience and fragility."
Rosanna Cartwright	Individual Entry, Campsie	<i>Sydney</i>	"I'm always a sucker for a good "place-poem" where the setting is personified in this way. This is a good one."
Lucia Gelonesi	SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Darlinghurst	<i>Momotaro- after the Japanese Legend</i>	"Tosses timber into their future..." What a line! So many good lines. Plus this poem inspired me to go

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2018
Commended, Highly Commended and Shortlisted Poems

			<i>and read up on Momotaro."</i>
Annette Kim	Individual Entry from Tara Anglican School for Girls, North Parramatta	<i>Remember Me</i>	<i>"There is some terrific imagery in this poem, and a very different take on the war heroes theme."</i>
Emanuela Leung	Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood	<i>Memory</i>	<i>"This is a simple but powerful depiction of growing up, moving on, and reminiscing. This is how poetry is supposed to work. Nice one."</i>
Eve Little	Merici College, Braddon	<i>Petals upon Petals</i>	<i>"It takes a talented writer to approach and discuss tough subjects without resorting to sentimentality and angst. Nice work."</i>
Natalie Neshev	Merici College, Braddon	<i>The Last Day</i>	<i>"A lovely use of colour as a metaphor. This poem is also quite sophisticated structurally. Nice work."</i>
Aarya Phansalkar	Baulkham Hills High School, Baulkham Hills	<i>Wildfire</i>	<i>"This is a powerful love poem, full of longing and insight beyond the poet's years."</i>
Kahlan Spatty	Individual Entry from Mount Carmel Catholic College, Campbelltown	<i>Poetry is Hard Some Days</i>	<i>"Some powerful imagery and a killer last line."</i>
Emily Wu	SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Darlinghurst	<i>Foam</i>	<i>"Wow, this really floored me, with the beauty and savagery wrapped into one. Lovely writing."</i>

Shortlisted

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Caroline Lee	Our Lady of Mercy College, North Parramatta	<i>Bright Water</i>	<i>"It was the imagery in this poem that really caught my attention. "The sun dipped like a biscuit..." and "...the sun melted yellow in the west..." Great stuff."</i>
Isabella Molloy	Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Spring Hill	<i>One:</i>	<i>"This poem is so touching, and conveys the longing and wonder of a young relationship. It is quite short, but it feels to be exactly the right length, especially when it's about the inability to find the necessary words. Great stuff."</i>
Aarya Phansalkar	Baulkham Hills High School, Baulkham Hills	<i>The Most Beautiful Demon</i>	<i>"This is a powerful examination of a long-term relationship, and the complexity of emotion wrapped up in that. I'm always impressed when young writers manage to</i>

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2018
Commended, Highly Commended and Shortlisted Poems

			<i>tap into some sense of understanding far beyond their years. It shows empathy, and a willingness to learn from the recorded experiences of others."</i>
Fletcher Smith	Darwin Middle School, The Gardens	<i>I'm a Gecko</i>	<i>"I love this poem so much! The sense of fun is tremendous, and I'd never thought about the voice a gecko would use, but now that I've heard this, it makes perfect sense. This was one of the few poems out of the more than 3,000 I read that made me laugh out loud. Thank you, Fletcher!"</i>

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SENIOR SECONDARY

Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Bipandeeep Banga	Home School, Revesby	<i>before you judge me look me in the eye</i>	"I'm not sure what I can add - this is an honest and, at times, raw discussion of racism and prejudice."
Matilda Farr	Home School, Turrawan	<i>Mater Vitae</i>	"Poems about mothers are fairly common in a competition like this one. This one handles the topic very well. I hope the writer has shown this to her mother."
Sonya Frossine	Presbyterian Ladies' College, Peppermint Grove	<i>Wake</i>	"A complex and evocative (and at times darkly amusing) poem about a serious topic."
Duy Quang Mai	Individual Entry from Homebush Boys' High School, Croydon	<i>A Spring Promise</i>	"Some delightful imagery in this poem."
Molly Maidment	Taroona High School, Taroona	<i>For _____</i>	"This is heartfelt and moving. Poems written in the second person sometimes skate close to sentimentality, but this handles that balance beautifully."
Olivia Reynolds	Mercy College, Chatswood	<i>Desert</i>	"An interesting approach to this year's suggested theme. Short and powerful."
Alexandra Shergold	Individual Entry from St Catherine's, Toorak	<i>Silhouette of the Sun</i>	"Odes to inanimate objects are hard to do. This one does it very well indeed."
Anita Tsangaris	Individual Entry, Exmouth	<i>Yellow Crayon</i>	"An elegant relating of a passing childhood using a clever motif."
Nina Willmott	Taroona High School, Taroona	<i>Outhouse</i>	"This made me laugh. If this really is you, Nina, I think you'd be heaps of fun to know."
Ping Yap	Presbyterian Ladies' College, Peppermint Grove	<i>Red</i>	"A terrific examination of some of the challenges facing young people who straddle two different cultural identities in our "melting-pot" society."

Highly Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Nava Bergman	Murwillumbah High School, Murwillumbah	<i>Descendant</i>	"This is a poem that deals with a huge topic in a simple yet

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2018
Commended, Highly Commended and Shortlisted Poems

			<i>powerful way. It successfully addresses the self-doubt that often comes with the examination of one's own cultural past. Excellent poetry."</i>
Jesse Cadman	Home School, Rhyll	<i>The First Poem of May</i>	<i>"A wonderful piece about longing and unattainability, but written without cloying sentimentality."</i>
Lin Chen	St Michael's Collegiate, Hobart	<i>Cities</i>	<i>"Cities are as much characters as people. This poem plays with this idea with great skill."</i>
Lilith Cole	Hobart College, Mount Nelson	<i>An Evening Walk at the Behest of a Passerine</i>	<i>"Fog shrouds the treetops, yearning / Branches touch the mist like parting lovers / Brushing an ink wash over the landscape / And me..."</i> <i>Stunning imagery to start a beautifully constructed poem."</i>
Darcy Edwards	Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill	<i>Seeds of Memories</i>	<i>"One of the strengths of poetry is the way it can cover a lot of time quite quickly and efficiently. This piece does that beautifully, with sadness and warmth wrapped up together."</i>
Arthur Pearce	Orana Steiner, Weston	<i>The Scientist in Love</i>	<i>"This is a wonderfully honest poem. The lines don't always scan perfectly, but we can forgive that when the idea developed throughout the piece is so well handled. Great job."</i>
Bonnie Rudd	Hastings Secondary College- Port Macquarie Campus, Port Macquarie	<i>Homeless</i>	<i>"I love the rhyming pattern of this piece - it is reminiscent of the classic bush poets like Paterson and Lawson, and is a perfect choice for the subject. Thank you for writing this."</i>
Marion Scott	St Michael's Collegiate, Hobart	<i>Ode to the Bell-Ringers</i>	<i>"This piece is testament to poetry's ability to focus on an object within a moment and bring it to life in a way that forces us to appreciate it."</i>
Anagha Valappil	St Michael's Collegiate, Hobart	<i>Dragonfly</i>	<i>"A simple, elegant description of a beautiful moment. Classy."</i>
Anna Walls	St Michael's Collegiate, Hobart	<i>The Boy on the Bush with the Burnt Blonde Hair</i>	<i>"A touching and witty examination of infatuation, longing and disappointment which, in the end, brings a stroke of wisdom."</i>

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Shortlisted

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Ila Barnbaum	Taroona High School, Taroona	<i>Red Coat</i>	<i>"Simple and moving, with an elegant structure. A perfect number of words for this poem."</i>
Sonya Frossine	Presbyterian Ladies' College, Peppermint Grove	<i>Unfixed</i>	<i>"This is a complex piece of writing which draws the reader into the poet's personal experience in a disarming and endearing way. The line about sinking one spoon and half an afternoon into a jar of honey is my favourite. Great stuff."</i>
Seraphina Nicholls	Narrabundah College, Kingston	<i>Ode to Narrabundah (ACT Suburb)</i>	<i>"This "warts-and-all" poem is delightful, especially in the way it manages to both criticise and praise the place in question. In a funny kind of way, it makes me want to visit Narrabundah, and at the same time, I'm not sure if I should. Quirky and wonderful."</i>
Liam Scott	Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill	<i>Painted Moonlight</i>	<i>"What else is there to say? This is such an evocative and honest depiction of young love. Terrific poetry."</i>

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LEARNING ASSISTANCE SECONDARY

Shortlisted

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Ruth Burns	Redeemer Baptist School, North Parramatta	<i>A Soldier's Promise</i>	<i>"This is a terrific examination of the futility and tragedy of war, the many thousands of young soldiers who have died for no good reason, and the lives they have left behind. It is also a clever approach to the suggested theme: "I have promises to keep."</i>
Duy Quang Mai	Individual Entry from Homebush Boys' High School, Croydon	<i>My First Son, Youth</i>	<i>"This poem features some lovely imagery - "...crumbs of laughter and wild runs of tears..." was a particular favourite. It is a complex poem that twists around on itself in a way that invites further readings. Well done."</i>
Tristian M. – YEC	Youth Education Centre – AYTC, Cavan SA	<i>I Have Promises to Keep</i>	<i>"Treat me like an animal, I'll claw your judging eyes out." What a line! This poem is honest and raw and self-reflective. Yes, it is rough in places, but in the end it does what poetry should sometimes do - it confronts difficult truths."</i>
Han Zheng	Redeemer Baptist School, North Parramatta	<i>A Place to See</i>	<i>"This poem manages to convey distance, time, change and place all at once, as well as a sense of longing for that place. It's a deft piece of writing. Thank you for sharing it."</i>

MULTICULTURAL NSW AWARD

Highly Commended

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Poem Title</u>	<u>Judges' Comment</u>
Catherine He	Matthew Pearce Public School, Baulkham Hills	<i>Separated</i>	<i>"This is a thoughtful poem that explores cultural identity."</i>

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PRIMARY SCHOOLS' AWARD

Commended

- Melton Christian College, Brookfield VIC
- Nambour Christian College, Nambour QLD
- St Pius X College, Chatswood NSW
- Tamworth Public School, Tamworth NSW
- Wyvern House – Newington College, Stanmore NSW

SECONDARY SCHOOLS' AWARD

Commended

- Hobart College, Mount Nelson TAS
- SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Darlinghurst NSW
- Baulkham Hills High School, Baulkham Hills NSW

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