

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2020

Commended, Highly Commended and Shortlisted
Poems

Primary School Judge: Kathryn Apel

Secondary School Judge: Meredith Costain

LOWER PRIMARY

Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Abigail Prins	St Michael's Collegiate School - Junior School, TAS	<i>Out the Window</i>	<i>This poem from a very young poet helps me picture the details of the bird's nest and its tree.</i>
Maia Soeyland	Tacking Point Public School, NSW	<i>The River</i>	<i>This poem had me rushing along in the current of words until they pooled in puddles in the final stanzas.</i>
Eve Stewart	SCEGGS Darlinghurst, NSW	<i>View From My Window</i>	<i>Beautifully capturing the gentle transition to night.</i>

Highly Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Lincoln Cecil	Rowena Public School, NSW	<i>Echoes from in the Past</i>	<i>There is a gentle, lyrical flow to this layered poem.</i>
Claire Hon	Chatswood Public School, NSW	<i>Cranes of Paper</i>	<i>Simple & powerful - the repeated 'fold' highlights the repetitive process to create one, then many, cranes.</i>
Adele Scully	Prouille Catholic Primary School, NSW	<i>Karijini</i>	<i>The poet uses alliteration, repetition, rich vocabulary and varied sensory details to share her experiences with the reader.</i>



Shortlisted

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Anna Slack	SCEGGS Darlinghurst, NSW	<i>Homeschooling Life</i>	<i>Wonderful humour in this jaunty rhyming poem, proving that laughter is the best medicine.</i>

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UPPER PRIMARY

Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Harrison Adams	The Cottage School, TAS	<i>I can't breathe (in memoriam George Floyd)</i>	<i>Spare, powerful words.</i>
Lillian Azzi	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>Soccer Ball Fall</i>	<i>A wonderful read-aloud poem, where you are the commentator ... and the (fallen) star.</i>
Alice Corbett	Parktone Primary School, VIC	<i>Used To</i>	<i>Evocative language draws the reader into the poem, while line breaks drive pace and pausing.</i>
Jackson McClure	Hay Public School, NSW	<i>My Old Ute</i>	<i>Wonderful voice and rhythm – and wit!</i>
Ashton Sawtell	Our Lady Of The Rosary, Waitara NSW	<i>Outback Heroes</i>	<i>A unique response to theme, with an unexpected twist; words from a much-loved iconic poem set in new and unfamiliar environs.</i>
Serena Yap	Methodist Ladies' College, VIC	<i>Mixed Feelings</i>	<i>This verso contrasts the conflicting responses to the confines of COVID-19.</i>
Snofrid Ydhag	Mayfield West Public School, NSW	<i>Dad</i>	<i>This is a disturbing poem – a cry for help, and a voice speaking out again domestic violence.</i>

Highly Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Allegra Clarke	Individual Entry, QLD	<i>The Change</i>	<i>So many truths in this cleverly constructed poem.</i>
Olivier Daniele	Individual Entry, NSW	<i>We Used to Live There – A Villanelle</i>	<i>A tricky form that allowed the poet to ponder the theme, whilst also reflecting on the challenges (and unexpected blessings) that COVID-19 brought.</i>
Michael Hwaylo	St Charbel's College, NSW	<i>I Will Rise</i>	<i>This rousing poem has a strong sense of voice.</i>
Juliette Lefevre	Chatswood Public School, NSW	<i>A Poem's Heart</i>	<i>This impassioned poem scratches a truth; when we write poetry, we</i>



			<i>reveal our hearts, but we also express a stress.</i>
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Shortlisted

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Ella Macey	Home School, NSW	<i>The Hope That Remained</i>	<i>The repetition works to build emotion in this poem that is textured with wonderful similes and details.</i>

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LEARNING ASSISTANCE PRIMARY

Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Jesse Kim	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>A Spike of Green</i>	<i>This poem reads crisp and fresh like your new spike of green.</i>
Favour Tejan-Kella	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>The Bridge</i>	<i>I'm imagining these arms stretched over water - and a tired bridge that never falls asleep.</i>

Highly Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Kingsley Chen	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>Stuck in Traffic</i>	<i>A relatable fun poem. Could there be a lesson to be learnt, here?</i>
Eamon Doak	St Stephen's School Carramar, WA	<i>My Mum</i>	<i>I can imagine your mum laughing. What a fabulous simile!</i>
Joseph Sesay	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>Maths</i>	<i>You've given us many reasons to love Maths - and the peppy rhyme suits the theme.</i>
Fiona Zhu	Chatswood Public School, NSW	<i>Thank You</i>	<i>Be sure you share this heartfelt poem with the special person.</i>

DAVID MAHER AWARD

Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Erin Fraser	Murray's Bridge State School, QLD	<i>Dogs</i>	<i>The action words of this diamante highlight the difference between puppies and dogs.</i>

Highly Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Lily Plum	Booligal Public School, NSW	<i>Boxyards</i>	<i>So many small moments of place captured in this poem.</i>

Shortlisted

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Eli Crossley	Booligal Public School, NSW	<i>Camping on the Lachlan</i>	<i>I love camping by the river with family and friends, too.</i>

KURRUMBEDE AWARD

Commended

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Poem Title</i>	<i>Judge's Comment</i>
Toby Bartlett, Josie Gallagher & Isabelle Moore	Gunnedah High School, NSW	<i>Biggest Fears</i>	<i>A cumulative poem with clever use of pattern and rhyme, with a positive ending.</i>
Darcie Crane	Gunnedah South Public School, NSW	<i>Charlie the Cat</i>	<i>I am taken by the image of a cat head-warmer!</i>
Ayden Greatrix	Sacred Heart School, NSW	<i>Thunderstorms</i>	<i>Strong word choice paints a powerful picture of a storm's rage.</i>
Byron Jeffrey	Gunnedah High School, NSW	<i>Race Day</i>	<i>The writer takes us along with him for the ride in this octane-fuelled account of a car race. Clever use of rhythm and rhyme keeps things moving along.</i>
Ruby Locke & Marnee Walters	Gunnedah South Public School, NSW	<i>Disco</i>	<i>A poem to get your toes tapping with a lively rhythm and rhyme.</i>
Sienna Mitchell	Gunnedah High School, NSW	<i>Sunrise in Gunnedah</i>	<i>A vey visual poem with a great sense of time and place.</i>

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Commended

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Poem Title</i>	<i>Judge's Comment</i>
Olivia Byrne	Hastings Secondary College - Port Macquarie Campus, NSW	<i>Thunderstorm</i>	<i>Striking imagery abounds in this well-rounded poem.</i>
Sarah Campbell	St Thomas More College, QLD	<i>Moths</i>	<i>I was drawn to this poem like a moth to a flame. A clever analogy!</i>
Jade Covassin	Freeman Catholic College, NSW	<i>Oblivion</i>	<i>Attention to detail gives this tender poem strength.</i>
Ashlee Tait	Lake Cargelligo Central School, NSW	<i>Water of Sins</i>	<i>A dramatic tale with a heartbreaking yet powerful ending.</i>
Shanice Yek	Crestwood High School, NSW	<i>Covid Senses</i>	<i>A timely warning from a clever point of view.</i>

Highly Commended

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Poem Title</i>	<i>Judge's Comment</i>
Jessica Good	Walford Anglican School For Girls, SA	<i>Tiger</i>	<i>A confident poem, with imagery as powerful as its subject.</i>
Caitlin McCusker	St Thomas More College, QLD	<i>The Snake</i>	<i>Striking imagery builds relentlessly to a carefully-planned ending. Chilling!</i>
Abigail Mills	Brigidine College, NSW	<i>Redwood</i>	<i>A thoughtful analysis of our place in the world.</i>
Pippini Moseley	Home School, SA	<i>Beyond the Frame</i>	<i>A highly original perspective on the importance of memory in our lives.</i>
Alexis Pridgen	Brigidine College, NSW	<i>The Procession-less Smile</i>	<i>A well-formed poem with an elegant use of imagery. Mesmerising.</i>
Amaeh Reed	Individual Entry, QLD	<i>Someone's Son</i>	<i>A poignant and detailed account of a mother's loss.</i>

Shortlisted

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Aidi Han	Individual Entry, VIC	<i>We Used to Live There</i>	<i>A kaleidoscope of colour, this nostalgic poem is a feast for the senses.</i>
Storm Roper	Darwin Middle School, NT	<i>The Stardust In My Veins</i>	<i>An informative yet deeply personal poem, sparkling with powerful imagery.</i>

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SENIOR SECONDARY

Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Munira Tabassum Ahmed	Baulkham Hills High School, NSW	<i>This Perfect Grief</i>	<i>A moving poem with evocative imagery.</i>
Joyce Ding	Queensland Academy Of Science Maths And Technology, QLD	<i>Beautiful Cities</i>	<i>Clever formatting adds to the power of this well-structured poem.</i>
Victoria Garth	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>We Australians Are a Tough Breed</i>	<i>A well-formed poem with a powerful analogy.</i>
Samuel Hugh	Home School, NSW	<i>Tree of Life</i>	<i>Evocative imagery paints a compelling picture of what it is to be a tree.</i>
Tallulah Pestell	Presbyterian Ladies' College, WA	<i>My Grandmother</i>	<i>A well-observed portrait of a much-loved family member.</i>
Melaleuca Sansom Gartrell	Elizabeth College, TAS	<i>Aftermath</i>	<i>A poignant elegy for a loved one, carefully constructed in sonnet form. Well done.</i>

Highly Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Lucia Gelonesi	SCEGGS Darlinghurst, NSW	<i>Broken Umbrella</i>	<i>Subtle humour oozes through this charming poem, bringing an inanimate object to (extremely memorable!) life.</i>
Portia Claire Hoole	Individual Entry, QLD	<i>golden hour</i>	<i>The writer layers detail upon exquisite detail to recount the perfect moments of a significant relationship.</i>
Mia Horsfall	Frensham Schools, NSW	<i>the people breathed again</i>	<i>A testament to the power of renewal, beautifully expressed.</i>
Faria Hosein Qazvini	Presbyterian Ladies' College, VIC	<i>Land of Poems and Pomegranates</i>	<i>Brimming with emotion and powerful imagery, this well-constructed poem is an ode to a much-loved culture.</i>
Sarah Jaeger	St Michael's Collegiate, TAS	<i>Surfing nipaluna</i>	<i>Layers of carefully-observed detail place you right there in the water, alongside the narrator.</i>

Fadi Jan	Individual Entry, NSW	<i>Probably</i>	<i>A brilliant and highly original account of a relationship – maths class may never be the same again!</i>
Holly Jury	Elizabeth College, TAS	<i>How to Build 'Better'</i>	<i>Carefully chosen words and layout combine to form a stunningly original take on the art of wood carving.</i>
Simran Khera	Presbyterian Ladies' College, VIC	<i>The Mesocosm</i>	<i>A closely focused gem of a poem, rich with detail.</i>
Lizzy Marsh	Presbyterian Ladies' College, WA	<i>Perspectives from a Patricia Piccinini Exhibition</i>	<i>Technically dazzling in its construction, this clever poem playfully examines how differently we each view the world.</i>
Claire Missingham	University High School, VIC	<i>threnody</i>	<i>Staccato rhythms and artful imagery build to tell the tale of a memorable road trip.</i>
Cyra Sebastian	Individual Entry, NT	<i>a love letter to being malayali</i>	<i>Deceptively simple, this poem displays an excellent understanding of the richness of culture and how it affects the way we live.</i>

Shortlisted

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Amelia Neylon	Individual Entry, TAS	<i>'Hope is a thing with feathers'</i>	<i>This quirky poem, with its insistent rhythm and persistent questions, gets under your skin, begging to be read out loud.</i>
Andrew Phelps	Crestwood High School, NSW	<i>The Formation of a Poem</i>	<i>With a few well-placed and carefully chosen words, Andrew captures the very essence of what it is to write a poem.</i>
Cassie Tudge	Presbyterian Ladies' College, VIC	<i>Look Up At Me</i>	<i>A confronting yet heartbreakingly tender insight into the inner thoughts of Death. So much care has gone into the construction of this poem.</i>

LEARNING ASSISTANCE SECONDARY

Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Rahma Alkateb	Catholic Regional College, VIC	<i>Loneliness</i>	<i>A passionate and persuasive call to action.</i>
Fran Walsh	St Michael's Collegiate, TAS	<i>We Used to Live Here - Fran's Cottage</i>	<i>A nostalgic journey through a past life that ends with an understanding of how to deal with inevitable change.</i>

Highly Commended

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Baiza Akele	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>The Vision</i>	<i>Strong word choices build to create an authentic description of a soccer game. Well done!</i>
Margot Pittman	Brigidine College, NSW	<i>Quiet</i>	<i>A quiet poem, perfectly formed, that opens the door to a much bigger story.</i>

Shortlisted

Name	School	Poem Title	Judge's Comment
Angela Huang	Redeemer Baptist School, NSW	<i>Changes</i>	<i>A thoughtful poem that perfectly describes the differences between two ways of living.</i>

PRIMARY SCHOOLS' AWARD

Commended

- *Newcastle East Public School*
- *Cherrybrook Public School*
- *Matthew Pearce Public School*
- *Warialda Public School*
- *Methodist Ladies' College*
- *Acting Up Drama Academy*
- *Tacking Point Public School*

SECONDARY SCHOOLS' AWARD

Commended

- *Brigidine College, St Ives, NSW*
- *Elizabeth College, TAS*
- *North Sydney Girls High School, NSW*
- *Presbyterian Ladies' College, VIC*
- *Presbyterian Ladies' College, WA*
- *Redeemer Baptist School, NSW*
- *St Michael's Collegiate, TAS*
- *University High School, VIC*