

27 May 2025

City of Casey Recognises Outstanding Young Writers in Fresh Words 2025 Shortlists

City of Casey Youth Services celebrate the exceptional talent of young writers in the Fresh Words Young Writers Competition 2025. From over 160 entries (grades 5- years 12) in Creative Writing and Poetry/Lyrics, the following distinguished shortlist showcases remarkable creativity. While the EAL category lacked sufficient entries for awards, the overall standard was incredibly high.

The judges were deeply impressed, and these talented individuals, though not in the top three, earned a special honourable mention for their exceptional quality and unique voice. Here are the fantastic shortlisted entries (in no particular order):

CREATIVE WRITING CATEGORY

Grades 5-6

- Abhinaya Srinivasan - *The Song of Eternity* - Ramlegh Park Primary School
- Zachary Cabacis - *The Resperentent Trials*- Ramlegh Park Primary School
- Sophie Sherburn - *The Ghost Orphan* - Southern Cross Primary School
- Ava Leenus - *Extinct* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Jadon Levi Peters - *The Lost TV Remote* - Southern Cross Primary School
- Gautham Vinod Krishnan - *How Embarrassing* - Topirum Primary School
- Seth Aidin Peters - *Apocalypses* - Southern Cross Primary School

Years 7-9

- Mehar Kaur Grewal - *The Forgotten Island* - Alkira Secondary College
- Medha Manikandan - *Life of a toilet paper: Roll with it!* - Nossal High School
- Inaaya Hossain - *Rain for the Wrong Flower* - Kambrya College
- Emily Sun - *The Place in Between* - Waverley Christian College (Narre Warren South)
- Vidisha Garg - *Wishes Don't Come True* - Clyde Secondary College
- Luna Valente - *Lost* - Heritage College Knox
- Shraddha Manikandan - *A Friend* - Alkira Secondary College

Years 10-12

- Lale Peri Yildirim - *To Be a Cowboy* - Alkira Secondary College
- Devmika Bogahapitiya - *Reawakened* - Nossal High School
- Damndeeep - *Fine* - Alkira Secondary College
- Ethan Crossley - *Etude in G Minor, Above the Ruins* - Beaconhills College (Pakenham)
- Thiseni Senanayake - *When We Part* - Nossal High School
- Tashi Mallawa - *The Day the Circus Came* - Nossal High School
- Bobby Bhatia - *Coldborn* - Nossal High School

POETRY/LYRICS CATEGORY

Grades 5-6

- Sheridan Elizabeth Falcone - *In a world* - St Margarets Berwick Grammar
- Ava Leenus - *Darkness* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Sithlini - *Harmony* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Alexander Choy - *Harmony* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Mahad Ahmed - *Why* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Hannah Markana - *Positivity of Dreams* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Alison Karadavut - *A Bridge for Peace* - St Margarets Berwick Grammar
- Maryam Eqbali - *Dreamy wonderland* - Tulliallan Primary School

Years 7-9

- Yesandi Wijesundara - *Hug a Tree* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Almira Hafiz - *This is Me* - Clyde Secondary College
- Evelyne Ong - *The Special Feather* - Homeschool
- Anaaya Dandiya - *Whispers of Awe* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Rithik Rajesh - *Procrastination - The Thief of Time* - Beaconhills College (Berwick)
- Isabelle Andrews Luke - *Change* - St Margarets Berwick Grammar
- Phoebe Chen - *Can I still Bloom?* - Beaconhills College (Berwick)
- Yesandi Wijesundara - *Princess* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar

Years 10-12

- Nachiket Bhat - *Cindy's Folly* - Alkira Secondary College
- Anojii Suthakaran - *Cradle of the Seraph* - Nossal High School
- Jake Bhatia - *Beneath the Summer Sky* - Cranbourne West Secondary College
- Amna Bilal - *Childs Perception of Adulthood* - Nossal High School
- Malena Algama - *Caste on A Cloud* - St Margaret's Berwick Grammar
- Methuki Bogahapitiya - *The Whisper That Lies Within* - Nossal High School
- Tavnoor Kaur - *How Do I Tell the World* - Beaconhills College (Pakenham)

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