YEAR 3-4 CATEGORY

Year 3-4 Winner: Alec Giannone [Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga]

Title: *When My Heart Smiles*

There are lots of things we love, but it's the things that make our hearts smile that matter the most,
I love all my family because they help me when I'm in a hopeless situation, even my brother … well … almost.

I love the birds that come to visit and sing songs to me, to each other or just high up in the sky,
So different and so beautiful, even the Tawny Frogmouths - which I hope never say goodbye!

I love the fire at night because my family and I all get so warm as we watch it glow,
We sit together and it's the most comfortable thing I will ever know.

I love our pool even though I can't go in it yet - waiting patiently for it to be sunny,
But I still love it because lots of birds walk on the cover and it's really, really funny!

There are lots of things that I love and make me care,
But it's the things that make my heart smile that I'd like to share.

So, next time you're feeling a little sad or blue,
Just think of the things you love,
Your heart will smile and so will you – too true!

Year 3-4 Runner-Up: Mannat Bhullar [Trinity Anglican College, Thurgoona]

Title: *All Through the Year*

The sun shines through the sky,
Grandma cooks the famous apple pie.
Bee's buzz and birds sing,
Fresh oranges from the trees.

Leaves fall and dance in the breeze,
The hives are no longer full of bees.
Leaves in red, orange and yellow,
little children throw them in the meadow.

The trees are bare,
and homeless people are in despair.
People are getting cold and freeze,
but hot chocolate is always nice in the breeze.

The trees are full of flowers,
The sky is full of showers.
Bees are back in their hives,
and a new year awaits our lives!

Year 3-4 Runner-Up: Laycee Jane Nocentini [Yackandandah Primary School]

Title: *Take Me Home*

Down the driveway
'*Hawkeys run'* the wooden sign says
Down past the dam

Take me home
past the red shed where puddles would
rest
after the rain
when it would rain
Where is the rain?

Swirls of skids where the men rode the small motorbikes
past the patchy lawn
Well-worn from the Easter and Halloween
banter
And barbies
And beer
And laughs
Lots of laughs

The HUGE
kitchen
full of food, family and fun.
past Trevor's chair (never sit there)

No one is inside

Chevy, Molly and Ruby
BARK   WOOF
BARK   RUFF
WOOF   BARK
RUFF
The dogs are barking at the **tyres**,
yet again.

Let me step into the lounge room
See the fishing trophy cabinet
loaded with Trevor's triumph and pride
and stare out the window and see
The grass like a golden blanket
hugging the paddocks

Take me to Emmett and Harper's room
and see their desk
their bed
every book they ever read.
Let me sit with them and draw and colour and create
and listen
listen
.
..
…
Can you hear it?
pitta-patter
Pitta-patter

Take me home.

YEAR 5-6 CATEGORY

Year 5-6 Winner: Semia May [St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Baranduda]

Title: *Patience*

Waiting in my sliver boat
Pulling on my shiny coat
Watching sunrise colours dance
I hope today is my chance
My river love, so pure and deep
Wakes me daily from slumber sleep
As I start to rock and sail
The gentle wind picks up my trail
I thread on some slimy bait
Now my hook must sink and wait
Patience is my happy place
Time to dream and slow my pace
This is one thing I love to do
Apart from playing the game 'Guess who'
Suddenly I see a splash!
My daydream bursts in a quick flash
I carefully tug on the line
Am I running out of time?
I heave and nudge
But my line won't budge
I nudge and heave
But it won't leave
Then my rod goes SNAP!
I don't think I'll ever get it back
It sinks as far as my eyes can see
I look at the bubbles in misery…
The sun is setting in the sky
My tummy rumbles in reply
I think that it is telling me
To sail back home for a cup of tea
Another thing I love to do
Is warm my belly with my favourite brew
As for fishing with a brand new line
That can wait for another time

Year 5-6 Runner-Up: Emily Davidson [St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Baranduda]

Title: *Allan's Flat*

Bursting through the barrier of water,
You feel the cold breeze pricking at your skin,
Isolating yourself you dive underwater,
Regret fills your body as you rise to begin,
An adventure because life is shorter.

Hills walk the horizon endlessly,
Leaves dance amongst the wind as the sun sets,
The sun trickles through the clouds glowing heavenly,
The light illuminates all of my past regrets,
In the end the clouds are filled heavily.

The birds sing together in harmony,
The kangaroos hurdle through the fresh grass,
Buzzy bees fill the air as they make their honey,
It sounds like music to my ears as I walk pass,
rustling bushes made by a bunny.

In the air is the empowering,
Of lush gum leaves settling so gently,
On the soft grass in piles from where they had fell,
The smell that spreads throughout the air is so friendly,
From all these things it's Christmas I can tell.

Climbing the hilltops you glance through the trees,
You see the lake glittering in the sun,
The lake shimmers so bright the Atlantic seas.
Breathing in the crisp air you feel like you have won,
At the end of the day it is all at ease.

Year 5-6 Runner-Up: Leonardo Giannone [Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga]

Title: Life Today

If there is one thing we learn during each lockdown,

It's to stop and enjoy the things we love instead of frown.

We love the fire on a cold Winter's day,

Or a new walk to discover – 5km away.

We love the laughter and joy we bring one another,

Especially on Zoom when we see little squares of each other.

But we all know, and we must show,

Our hearts to those in greater need,

Left wondering if they will succeed.

From Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring,

We will spread our arms wide just like a wing.

No matter how many times we go through this,

Remember to stop and help the people we miss.

Around the earth and back,

We will get through this and get back on track.

We love when others help each other,

Then they go and help another.

We love our family big and small,

But most of all…

We love that we get up after each fall.