

**LOWER PRIMARY**

**Runner Up**

**Tryphina Reu**

Bradshaw Primary  
ALICE SPRINGS NT

**Lhere Mparntwe**

Gushing, rushing water,  
Trickling in my ears.  
A stream of clear blue water turns muddy.  
Now I realise,  
The spangled grunters are rushing past me  
In groups of ten.  
Mostly it's a dry sandy place.  
I know deep down inside my heart,  
I'll remember the ice cold water  
Running through my legs.

As I dip  
I feel the water,  
Running through my body.  
It's a cold icy feeling.

The trees blow wildly,

As the rain falls down.  
Thunder booms loudly,  
The sky darkens.  
I feel so scared.  
But I wouldn't miss it.  
I love the sounds.  
I love the river.

People shout:  
"The Todd's flowing!"  
And run to the river bank.  
It's our river, the mighty Todd.  
Lhere Mparntwe.

[\*Arrernte name for the Todd River  
in Alice Springs - Lhere Mparntwe]

*Judge's Comment:*

*This poem captures the quality of the event from a personal experience. Details are well chosen, like: "the spangled grunters rushing past" and the "ice cold water".... The writer pinpoints well the chill of the water as it runs between her legs. She feels it in her whole body. There is colour and excitement in the poet's response to the scene, which we all know is a rare event in Alice Springs. Well done! I love the line "But I wouldn't miss it". Her voice is clear.*