

# Eucalyptus Eco Poetry Project Shoalhaven High School

The **Eucalyptus Eco Poetry Project** is a “branch” of the *New Shoots* project and a collaboration between The Red Room Company and Bundanon Trust.

*New Shoots* celebrates, cultivates and collects poems inspired by plants to deepen our personal and cultural connections with nature.

Supported by the Dahl Trust, the Eucalyptus Eco Poetry Project helps us to connect and commune with eucalyptus through a poetic lens, uncovering the hidden stories of the iconic green giants we often take for granted.

Find out more about *New Shoots*  
[redroomcompany.org/projects/new-shoots](http://redroomcompany.org/projects/new-shoots)

“Eucalyptus is the world’s second-largest genus of large trees, after the figs, yet figs are spread over six continents while eucalypts are confined to one.”  
~ Tim Low, *Where Song Began*

Eucalypts, more than any other plant family, visually identify Australia. There are over 900 eucalypt species which have adapted to nearly every environment. Included in the Eucalypt family are the genus *Angophora* and the recently recognised *Corymbia*.

Eucalypts are believed to have evolved from ancient rainforest species in response to great changes in continental movements as well as the landscape, soils and climate of Australia. In south-eastern Australia, nearly all eucalypt species have green leaves and yellow-white flowers. Elsewhere, in tropical regions and Western Australia there are more spectacular flowers.



**BUNDANON TRUST**





**The Knight**  
**Sophie D**

The knight holds his lance high  
as he guards the field.  
His creamy brown bark securing secrets about what he saw  
The girl, the woman, the mother, the grandmother  
But slowly one by one, the vibrant green lances turn to dull brown  
covering the bush floor.  
A small tree sways being shaken by the wind.  
The granddaughter feeds its roots, keeps it safe  
A new guard – a new generation.



**Untitled**  
**Laurinda B**

Grandfather tree, I approach your foot  
where sponges of orange cream swell  
and look up to where your limbs decay,  
crystalise and crumble. Still  
higher, beyond the forest crown, a burst  
of naive green catches my eye.

**Untitled**  
**Ellen A**

Quietly flowing in the sun-setting  
wind like a baby sleeping  
before a vibrant rumble exploding  
out with a single cry of  
everlasting  
Joy

**The Silent Sentry**  
**Rhiannon C-R**

Ghostly white with a blush of soft orange,  
A sense of peace hovering just below the surface.  
Tall, thin trunk, an explosion of vibrant leaves at the top.  
We met, we talked, we shared, and I felt a connection,  
But the tree remained still,  
A silent sentry in a silent guard of trees.





**The Tree Standing Tall**  
**Kallisto-Rani E**

Illuminated in the light,  
The tree stood tall, full of fight  
It's getting older, getting wise  
It's old, flakey bark started to peel off,  
like a fresh yellow banana  
The tree stood tall,  
Not ready to fall

**Untitled**  
**Anonymous**

The sweet luminous scent alludes and strengthens  
weary souls its vibrant light shines  
into even the darkest of caverns. The rain  
falls faster than the speed of light  
giving me the scared animals only one  
choice to give refuge to the  
thick roughness of the trunk.

**My Tree Dingle Berry**  
**Shea P. F**

The Glowing Green tree bursts  
with Glowing, Green, colourful leaves  
like a caterpillar bursting free and  
turning into a beautiful, majestic Butterfly  
flying free on a night Sky with the moon  
light Illuminating like a powerful, strong,  
extraordinary tree that blooms and Glows  
beautifully until it gets hacked down  
left burst and left with blood gone until  
the new generation blooms

**My Eucalypt Friend**  
**Ella H**

The silver and brown bark  
mixing and colliding together, the small tiny  
bright green leaves and the smooth texture  
to the tree. It's soft and cold in the summer  
breeze, together the leaves make a small noise as  
they get brown in the light. The sun has gone away so  
they decide to stay still in the quiet night.  
to protect and keep warm the animals inside.  
As the wind blows and the rain flows in the  
cold winter the silver and brown bark falls onto  
the ground and stays still and quiet.

**The Tree Maquier**  
**Thomas L**

My tree Maquier glowing with  
a light brown, your precious  
dark green leaves sway in  
the storm night sky  
as we're trying to lay in  
the wet dewy grass.





**The lone tree**  
**Joanne T**

The spotted gum tree stands tall  
and proud surrounded by other  
live forms as its delicate leaves  
sway lightly against the cool winter  
breeze. Its creamy skin is covered  
in warm gray spots as it reaches the  
cloudy gray sky. The branches spread  
out as if to reach the other trees  
surrounding it, to find a friend to be with.

Throughout the following years it will  
grow taller as it gets older its branches  
will spread wider and eventually will be  
able to reach friend that was  
standing close to it all along.

**The Remembering Tree**  
**Lachlan W**

So magnificent –  
Old, wise –  
always listens –  
never speaks –  
Powerful textures –  
It's bark –  
Strong, rough –  
It's leaves –  
Long, dark –  
Always remembers –  
Never forgets.

**The Kind Tree Arm**  
**Blake D**

Trees are strong and silent,  
friends with beauty and with  
Beast, west or south, north  
or east. Gods wonderful  
creation, standing for  
everyones delight.  
majestic at day,  
peaceful at night  
Teaming with life,  
spreading its arms,  
welcoming nature  
into its palms.

**Vibrant Solider**  
**Emily B**

Vibrant and large standing alone in a field  
contrasting against the bright blues and greens  
A war constantly raging.  
Dark green leaves big and wide protecting  
delicate flowers and fruits  
Big strong dark brown bark defending against enemy  
winds and intruders  
From afar looks vibrant and large standing  
alone in a field, up close, strong, protective, brave.  
Soldiering on.

**My Tree Aladeen**  
Joel M

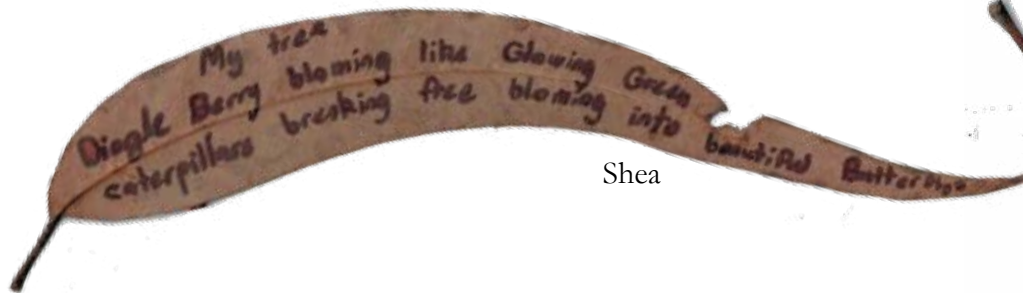
Glowing like fireflies green in the morning sun. Blooming like a butterfly bursting from its cocoon. The texture of the leaf in the morning dew and the roughness of the light brown bark Glistening in the moonlight. My tree Aladeen.

**Untitled**  
Aden G

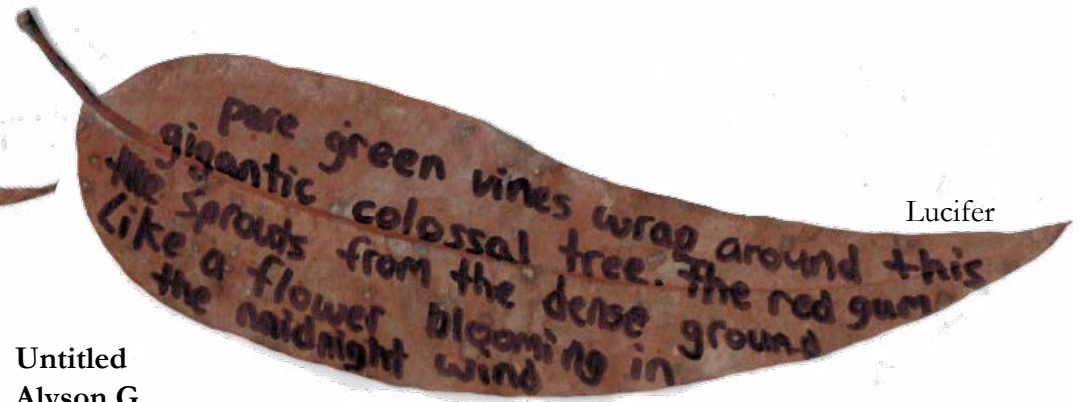
the red blood wood's vibrant and extraordinary colours illuminate in the bright moon of the cold night, even in the day, it shines bright, like a globe among all the other tress.  
The tree stands tall and proud, and will always do so.

**Untitled**  
Nathan H

With a trunk too large to wrap my arms around  
A tree standing strong as one in a sea of others  
standing for hundreds of years on end  
The wisest of all living things  
People come and hack it down  
leaving only a jagged stump, bloodied and bruised



Shea



Lucifer

**My story of the Red Gum**  
Ashleigh B

eucalypt trees everywhere. Red bloodwoods, yellow bloodwoods. scribbly barks spotted gums. The first tree we encountered was a forest red gum, its bark dark cracked and broken. The red flesh showing through. The forest red gum fanning out like lightening cracking in the sky. The branches being taken over by mistletoe. It reminds me of when I was younger, watching the storms with my siblings, noses press to the glass bright green with red stems and veins. I'll remember this place and these trees, the place where I remembered my childhood!

**Untitled**  
Alyson G

The Protector stares, cradling me in his legs just peering above surrounding dirt cushions, he stands tall and absorbs my deepest, darkest secrets. Sometimes, I don't feel as though he doesn't listen. the howling wind settles, and the grey rippled textured protector drops me a sprout to silence me, to tell me he cares and knows reassures me of a bright future, a clear one I find comfort in the red-gum soldier a listening canopy of protection for generations and generations to come



Joel

lowing like green fireflies in the morning  
Blossoming like a butterfly bursting

Ella

My Eucalypt  
The small thing bright green leaves  
The small thing bright green leaves  
The small thing bright green leaves

Bryce

The trees stand tall, alludes, give gives strength  
To even the weakest of souls it shines like a heart

Sophie

The knight holds his lances up high  
as it guards the field.

Lachlan

So magnificent, old and wise, always ideas, never dies

Joanne

The spotted gum tree stands tall  
and proud. Its delicate leaves  
swaying lightly against  
the wind.

Aden

the red blood <sup>wood</sup> its vibrant and extraordinary  
colours illuminate in the bright  
moon, of the night

Ashleigh

Tall, cold touch the morning blue sky.  
The Red blood wood's bark is cracked  
and broken like the pavement outside.



Eucalypt, a tall beautiful creation both here  
and far away.

Vibrant and large standing  
alone in a field

Kallisto

THE EUCALYPT TREES CRADLE THEIR  
S PROUTS UNDERNEATH, CREATING A  
REASSURING, NEAR AND  
BRIGHT FUTURE

Emily

My Eucalypt, ghostly white with a blush of soft orange, or more  
of peace hovering just below the surface of the wood.

Rhiannon

Alyson

The bark of the tree was  
peeling off like fresh banana skin.

My tree makes  
glows

Tom

My tree bared mosses  
your precious dark green leaves and light brown part  
Leaves as green as luscious grass  
swaying in the wind  
Singing their soothing song

Nathan

Through cracks in the outer skin  
sponges of orange

Laurinda





Eileen Chong is a Singaporean poet, now living Sydney, Australia. *Burning Rice* (Australian Poetry, 2012) was shortlisted for the Anne Elder Award, Australian Arts in Asia Award and the Prime Minister's Literary Award. Her other books are *Peony* (Pitt Street Poetry, 2014) and *Painting Red Orchids* (Pitt Street Poetry, 2016).



The Red Room Company's vision is to make poetry a meaningful part of everyday life. We create poetic arts projects and learning programs in collaboration with a spectrum of poets, schools, communities and partners for positive social impact. Our mission is to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.

Established in 1993 Bundanon Trust supports arts practice and engagement with the arts through its residency, education, exhibition and performance programs. In preserving the natural and cultural heritage of its site Bundanon promotes the value of landscape in all our lives.

The Bjarne K Dahl Trust focuses on eucalypts, an Australian icon and a significant aspect of Australia's natural environment and biodiversity. We envisage a public inspired by and appreciative of eucalypts.

Shoalhaven High School is a comprehensive high school providing a quality education in a caring and supportive environment. The school's motto "Aiming Higher" epitomises the opportunities given to all students to reach their full potential.

Find out more about their Eucalyptus Eco Poetry Project <http://redroomcompany.org/education/projects/shoalhaven-high-school/>



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New Shoots: Poems inspired by plants