



# Poetry in First Languages - Yuin Country

Jervis Bay School

## Red Room Poetry

Red Room Poetry inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry. We enliven experiences with poetry by bringing contemporary poets into classrooms across Australia to run dynamic writing workshops that awaken imaginations and support creative opportunities.

## Poetry in First Languages

Developed by Gunai poet Kirli Saunders and delivered by Red Room Poetry, Poetry in First Languages (PIFL) celebrates, shares and preserves knowledge of First Nations languages and culture through poetry, music and art.

On August 15, Bundanon Trust Writer in Residence, Kirli Saunders took students from Jervis Bay School through the new resource, specific to Yuin Country. Kirli worked alongside local Gumea Dharawal language custodians Jacob Morris and Adrian Webster. The workshops strengthened student's connection to Country, language and community and helped empower students to feel pride in their cultural identities.

## Jacob Morris

Jacob Morris is a proud Gumea-Dharawal, Dharumba, Dhurga man and also Birripai Djanghatti from Kempsey. Jacob has been raised learning Gumea-Dharawal, the southern dialect of the Dharawal Language spoken between the Shoalhaven River and Crooked River near Gerringong.

## Kirli Saunders

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai woman with ties to the Yuin, Gundungurra, Gadigal and Biripi people. Kirli is the Manager of Poetic Learning and Aboriginal Cultural Liaison at Red Room Poetry. She was awarded 'Worker of the Year 2017' at the NAIDOC awards in the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven region and has been nominated for a National NAIDOC award in 2018. Kirli founded the Poetry in First Languages project.

## Adrian Webster

Adrian Webster is a saltwater man descending from the Wandrawandian Walbunja Djiringanj and Thunghutti people. He has spent his whole life growing up on the south coast of NSW and His connection to Country is something he cherishes deeply along with his family and friends. He maintains his connection to Culture and Country by devoting his time with Elders and Community to learn Dreaming Stories, Language, bush foods and medicine and traditional artefact making.

## Mother Earth

*By Bella (Y6 - gugunya)*

ngara to the ngabu speak,  
ngabu yaga yindi garaginah  
murra cundu wadgama yindi bulwul

~

Listen to the grandmother speak,  
your grandmother tells you to connect  
earth, trees make you strong

## Our Protector

*By Leeara (Y3/4 - wamggalli)*

beautiful blue and deadly  
bundjerri morah is my Protector  
ngutamarra gadu is blue and kyoon  
ngubumarra mooran is dhran dhurung murra bulwul

~

beautiful blue and deadly  
mother earth is my Protector  
the ocean is blue and calm  
mother earth is always the people's protector

## Wreck Bay

*By Jarrab (Y5/6)*

banggang, caring, ancient, djawinga

it is gili a spa

wajitwajiuya  
ngudjungnya is gili diamonds  
megay yanggam in bunirahnya gili an angel

~

old, caring, ancient, scary

it is like a spa

the sand is soft  
the water is like diamonds  
she sings in the wind like an angel

## Mother Nature

*By Alea (Y6 - gugunya)*

yannangu ngia moombah njrung nya  
gondu ngia garaginah biroong

~

when I sit under the tree  
I feel proud

## Wreck Bay

*By Anon (Y3/4 - wamggalli)*

bunbalnya gili murranya  
wajitwajitnya searches with the gadhunya  
bunbalyna gili our warriors

~

the trees are like the people, they're all different.  
the beach searches with the sea creatures.  
the trees are like our warriors



## Minga

*By Angel (Y5/6)*

nguura is beautiful  
ngaa am proud of my nguura.  
ngaa am so happy that minga is here.  
our gundulali protects us and gives us nadjun and jinjili.

~

Country is beautiful  
I am proud of my County.  
I am so happy that Mother is here.  
our trees protects us and gives us water and food.

## Wreck Bay

*By Jonah (Y4)*

safe, woodul, dadumarr  
the grass was hard as gold  
the most picturesque gutgudthung in the world  
the spirits in the gundu gum to me so I jirri they are here.

~

safe, beautiful, green  
the grass was hard as gold  
the most picturesque beach in the world  
the spirits in the tree whisper to me so I know they are here.

## Earth

*By Alice (Y5/6)*

budjerri safe green colours special  
nguburra moorah is like the ocean it's like stingrays  
swimming next to you

Jervis Bay gudthung is lovely

Wreck Bay gudthung makes me feel hapy when I'm swimming

nya bunbal feel like they're hugging me like they're my friends.  
nguburra moorah budjerri

~

beautiful safe green colours special.  
mother earth is like the ocean it's like stingrays  
swimming next to you.

Jervis Bay beach is lovely

Wreck Bay beach makes me feel happy when I'm swimming.

the trees feel like they're hugging me like they're my friends.  
mother nature is beautiful.



## Front Beach

*By Tyler (Y5/6)*

Yunnangu ngia yenda murrunji  
I feed murradjyang yunnangu ngia  
yenda murrunji ngia yilag walbuging

~

when I go fishing  
I feed my family  
when I go fishing  
I am be happy and at peace

## Wreck Bay

*By Benjamin (Y5/6)*

I feel connected to the ocean and waves, land.  
the bunbal make weapons for people for protection.  
Blackrock is the most popular surf break in the world.  
the bunbal's branches can gum, they can move.

~

I feel connected to the ocean and waves, land.  
the trees make weapons for people for protection.  
Blackrock is the most popular surf break in the world.  
the tree's branches can talk, they can move.

## Yuin Country

*By Janiyah (Y3)*

beautiful, pink, grey  
minga gunna                      minga ngurra  
ngia naan dha ngia  
ngia naan dha ngiaguli gudji. ngia naan dha ngiaguli murrin  
the bunbal protects us

~

beautiful, pink, grey  
she is not a stranger    she is mother earth  
when I look at her I feel safe  
I see home, I see family, I feel safe  
the tree protects us



**Wreck Bay**

*By Anon (Y3/4)*

Wreck Bay dju ngiaguli nya bunbal are like  
the people there, all different. The ocean is like the  
bunbals, it sways with the gurgama

~

Wreck Bay is my home, the trees are like  
the people there, all different. The ocean is like the  
trees it sways with the wind

**Wreck Bay**

*By TJ (3/4)*

the country is beautiful  
the country is more beautiful than the ocean  
the bunbal make me happy

~

the country is beautiful  
the country is more beautiful than the ocean  
the trees make me happy

**Paradise**

*By Henry (Y5/6)*

budgerrima crystal clear ngadjung

gadunya gilli garang

the coconuts balwa, bringing bala to this world wadgama more  
in the kaloola wajitwajit

your gadu is bulwul and budgerri and sings with joy

~

paradise, the crystal clear water, hot

the ocean is like a massive wave of sapphires

the coconuts drop, bringing new life to this world making more  
in the warm sand

your ocean is strong and beautiful and sings with joy

**Gundu**

*By Benjamin (Y5/6)*

yannangu naandtha gundu I see warrongai boondipa  
jerrumbaadi heilamon

~

when I see trees I see spears, boomerang, shields  
of boondis