

Students go creative with words

WRITING WORKSHOPS

Alexis Carey

MARRICKVILLE High School was filled with poetry recently as students teamed up with a contemporary street poet for The Red Room Company's Poetry Education Program.

More than 70 students from Years 9 and 10 participated in the three-day intensive workshop with poet Candy Royalle.

The workshop was designed to challenge ideas about poetry, explore concepts, play with words and get involved in the creative writing process and it was the third year the school participated in the program.

Librarian and workshop facilitator Angela Rega said the program offered students a form of self-expression.

"Many students resist traditional poetry. The Red Room allows them to experience the energy of a working poet firsthand," she said.

"Our students produced collage poetry, disappearing blackout poetry, notice poetry and a collaboratively constructed long verse. It is satisfying to watch students engaged and see their writing confidence soar."

Principal Arey Dassaklis said students would launch a poetry anthology of the best works produced from the program next term.



Mikaule Williams with her poem from creative writing class at Marrickville High School.

Picture: CRAIG WILSON

POETRY SCHOOL

- The Red Room Company's Poetry in Schools Program aims to help students improve their reading and writing skills by sending working poets into primary and secondary schools
- Candy Royalle has performed at numerous national and international events, including the Sydney and Adelaide Fringe Festival
- In 2012 she won the World Poetry Cup, the largest performance poetry prize