

*The fern, in infinite slowness,
uncurls each frond; each frond a sister
to another, so many fingers and hands*

*learning to flourish on the underside
of things.*

~ excerpt from 'Fern', by Eileen Chong,
commissioned for *New Shoots* 2016.



Poets Eileen Chong and Mark Tredinnick

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE RED ROOM COMPANY CELEBRATES NATIONAL EUCALYPT DAY

in collaboration with Bundanon Trust and The Dahl Trust.

Sydney, NSW, March 17, 2016– Coinciding with National Eucalypt Day (March 23), The Red Room Company will be collaborating with Bundanon Trust thanks to a grant from The Dahl Trust, as part of our poetic arts project, *New Shoots*. *New Shoots* is a celebration of the relationship between poets and plants, cultivating poems to create poetic pathways in partnership with the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney Olympic Park and now Bundanon Trust.

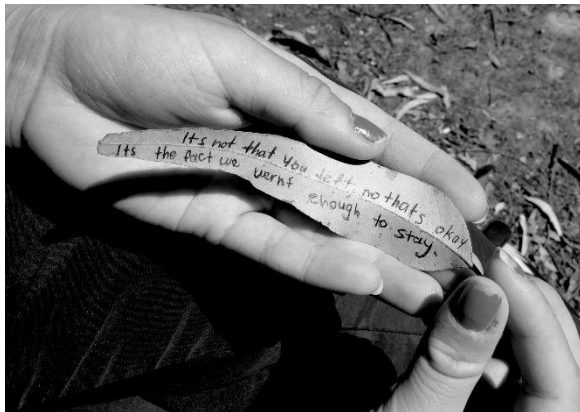
At Bundanon, we will create The Eucalyptus Eco-Poetry Project (EPPP). The EPPP will invite poets and students to respond to site-specific eucalypts & ecological communities to enrich narratives, student engagement, and connections with the many eucalyptus species at Bundanon Trust.

"It's great to be able to announce this project now given it's National Eucalyptus Day on 23 March. New Shoots is all about celebrating and cultivating poems inspired by plants and place." – Tamryn Bennett, Executive Director, The Red Room Company

Singaporean Sydney based poet and former Australian Poetry Fellow Eileen Chong will be in residence at Bundanon for the EEPP to work with Bundanon’s environment and education teams to deliver poetry workshops to local schools and community groups. Other poets involved with New Shoots include Lorna Munro, Eric Avery, and Mark Tredinnick.

“Using creative writing is a great way to connect with botanical science. By developing language to explore, interpret and respond to eucalypt species, you get a better understanding of their importance to biodiversity. Especially in a wildlife corridor such as Bundanon.” – Mary Preece, Education Manager, Bundanon Trust.

The Red Room Company creates unusual and useful ways into poetry to enrich our lives. Our projects and learning programs collaborate with diverse communities, schools, and correctional centres to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.



New Shoots is created by The Red Room Company in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Sydney Olympic Park and Bundanon Trust, with support from Creative Partnerships Australia, Bjarne K Dahl Trust, The Planthunter, ABC Radio National, and Sydney Writers' Festival.

The Bjarne K Dahl Trust provides support to individuals, organisations and the community for the undertaking of eucalypt education, promotion, cultivation, establishment and conservation activities.

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Project page:

www.redroomcompany.org/projects/new-shoots

Available for interview: Eileen Chong (poet), Dr Tamryn Bennett (Director, The Red Room Company), and Mary Preece (Education Manager, Bundanon)

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