

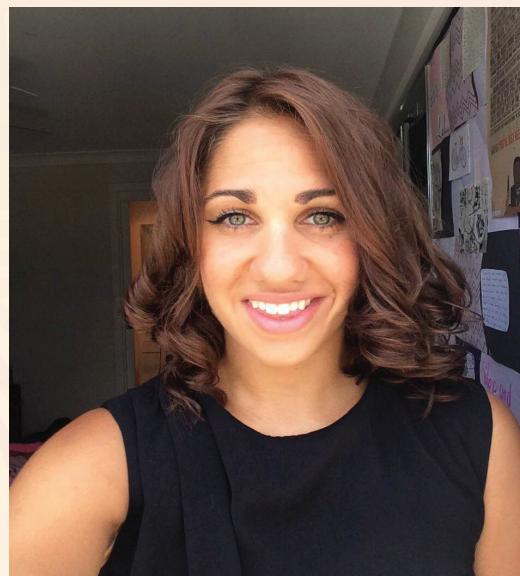
## NAIDOC - Our Languages Matter with Kirli Saunders

### 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.

### Connecting to Country

Proud Yuin poet Kirli Saunders led NAIDOC-themed poetry workshops at Berkeley West Public School, encouraging students from Years 2-6 to connect to country and to write poems using Elouera language words. The workshop resource was informed by consultation with local Elders and language holders, Aunty Gwen Brown & Uncle Rueben Brown.



### Kirli Saunders

Kirli Saunders is a proud Yuin woman with ties to the Gundungurra, Gadigal and Biripi people. Kirli is the Manager of Poetic Learning at Red Room Poetry. She was awarded 'Worker of the Year 2017' at the NAIDOC awards in the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven region. Her first children's picture book 'The Incredible Freedom Machines', illustrated by Matt Ottley is to be released in early 2018. Her second picture book 'Our Dreaming' will be released shortly after. Kirli's work has been published in the Huffington Post Australia. She was poet in residence at Bundanon Trust for the New Shoots project in 2017. Kirli's work has also been commissioned for Reconciliation Week Keep Cups and a range of Poetic Learning workshops at Red Room Poetry.

**Minnamurra River**

*By Sabara*

When I swim in the water at  
Minnamurra  
It feels cool on my body.  
It could sound like waves over and  
over.  
Sea fish live in the river and sea sharks  
live in the river too.

**Big Blue Waves**

*By MaryJane*

The sea is wavy like my hair.  
The sea is so clear that I can see the fish  
through the water.  
The sea grows everyday  
Like me

## 3/4 D Class Poems

### Jumbulla

*By Kiona*

Blue, green, cold  
The sea is as curly as my hair  
The sea is so cold it feels like I'm swimming in  
a block of ice  
The sea tastes as salty as popcorn

### My Country

*By Mariah*

Tall, green and rocky  
The mountain is like a camel back rough and  
tough  
When I go in the Elouera it calms me  
The river is like it is running

### Mount Kembla

*By Isabella*

Big, tall, enormous and windy.  
The mountain is like a big enormous man.  
The mountain man is letting nearly all the wind  
come  
towards him.  
The mountain man is so big.  
You will never know how to get on the top.  
The mountain man trees can whistle like us

### Untitled

*By Cooper*

Blue waves are splashing on the rocks.  
The waves are splashing as big as a house.  
The ocean could take over the earth.  
The waves are trying to eat the sand.

### Untitled

*By Savannah*

The tall, green and rocky mountains.  
The sea is as rough as a rocky road.  
The trees are so green that when I walk pass I  
feel like I'm a plant.  
The trees look like they're running in the wind.

### Jumbulla

*By Jayden J*

Green, blue sea and the tall trees.  
The mountain is like a boulder that is falling  
down.  
The trees are tropical  
and when you walk past them you feel like  
when you are at home.  
The mountain eats the wind.

## **Minnamurra River**

*By Callie*

The water is blue, wavy  
and quiet on my feet  
It is as soft as a bed  
and it is  
so wavy  
it will  
take you away.

## **Untitled**

*By Sarah S*

Blue, tangled and fast river,  
the water is fast as a cheetah.  
The water is scary to me.  
I like walking through  
the breeze in the trees

## **The World**

*By Adrien*

I love the world  
yes I do  
all the places  
and the fresh sea and the rocky mountains and the beautiful flowers  
and beautiful breeze

## **River**

*By Shabed*

Blue wavy quiet  
The water is as cold as ice  
The water is scary more than the wind  
The sea tastes salty.

## **My Country**

*By Jelena*

The ocean is blue and rough and the trees are  
tall  
The waves are just like a knife point  
When I go in the salty water it heals me slowly  
The river is running down the stream

## **Minnamurra**

*By Samantha V*

the sound of the waves the wind and people  
splashing in the water.  
In the river there are  
animals  
like fish jellyfish and seaweed  
you go  
in many directions you twist everywhere.

## **Untitled**

*By Jayden K*

Tall trees, rocks  
the mountain is big  
like my dad's belly.  
I like the mountains when we have picnics on it.  
Trees die and go into the ocean.

## Mountain and Sea

By *Amelia L*

Large waves, green mountains, blue sea.  
The sea has large waves.  
The mountain is a big green monster.  
The mountain is as beautiful as a red dark rose.  
The mountain is so large that you can't walk  
on it in one day.  
When I hit my face under water I can see fish

## Minnamurra River

By *Mia*

The waves are really cold and rough.  
Blue, cold and smoothing.  
The sea is like a piece of soft ribbon.  
The sea tastes like salt. YUCK!

## Minnamurra River

By *Ellie H*

Rough tough clear  
The sea is clear like the ice at the Antarctic  
The river is so relaxing that I could fall asleep  
The river is so salty that I felt sick.

## Wavy Sea

By *Imogen*

Big, blue, wavy seas  
The sea is as blue as my Mum's eyes.  
The water is as clear as an ice block and ice.  
The sea tastes like salt and the sand  
tastes like a flower

## River

By *Montell*

Tall rocky large  
The river is wavy like my hair  
The trees are big and green

## Jumbulla

By *Kasey*

Tall round and cold mountains and rivers  
The mountains are my tall Dad  
and the mountains also  
look like my round head.  
These mountains are so big that we can't even  
climb  
up it in one day.  
The sea tastes like salt, the same as chips

## 3/4 F Class Poems

### Untitled

*By Izach*

Blue good sand big waves  
The beach is blue as the whales, swing pass  
It's as pretty as the snow leaning to go on the  
mountain.  
The green and brown trees are pretty.

### Untitled

*By Sophie B*

Green, smash and safe  
The mountains are as high as the clouds  
and they are grey with white snow.  
Cold snow goes with the beautiful  
blue water and sky.  
The beautiful blue water shines from the sun

### Untitled

*By Ella K*

Rough, big, wet  
The ocean is like the big blue sky.  
I feel relaxed when I am in the dirt on the  
mountain  
The waves are dancing in the beautiful.

### The Trees

*By Taylah*

Blue bright  
The trees are like the light house  
I can see the trees sway side to side.  
The trees are moving quietly.

### Untitled

*By Hayley*

Night green giant, swish and crash.

The air is salty as the sea. The air is as crispy as an apple.  
The mountain looks like a sleeping giant.  
When I put my feet in the water it feels like  
the wind pushing against my legs.  
The trees are looking at me like they're my guardian  
angel and it makes me feel safer.

### Untitled

*By Jasmine*

Swishy wet green  
The sea is salty as popcorn  
from the movies  
green relaxing salty and wet.  
Swishy sand is in between my toe  
the water is cold as ice.  
The trees were dancing in the wind.

**Minnamurra**

*By Lola*

Smooth soft earth, warm water, tall mountains.  
The mountains are as tall as the clouds and the  
water is as salty as salt.  
You can see your reflection and the trees are  
crunchy as the wind blows.  
The trees on the mountains are spiky.

**Untitled**

*By Skylar*

Green, blue, moving  
The mountain is as big as a roller  
coaster

Bright green like the birds that fly  
there

**Untitled**

*By Cohan*

Green climbing

The beach is blue as the whales going past

**Minnamurra River**

*By Matilda*

Minnamurra River is safe, blue and goes  
whoosh.  
The Minnamurra River is a tunnel to the ocean  
The Minnamurra River feels wet between my toes

The trees are telling me secrets

**Untitled**

*By Cailyn*

Wonderful land that all animals live on.  
The night sky is as dark as tree bark when it  
gets dark.  
The sea dances in the crystal clear water.

The sand rustles when the water comes up.

**The Mountain and Sea**

*By Isaac*

The waves are noisy the sand is sandy the  
mountains are giant

The mountains are green sleeping dragons  
The mountain is giant the trees swish side to  
side

The trees are high fiving when moving side to  
side.

**The River**

*By Sharnie*

Nature, path and safety the night so dark  
but  
the path leading me to safety as clear as  
the  
fresh water in the ocean

I can hear the water  
splash in the background the trees rustling  
as I walk past the trees

**Untitled**

*By Trinity*

Night, river, dream, environment alive

The moonlight shines above the ships on the sea

The light house shines on the sea like a guardian to guide me

The environment at school we learn to recycle and it makes me feel like I am part of the environment

The bird is talking in the valley. The trees in the valley listens quietly to kids playing on Christmas

**Untitled**

*By Chloe J*

Beautiful, soft, squishy  
The sand is as squishy as the dirt after rain  
The tree's bark is crunchy when I step on it  
The trees are talking to each other quietly

**Untitled**

*By Natalya*

Night, tall, bright

The mountains are like sleeping giants in a deep-deep sleep. That's what it feels and looks like to me.

When I dig my feet in the sand, it feels like tiny ants all over my legs.

The river spins like a spinning top.



## 3/4 Group Poems

### Jumbulla

*By Ella, Isabella, Jasmine and Hana*

There is beautiful nature all around.

It makes me dream big about nature

The mountain lays beneath our feet  
this secret place is easy to believe.

The view on the mountain  
makes me feel special  
because I can see everything.

### Untitled

*By Chloe, Caitlyn*

Looking over the land and water from the top  
of the world

Birds chirping loudly and dancing around the  
trees.

We drive around and around the bumpy roads.  
A place we can feel happy, relaxed and calm.

### Jumbulla

*By Izach, Coban, Talon, Jayden*

You are the spiritual mountain that looks over  
the Illawarra

Jumbulla I remember driving up you and look-  
ing at the animals and it was fun

The birds on Jumbulla they bring the storm.

Jumbulla is like a house to the bird.

### Minnamurra

*By Hayleigh, Natalya, Trinity, Isaac*

The spirits that swim in the closing river at  
night,

May lead you to a beautiful light in the night  
sky.

The stars that shine in the night's sky will tell  
you softly to go to sleep.

The town nearby the river at night will guide  
you through your dreams so bright.

### Minnamurra

*By Sophie, Rianna, Matilda, Sharnie*

The trees by the river rustling in the wind,  
telling me secrets.

The saltwater and freshwater meet at the Min-  
namurra river.

The Minnamurra sounds and looks like a snake  
sss.

The Minnamurra river saves the small fish.

### Minnamurra

*By Ashanti, Taylah, Lola, Latiyah*

Water moves like a snake

The edge of the water comes on the beach,

The edge of the beach it has little houses and  
some are big.

The water is cold and slimy when you get out.

## 5/6 Class Poems

### River

*By Cooper J*

Colourful, loud, refreshing  
The light blue sea is like my eyes  
The sea is all different types of blue  
The sea dancing with the fishes

### One Another

*By Brodyn*

Quiet, green and divine  
The leaves are more green  
Than a beautiful cut emerald  
The lake is so blue when the bright sun shines  
inside,  
The green tree waves at the sea  
Showing that they care about one another

### Jumbulla

*By Shamekiah*

beautiful, bright, loving  
The night is as dark when the moon goes away.  
Giant mountains reach for the sky  
The bright blue ocean loves to connect with the  
shore

### The Ocean

*By Maddison*

Stunning, crystal, curves  
The ocean water crystal blue like the colour  
Of morning glory flower  
Walking on the beach makes me feel like  
I'm with my family  
Waves fight for the beach

### Stunning, Quiet and Sparkling

*By Erin*

The mountain is as quiet as an empty room  
with no one in it.  
The flora on the mountain is sweet like a jar of  
honey seasoned with a spoon of sugar, colour-  
ful and amazing.  
The water in the river rolls slowly across the  
sand, and the mountain watches over us, silent  
and still.

### Jumbulla

*By Alice*

Amazing, beautiful and bright  
The Elouera Country is beautiful  
just like Miss Haworth  
Giant mountains reach for the sky  
The giant tall mountain likes to listen to the  
gorgeous birds sing.

### The Ocean

*By Tableo*

Beautiful, blue with curves  
The ocean is as blue as the forget-me-nots  
flower  
Walking on the beach creating new memories  
with my family  
Waves rolling onto the beach

## **The Beautiful Sea**

*By Shabani*

Stunning, crystal, majestic

The water is blue like my baby brother's eyes, is  
green like grass on a field

The crystal waves moving so gracefully,  
relaxing me,  
calming me

The water in the river calls amongst me slowly  
runs across the sand to find me

## **Mountains and Sea**

*By Ella P*

Beautiful, full of life, and bright

The land is full of life,  
Just like a human who never runs out of  
energy.

The mountain and sea are protectors of  
secrets, and are invaluable to anyone  
Who sees them.

The sea waves are angry as they  
crash onto shore.

## **Ocean**

*By Mackenzie*

Beautiful, sunny and large

The ocean is as blue as my grandma's eyes  
When they glow

The ocean is as quiet as a flower.  
The trees sway as the wind passes over

## **Mountains**

*By Aimee*

Sunny, green, clam  
The mountains and sea  
come together  
like thunder and lightning

The mountain is as special as a diamond  
The trees on the mountains shine  
As they smile over us.

## **Jumbulla**

*By Scarlet D*

Bright, incredible, majestic  
The light brighter than the sun.

The giant mountains reach for the sky,  
The bright flowers love  
to connect with the mountain

## **Gorgeous Rivers**

*By Scarlet L*

Gorgeous, blue and majestic  
The river is as clear as glass.

The river is as sparkly as magic.  
Our ocean is gentle to swim in.  
The rivers are good to watch.

The ocean calls my name:  
Scarlet, Scarlet, Scarlet

## **Minnamurra**

*By Amber*

Blue, majestic, deep  
The water is as clear as the sky  
majestic, blue flowing river  
The sea jumps with the waves.

## **Jumbulla**

*By Chloe J*

Stunning, vivid and enormous  
Your trees wave in the wind  
Like us humans waving to each other

Jumbulla is so big  
A naked eye cannot see how gigantic  
It really is.

Ten, twelve story buildings would be the size of  
you

I cannot describe how you protect me  
But it is just like a giant blanket

## **Jumbulla**

*By Jake N*

Ginormous, beautiful, colour  
The nature is colourful like a rainbow  
The mountain is so big as big as a building.  
The waves crash against the sand,  
fish flow in the seaweed

## **Minnamurra**

*By Tara*

Majestic, bright and stunning  
The water looks blue as the ocean  
I can see through the water with the fish swim  
and crabs dance,  
The sea breathes with each tide

## **Mountains**

*By Liam*

Stunning, beautiful, colourful  
The green grass is as beautiful as colourful leaves  
The trees are magnificent and colourful  
The mountains are watching us every moment along  
the way.

## **Mountains and Oceans**

*By Ashley*

Sunny, alive and colourful  
The ocean's water is as clear as the sky  
With no clouds.  
The Elouera landscape is Australia's most  
colourful and alive place.  
Every step we take the mountains  
Will be watching us.

## **Minnamurra**

*By Mohammad*

Tree mountains, river.  
The trees are as big as giants  
The mountains are majestic and great  
The leaves waves in the wind.

## **The Waves near the Minnamurra Ocean**

*By Brent*

Berkeley, wavy, drenched  
The sea is claiming like my stepsister.  
The waves are extraordinary, beautiful and clear.  
The waves swaying time with the breeze.

## **Minnamurra**

*By Callum*

Blue, wavy, drenched  
The water is blue like my dog's eyes  
The waves are moving to me and my dad  
The waves are racing to the beach

## **Poem of the River**

*By Lenise*

Beautiful, deathly turns  
The water is as fierce as the dingoes  
Running through the land,  
It is icy blue, and fast, it could take you  
Away with the glimmering sky.  
The cold, icy river runs and twirls  
Across the ground.

## **Elouera Country**

*By Nickitah*

Beautiful, bright, incredible  
  
The Elouera country is as bright as the  
sun coming so close to you,  
  
Giant mountain peaks reach for the sky  
Where snow may fall.  
  
The majestic mountains love to connect  
with the nature around them.

## **Jumbulla**

*By Tameka*

Enormous, colourful, beautiful  
  
The water is blue like a clear sky.  
  
The mountain is so enormous you need a heli-  
copter  
To see the whole thing.  
  
The waves crashing against the sand and fish  
Flow in the sea weed.

## **A land of beauty**

*By Tyler*

Crystal, colourful and magical  
  
The forest is magical like paradise,  
The river is as crystal as a cloudless sky.  
  
Rivers crystal and blue running through colour-  
ful.  
Magical forest heaps as a Kookaburra calls to  
Its young  
  
The river crawls across the land as flowers  
Awake from the night.

## **Ocean Water**

*By Tablia K*

Relaxing, free and beautiful  
The ocean is like floating in space, the fish  
Are your stars and the corals are your planets.

Swimming in ocean makes you feel like you are  
Lost in a dream and never want to wake up.

The waves and the sea move to the rhythm  
Of the earth every movement is a heart beat.

## **Minnamurra**

*By Milli*

Majestic, stunning, blue  
The water is as blue as the sky  
The river looks majestic, I can see my toes  
Sink in the sand, it is crystal clear sky blue  
The river sings, shhh.

## **The Mountain**

*By Jack C*

Green, luscious, magnificent  
Like a sleeping giant forever waiting to wake up  
A massive mountain covered in wildlife  
And lowering above the land.  
The mountain singing and howling in the wind  
Keeps me awake and curious.

## **The Lake**

*By Nicholas*

Gleaming, bright, crystal.

The lake is like shelter to sea creatures.

The lake is an extraordinary place  
With astonishing wildlife.

The jetty is like a person who is standing in a  
shallow river.

## **My Ocean Home**

*By Madison H*

Beautiful, mesmerising, refreshing  
The sea is as still and subtle as a bird gliding  
through the bright blue sky,  
As I swim in the ocean, it's peaceful.

When I look up, there's not a cloud in the sky,  
I can hear the sea,  
churning many metres ahead  
As I close my eyes,  
I feel alive.

The waves start to pick up,  
They hit the sand, rattling it  
And mesmerising me with the sound.

This is the ocean,  
this is my home.

## **The Nature's Drift**

*By Connor P*

I love the green grass as it shines on the ground  
You wouldn't want to give it a pound  
The beach is the thing to make joy  
Sometimes you hear ahoy  
This land is majestic to be called domestic.

The lovely land is full of trees so big and wide  
The trees are like tall beauties living on the  
Earth.

The grass is sparking and the plants are parting.

## **My Home**

*By Ataya*

Pacific, blue and picturesque.  
The mountain grass is as green as a ripe lime.

The waves curve just like my sister when she  
dances the night away.  
I feel like I'm back at home for another day.

When the mountains touch, it reminds me that  
the trees might reach out for a lovely hug  
Just like I do with my Clancy crew.

## 5/6 Group Poems

### Jumbulla

*By Alice, Nickitah, Shamekiaah, Scarlet*

Birds chirping loudly on the enormous mountain wind howling terribly loud.  
Bushes swaying, plants growing, birds singing and owls hooting  
The landscapes beauty, looks nice and glorious throughout the countryside.  
Rough and rowdy, nice and soft feels the mountain top.

### Jumbulla

*By Erin, Shahani, Tyler, Scarlet*

The soft breeze enlightening your skin as sunlight emerges through the treetops.  
The soft whistle of the bearer of bad news, the rustling of leaves as a wombat searches for food.  
The great green trees that are all around and the flowers that blossom beside you.  
The magpies call amongst your ears, the birds that fly around you.

### Untitled

*By Conner, Josh, Connor, Brodyn*

Jumbulla so green as brown. What a beautiful place to be found.  
Birds chirping, leaves crackling the fresh air from the trees, the feeling of amazement, the feeling of life.  
Jumbulla mountain is a giant of Elouera Country.  
The Jumbulla mountain so pretty and wide.  
Giant secrets are found inside, seek and spy.  
For what's inside someone with beady eyes.

### Minnamurra River

*By Caitlyn, Cooper J, Summer*

The soft sand underneath my feet, the great ocean breeze.  
The lovely golden sand, nice blue sea and huge trees.  
Birds humming, waves crashing, sand squishing.  
My family here with me swimming in the sea challenges.  
Many to come trust me we will overcome them.

## **Jumbulla**

*By Jake, Chloe, Tameka*

I love the way the birds sing and the way the trees sway in the wind.  
There are bursts of colour everywhere I look, the nature is like a rainbow.  
When I get to the top of the mountain I can see the most wonderful view.  
The feeling of being there washes all the fears away. I love Jumbulla, it's like home.

## **Minnamurra**

*By Jordan, Alex, Liam*

The warm soft sand, the cool refreshing water and the trees swaying.  
Waves crashing when the water meets the land, birds chirping and the wind blowing.

Refreshing cool water when it is hot relaxing in the water.  
Snakes slithering across the rough ground, lizards relaxing on the roads and mice running  
around and birds on the tree branches.

## **Untitled**

*By Lenise*

The rivers are dark and deep. The thought of drowning is sickening.  
The twists and turns will mislead you to the unknown danger that roams about.



### **Minnamurra River**

*By Maddie, Emily, Ataya, Tablea*

Lizards watching every move you take, and every sound you make.  
Taking a dip in refreshing water, feeling fish nibbling at your feet.  
I love how the sun beams down to the curvy river below.  
Listening to the water splash as I go for a swim, washing all my worries away.

### **Minnamurra**

*By Taia, Millie, Destiney, Amber*

The blue majestic flowing river is soft on your feet.  
Waves crashing on rocks, shhh.  
When I swim in the river it feels like ice cubes in a gloss.  
The river slithers through the earth slowly.

### **Jumbulla**

*By Jack, Tablia, Madison, Ethan*

Like a huge giant rising into the crystal blue sky.  
It's a vast surface stretching for many kilometres, towering over the surrounding land.  
As I see the young and the old swishing and swaying I love myself in the beauty.  
When I walk up the mountain I hear willy wag tails chirp and kookaburras.  
I see koala's lay and kangaroos hop.  
Up on the mountain peak, I see the blue sky, trees, ocean and land.