



Poetry in First Languages - Yuin Country

North Nowra Public 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 17 August, Bundanon Trust Writer in Residence, Kirli Saunders took students from North Nowra Public 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.

The Bush

By Chloe (Y4/5)

peaceful, beautiful, free, colourful,

peaceful is quiet, relaxing, it is quiet like a rock concert.

beautiful like pretty, free the bagarin was shining.

free like open, budjan yanggum.

colourful like garaban covered in spots of green and white

I ngara the gurgama rustling the leaves and I ngara the budjan communicating

I can hear the bunbal communicating

Mother Nature is beautiful and

budjan yanggum

~

peaceful, beautiful, free, colourful,

peaceful is quiet, relaxing, it is quiet like rock concert.

beautiful like pretty, free the sun was shining.

free like open, birds singing.

colourful like rocks covered in spots of green and white

I hear the wind rustling the leaves and I hear the birds communicating

I can hear the tree communicating

Mother Nature is beautiful and

birds singing

Dream, Amazing, Peaceful

By Lilly (Y3)

dream, amazing, peaceful

peaceful is a quiet moment with colours like a galaxy

dream is where your body shuts down and relaxes like you are floating

amazing is where you see something like lights and it is amazing

the garaban grow white patches like naandtha grow hair

~

dream, amazing, peaceful

peaceful is a quiet moment with colours like a galaxy

dream is where your body shuts down and relaxes like you are floating

amazing is where you see something like lights and it is amazing

the rocks grow white patches like I grow hair



Bush

By Betty (Y3)

Beautiful, connected, calm

it was beautiful, connected
the huge gundu is like a huge cismer gundu

It feels like the breeze yanggum to me

~

Beautiful, connected, calm

it was beautiful, connected
the huge tree is like a huge cismer tree

It feels like the breeze sings to me

Birds, Flowers

By Nicole (Y6)

green, peaceful, beautiful

the grass and leaves are so green and the sound is beautiful and peaceful
the budjanlali yanggum is as peaceful as meditation music.

gambalali run away from danger

~

green, peaceful, beautiful

the grass and leaves are so green and the sound is beautiful and peaceful
the birds singing is as peaceful as meditation music.

flowers run away from danger

Our Land

By Taleisha (Y4)

Colourful, calming and rolling.
As I sit here I can hear the birds chirping in ngaa guri
I can feel the gurgama soft on ngaa skin.
I can hear the ancestors speaking to us, whispering in ngaa guri

~

Colourful, calming and rolling.
As I sit here I can hear the birds chirping in my ear
I can feel the wind soft on my skin.
I can hear the ancestors speaking to us, whispering in my ear



Byosh Bush

By dallas (Y4)

Beautiful, Amazing, Peaceful

I feel like I am one
with the minga, all I see is peace, I think we
all do

The budjan was yanggum and it sounded like
a lullaby

The moss is rough like my bana and minga

~

Beautiful, Amazing, Peaceful

I feel like I am one
with the mother, all I see is peace, I think we
all do

The bird was singing and it sounded like
a lullaby

The moss is rough like my father and mother

Bundanon Bush

By Crystal (Y5)

miru
dreamy, calm, majestic

the animals make magical sounds, the bunbal look like mandaga giants
the sounds make a lovely song

the caves had a line that went forever
the fruit can fall down from the bunbal like a person coming
down from jumping

~

dream
dreamy, calm, majestic

the animals make magical sounds, the trees look like big giants
the sounds make a lovely song

the caves had a line that went forever
the fruit can fall down from the trees like a person coming
down from jumping



The Bush

By Jyab (Y4)

Peaceful, green, hot
The garaban are hard
The logs are soft the trees shake,

The big garaban are strong like my Uncle Rodney
The soft moss wobbles when I touch it.

~

Peaceful, green, hot
The rocks are hard
The logs are soft the trees shake,

The big rocks are strong like my Uncle Rodney
The soft moss wobbles when I touch it.

Untitled

By Kaleisha (Y3)

great, relaxing, peaceful

the bush is beautiful like jewels
the leaves shine like the baragin
the gundulali drink like ballang and banda

~

great, relaxing, peaceful

the bush is beautiful like jewels
the leaves shine like the sun
the trees drink like girls and boys


Untitled

By Stephanie (Y3)

It is quiet there are
soft footsteps mandaga mumu large
bunbal colourful fresh hair
passing by mountains, cliffs of
garaban long strong branches beautiful
like it has its own world
naandtha other worlds when
you close your mabura you
feel like you can naandtha and
feel their world the bunbal are
like warriors that stand up
straight and take on the
ganbi heat and fight back
with the wicked
gurgama

~

It is quiet there are
soft footsteps big small large
trees colourful fresh hair
passing by mountains, cliffs of
rocks long strong branches beautiful
like it has its own world
seeing other worlds when
you close your eyes you
feel like you can see and
feel their world the trees are
like warriors that stand up
straight and take on the
fire's heat and fight back
with the wicked
wind





Bundanon Trip

By Tablia (Y3)

Peaceful, colourful, relaxing

beautiful like my mina
the bawa makes you feel happy

the mossy garaban are a map, they show us where to go

~

Peaceful, colourful, relaxing

beautiful like my mother
the bush makes you feel happy

the mossy rocks are a map, they show us where to go

My Calm Journey

By Tayba (Y6)

peaceful, green, grateful

it's so peaceful and quiet you can only hear the animals
the breeze does not roar
it's calm.

you feel so grateful to be there
it's so green there's so much life.

the bunya is so spikey just like a pineapple, they are like armour
for their bunbal when the bunbal starts to shake, fall down to attack,
the budjan yangum ngubudli lullabies,
nyulaan yangum sorrows to their lost ones and
gum to each other

~

peaceful, green, grateful

it's so peaceful and quiet you can only hear the animals
the breeze does not roar
it's calm.

you feel so grateful to be there
it's so green there's so much life.

the fruit is so spikey just like a pineapple, they are like armour
for their tree when the tree starts to shake, fall down to attack,
the birds sing loving lullabies,
they sing sorrows to their lost ones and
talk to each other



Bush

By Nate (Y5)

beautiful, calming, colourful

there was bawa surrounding yindi and the calming
gurgama blowing the leaves around
the garaban were hard like concrete and cold
as snow, the budjanlali were like mediation music
the waterfall gum to nyulaan

~

beautiful, calming, colourful

there was bush surrounding you and the calming
wind blowing the leaves around
the rocks were hard like concrete and cold
as snow, the birds were like mediation music
the waterfall speaks to us

Untitled

By Ruby (Y6)

peaceful, calming, green

This ngara is so calming and walbugini it is very green

The budjan yanggum it sounds like meditation music

The budjan are like meditation music

The bunbal are like warriors, they watch over us.

~

peaceful, calming, green

This country is so calming and peaceful it is very green

The birds singing it sounds like meditation music

The birds are like meditation music

The trees are like warriors, they watch over us.



Bush

By Eric (Y5/6)

green, peaceful, calming

This ngara is so calming, peaceful and very green
The budjan are yanggum like meditation music
The bunjan are like meditation
The waterfall speaks to us

~

green, peaceful, calming

This land is so calming, peaceful and very green
The birds are singing like meditation music
The birds are like meditation
The waterfall speaks to us



The Bush

By Mia (Y4)

peaceful, wonderful, beautiful

peaceful is like relaxing and
wonderful is like blue sky
beautiful is like pretty, beautiful shinning in
the sky

the garaban they have white patches that are very soft

I can hear the bunbal communicating with me and
talking with me

~

peaceful, wonderful, beautiful

peaceful is like relaxing and
wonderful is like blue sky
beautiful is like pretty, beautiful shinning in
the sky

the rocks they have white patches that are very soft

I can hear the tree communicating with me and
talking with me



bundanon bush

By Cody (Y5/6)

grateful, peaceful, beautiful

It was like ngaa was in a forest where none of my worries mattered and ngaa knew that minga nature was, and always will be with me. It was like the budjan were yanggum me a relaxation lullaby.

The garaban were like concrete, the garaban were concrete.
The bunya were like pineapples, the bunya was a pineapple.

~

It was like I was in a forest where none of my worries mattered and I knew that mother nature was, and always will be with me. It was like the birds were singing me a relaxation lullaby.

The rocks were like concrete, the rocks were concrete.
The fruit were like pineapples, the fruit was a pineapple.

Untitled

By Jye (Y4)

grateful, peaceful, magnificent

mandaga bunbal wave around, budjan fly to bunbal
and yanggum

the garaban are hard like concrete

the bunbal breathe calmly

~

grateful, peaceful, magnificent

big trees wave around, birds fly to trees
and sing

the rocks are hard like concrete

the trees breathe calmly

