

# 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

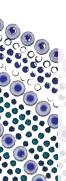
Jacob Morris is a proud Gumea-Dharawal, Dharumba, Dhurga man and also Birripai Djanghatti from Kempsey. Jacob has been raised learning Gumea-Dharawal, the southern dialect of the Dharawal Language spoken between the Shoalhaven River and Crooked River near Gerringong.

# 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 Jyah (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

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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

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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 Tahlia (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

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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 Tayha (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



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

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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

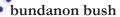
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peaceful, wonderful, beautiful

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



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.

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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

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grateful, peaceful, magnificent

big trees wave around, birds fly to trees and sing

the rocks are hard like concrete

the trees breathe calmly

