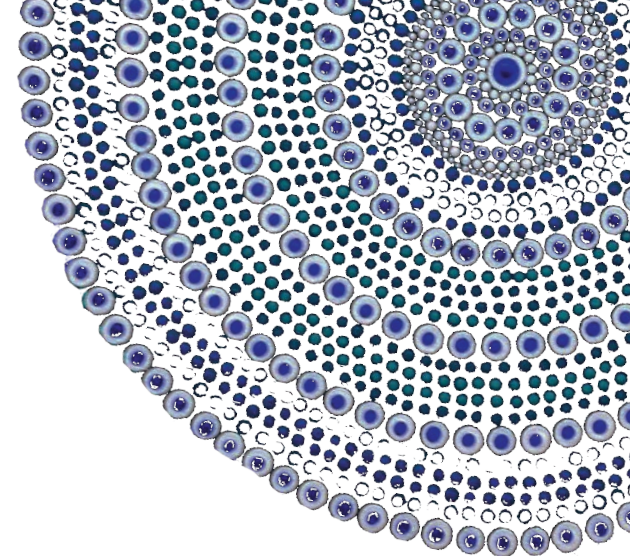




POETRY IN FIRST LANGUAGES DHARAWAL

with Kirli Saunders & Lyndsay Urquhart



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

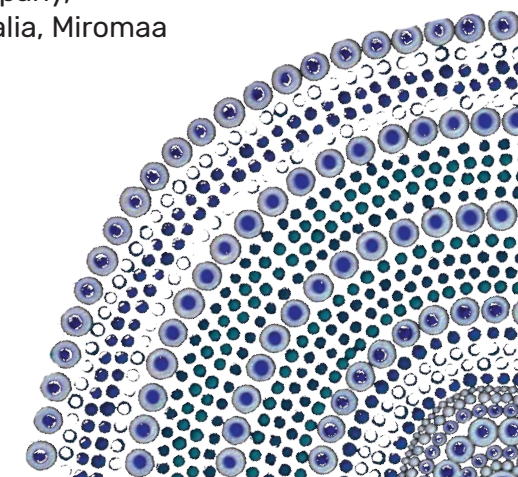
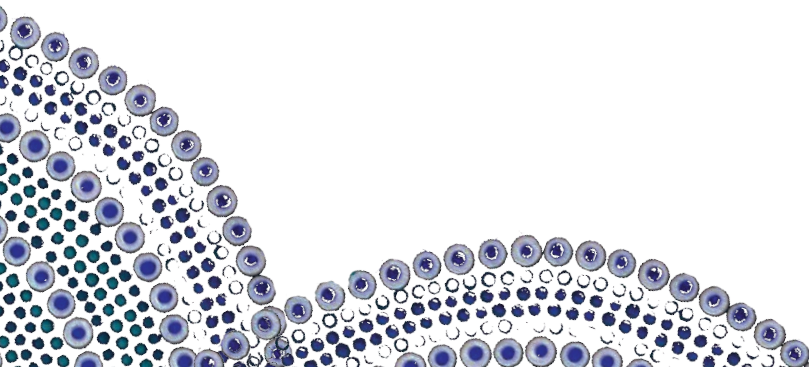
Developed by Gunai poet Kirli Saunders and delivered by Red Room Poetry, Poetry in First Languages (PIFL) celebrates, shares and preserves knowledge of First Nations languages and culture through poetry, music and art.

Over two days (14-15 May, 2018) Kirli Saunders and Lyndsay Urquhart took students of First Nations and Refugee Backgrounds from Warrawong Public School, Kemblawarra Public School and Warrawong High School through the new resource, specific to Dharawal Country.

Students were connected to First Nations poets, artists and Language Custodians on Country, to create poetry in Dharawal as well as in their own First Languages. The second day focused on artistic interpretations of student's poems through art with Gundungurra Elder Aunty Trish Levett and dance with Lyndsay Urquhart.

Poetry in First Languages is supported by the Commonwealth through the Australian National Commission for UNESCO of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is proudly supported by Graeme Wood Foundation, Geoff Ainsworth AM & Johanna Featherstone, Copyright Agency and generous individuals.

On Dharawal country, PIFL is also supported by Illawarra Multicultural Services, Merrigong Theatre Company, Wollongong Art Gallery, First Languages Australia, Miromaa and AIME.





Shellharbour Beach

~Mason, Year 4,
Kemblawarra Public School

Soft, wet, luscious,
The waves crash like water hitting rocks,
The gadu sounds as calm
as beautiful meditation music,
The gadu welcomes the swimmers
and surfers.

~

Soft, wet, luscious,
The waves crash like water hitting rocks,
The sea sounds as calm
as beautiful meditation music,
The sea welcomes the swimmers
and surfers.

Wollongong Station

~ Anthony, Year 4,
Kemblawarra Public School

Rolling busy movement,
The bus is gayan
and strong like a 30-foot nagu,
The platform is made of rough,
reddish brownish bricks,
The loud speaker talks
to people on the platform
to tell them which train
to get on to get to their destination

~

Rolling busy movement,
The bus is big and
strong like a 30-foot brown snake,
The platform is made of rough,
reddish brownish bricks,
The loud speaker talks
to people on the platform
to tell them which train
to get on to get to their destination.

Library

~ Dana and Amal, Year 8,
Warrawong High School

Trees, saltwater, fun,
The library is like a book,
Too angry, I didn't want open
Library is like welcome home,
The library is beautiful, smiles at me and
the foot open like the arms and it is a happy
place.

Untitled

~ Nic, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public School

The beach tells me secrets
The beach whispers

Untitled

~ Dana, Year 8, Warrawong High School

Eid do not eat from
4'oclock in the morning
to 6 in the evening.
My religion is Muslim
I must fast and go to the mosque
for my lord,

Special, family, social.

This celebration makes me happy;

money, gifts, food, song.

We wear new clothes,
we go to different places
like a celebration of Eid
we go to the mosque party of Eid,
we eat Arabic food and sweets.

Port Kembla Beach

~Nyetarlee, Year 4,
Warrawong Public School

Windy, sunny, green
The ocean is like a growling lion
The beach wayagundi
at the bright blue sky
And the golden smooth wuri

The water gali as it flows
down the garabang
The gundu whistle wickedly
As the gurgama fly's by

~

Windy, sunny, green
The ocean is like a growling lion
The beach looks
at the bright blue sky
And the golden smooth sun

The water dances as it flows
down the rocks
The trees whistle wickedly
As the westerly wind fly's by

Port Kembla

~Drew, Year 4, Warrawong Public School

Beautiful, joyful, luscious
The gadu that I love
is similar to the ice cream
That melts on my tongue
Bringing me joy,
as it melts

Mara, sharks, djunga, whales
and seahorses swim
In the blue water

The water builds big waves

~

Beautiful, joyful, luscious
The sea that I love
is similar to the ice cream
That melts on my tongue
Bringing me joy,
as it melts

Fish, sharks, octopus, whales
and seahorses swim
in the blue water.

The water builds big waves



Berkeley Beach

~ Letayah, Year 4, Warrawong Public School

Sandy, windy, sunny
The gundu are as tall as buildings
The naruan sounds like a lion roaring
The gadu looks like a huge ball pit
that I could jump right into
The gundu dance crazy
as the gurgama goes by

~

Sandy, windy, sunny
The trees are as tall as buildings
The far sea sounds like a lion roaring
The sea up-close looks like a huge ball pit
that I could jump right into
The tress dance crazy
as the westerly wind goes by

Untitled

~Ella, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

This place makes me feel I belong
I run my fingers through the leaves
I feel like the gundu
are watching over me

Making sure I am safe

~

This place makes me feel I belong
I run my fingers through the leaves
I feel like the trees
are watching over me

Making sure I am safe



Port Kembla Tahī (Tongan)

~ Mele Fifita, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

Smoorei, cilistia, clear, beautifullo
Koe hiva oe tahi oku tau fanongo oku
beautifullo
Tatou pe moe leo aeku otua

Koe gilolious sano oku massaginhao vae
moe tahi
Oku ha'u o loli ia koe pea moe leo oe ho'o

Nana moe pa oku mahin'oi kiate koe oku ke
safe
Koe tahi oku hui he fonua moe nau nima
oku
Ava ke huki ae mea kotoa pe

~

Smooth, crystal clear, beautiful
The peaceful singing of the clear waves
Sand as beautiful as the voice of my
ancestors

The glorious sand massaging your feet
While smooth waves come rolling over you
and

The sound of grandma and grandpa and
ancestors making you feel safe.
The waves walk all over the world with
Their arms ready to hug everything



Minumurra Rainforest

~Ella, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

Green, fresh, free, calm
the manda greenery is beautiful to see
it is as free as a bird flying through the sky

The manda is a calm place
that welcomes you to the land

Gundu at nighttime
Djadjun lights the way

~

Green, fresh, free, calm
the forests greenery is beautiful to see
it is as free as a bird flying through the sky

The forest is a calm place
that welcomes you to the land

Trees at nighttime
Moon lights the way

Hospital Hill

~Baw, Year 4, Warrawong Public School

Green hill, Warrawong
your hill is like an elephant
your curved green hill
your gundu are gali in the gurgama

~

Green hill, Warrawong
your hill is like an elephant
your curved green hill
your trees are dancing in the westerly wind

Wollongong

~Suliman, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

Wollongong is like the love of my mum
I love the wind
Wollongong is a safe place for me

Untitled

~Cassie, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

The beautiful place where we all belong
singing harmony in peace.
The bright wuri, shining on my mudjis
mabura
dancing gunda flashing on amazing dilwan

~

The beautiful place where we all belong
singing harmony in peace.
The bright sun, shining on my friends eyes
dancing trees flashing on amazing sunset





Untitled

~Victoria, Year 4, Warrawong Public School

Salty blue water
the djadjun is rough as djanagugadj
the djadjun tastes like
cookies and cream ice cream
As it rises above the ocean
it shines on the gali

~

Salty blue water
The moon is rough as echidna
The moon tastes like
cookies and cream ice cream
as it rises above the ocean
it shines on the dance

Untitled

~Nicole Brown, Year 8,
Warrawong High School

Crystal clear water
the Ginga river is like a shiny bright storm
that is conquered with love

so bright just like the making of a river

the Ginga speaks to me
as if it needs a friend



Basepoint

~ Jerry, Year 6, Kemblawarra Public School

Base point is nice, calming and beautiful
The nadjun at basepoint
is as calming as a tree
swinging side to side

It makes me feel relaxed
like I'm lying in pillows

The mara play hide and seek in the coral

~

Base point is nice, calming and beautiful
The water at basepoint
is as calming as a tree
swinging side to side

It makes me feel relaxed
like I'm lying in pillows

The fish play hide and seek in the coral



City Beach

~ Suliman, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

the gago of the gain
reminds me of paradise lands

In the coldness
your wings are Dharawal swimmers,
floating and diving

~

the water of the beach
reminds me of paradise lands

In the coldness
your wings are Dharawal swimmers,
floating and diving

City Beach

~ Hika, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

Clear, noisy, extravagant
the escarpment is a crater
crystal clear gadu,
widjud widjud which squeaks
every time you step

Your waterfalls gali
to the noisy gurgama

~

Clear, noisy, extravagant
the escarpment is a crater
crystal clear sea,
sand which squeaks every time you step

Your waterfalls dance
to the noisy westerly wind

Untitled

~ Jallahrah, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

The ghadu ocean is as smooth and luscious
as a puff of cloud.

It is calm and peaceful like manda

The water is like a crystal diamond

The peaceful incredible ocean
await the sound of our ancestors.

We hear their incredible calm voices flowing
into our guri.

We can't understand but try to reply the
waves

~

The ghadu ocean is as smooth and luscious
as a puff of cloud.

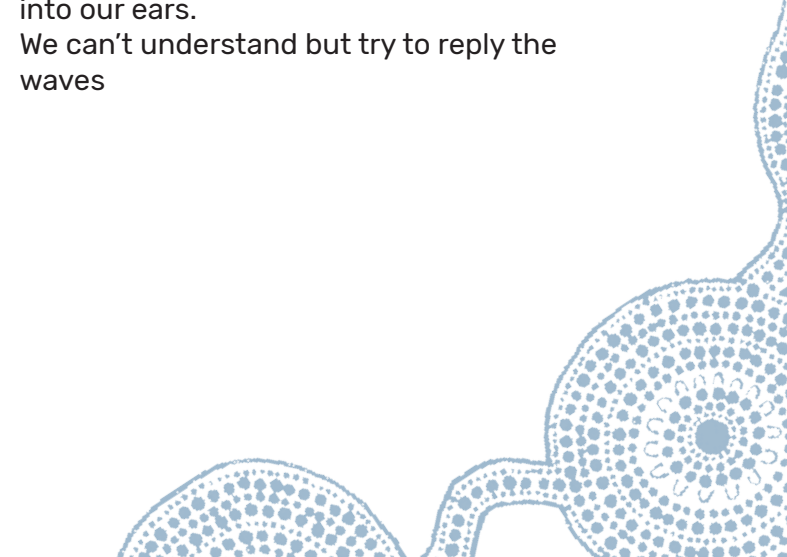
It is calm and peaceful like rainforest

The water is like a crystal diamond

The peaceful incredible ocean
await the sound of our ancestors.

We hear their incredible calm voices flowing
into our ears.

We can't understand but try to reply the
waves





Port Beach

~ Shaniah, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public School

Wari and gurgama
The beach is like an ocean breeze
The beautiful oceans awaken the
ancestors of the harbor
The ocean is watching with fear
The sky will watch over with music

~

Puddles and the wind
The beach is like an ocean breeze
The beautiful oceans awaken the
ancestors of the harbor
The ocean is watching with fear
The sky will watch over with music

The Beach

~ Khalani, Year 6, Kemblawarra Public School

Relaxing, surfing, swimming
When I'm surfing I feel like a dolphin
Jumping over the water
Soft sand and nice crystal clear water
The water spits at my face
When I surf across the water



Port Beach

~ Ezakhai, Year 6, Kemblawarra Public

People, languages, species of water
creatures
Beautiful, chill in wuri
The wuri is as warm as my mina's heart
Sandy, hot, calming
The water is the discoverer of souls and joy

~

People, languages, species of water
creatures
Beautiful, chill in sun
The sun as warm as my mother's heart
Sandy, hot, calming
The water is the discoverer of souls and joy



Beach

~ Asritha, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public

Sandy, smooth water, sparkly
The merringong is calm like the gadu winds
Your smoothing gadu sings the songs of
the guwin
The sand watches the footprints of the
people
That walk while they soften the sands

~

Sandy, smooth water, sparkly
The Illawara escarpment is calm like the
sea winds
Your smoothing sea sings the songs of the
ancestors
The sand watches the footprints of the
people
That walk while they soften the sands

Green Fields

~ Mohamad, Year 4, Warrawong Public
School

Green fields sprawling
Like football fields
The grass is like spikes sticking out of the
ground
Your grasses are Dharawal soldiers
watching
shivering with the yilma

~

Green fields sprawling
Like football fields
The grass is like spikes sticking out of the
ground
Your grasses are Dharawal soldiers
watching
shivering with the southerly wind

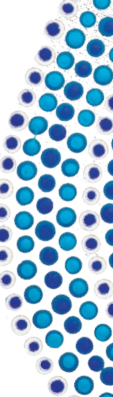
Port Beach

~ Shelley, Year 8, Warrawong High School

Light blue water
The daragan blue like the sky on a wuri day
Crystal daragan shining like a jewel
The crystal water stares back at me as I
gaze upon it

~

Light blue water
The creek blue like the sky on a sunny day
Crystal creek shining like a jewel
The crystal water stares back at me as I
gaze upon it





Beach

~ Isabel, Year 8, Warrawong High School

Beautiful, clean, fresh
The beach is like a gamba garwanga
The blue waves are curling their petals as
They crash on the yellow sandy shore
The wind whistles as it presses against the
trees

~

Beautiful, clean, fresh
The beach is like a flower's dream
The blue waves are curling their petals as
They crash on the yellow sandy shore
The wind whistles as it presses against the
trees

Minnamurra Forest

~ Courtney, Year 8, Warrawong Public School

The fall towers over you like ancient gundu
The dark green blankets you in the cold
shadows
The yilma yells at the gundu to stay still

~

The fall towers over you like ancient trees
The dark green blankets you in the cold
shadows
The wind yells at the trees to stay still



Beach

~ Jordan, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

The water shimmers as the sun sets down
to rest
It is a place where we all belong
Where you feel like nura

~

The water shimmers as the sun sets down
to rest
It is a place where we all belong
Where you feel like home



Beach

~ Jordan, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

Beautiful, clear, blue
Crystal clear like a diamond
The waves in the nadjun are crashing
Over the golden widjud widjud
The waves are roaring over the widjud
widjud
Like a lion hunting for its prey

~

Beautiful, clear, blue
Crystal clear like a diamond
The waves in the fresh water are crashing
Over the golden sands
The waves are roaring over the sand
Like a lion hunting for its prey

City Beach

~ Tristian, Year 6, Kemblawarra Public School

Lovely clear nadjun
The gadu crashes like cymbals
When you step on the widjud widjud
It feels like you have no feet
It's so soft
Sharks and warriors protect their territory

~

Lovely clear water
The sea crashes like cymbals
When you step on the sand
It feels like you have no feet
It's so soft
Sharks and warriors protect their territory


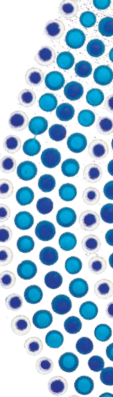
Untitled

~ Bryce, Year 8, Warrawong High School

Soft and lovely
Widjud widjud is like honey
When the wuri shines on the grains
Of widjud widjud
With our wabura, we garwanga

~

Soft and lovely
sand is like honey
When the sun shines on the grains
Of sand
With our eyes, we dream





Ngura, Ngaa

~Zane, Year 9, Warrawong High School

Ngura Ngaa love has never let me down
It's as safe as a mother's touch and
As warm as a wooly blanket.
This place is Port Beach

~

The Country I love has never let me down
It's as safe as a mother's touch and
As warm as a wooly blanket.
This place is Port Beach

Port Beach

~ Zane, Year 9, Warrawong High School

Joyful, luscious
The waves are calm like the gundu in the
forest
Gadu clear as day
Gadu as soft as snow
While my guwin watch over me
Gadu teaches me to be grateful

~

Joyful, luscious
The waves are calm like the trees in the
forest
Sea clear as day
Sea as soft as snow
While my ancestors watch over me
The sea teaches me to be grateful

Untitled

~ Nic, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public School

Crystal clear, sandy, gurgama
The gadu widjud widjud is majestic
The beach tells me secrets
The beach whispers if there is danger

~

Crystal clear, sandy, windy
The sea sand is majestic
The beach tells me secrets
The beach whispers if there is danger

***The Incredible Ocean and
Our Amazing Guwin***

~ Jallarah, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

Smooth, luscious, crystal and beautiful
The ghadu is as smooth and luscious as a
puff of cloud
It is calm and peaceful like a manda
The water is as crystal clear as a diamond

The peaceful, incredible ghadu await the
sound of our guwin
We hear their incredible calm voices flowing
into our guri
We can't understand but try to reply

The ghadu sleeps at night. The djadjun
shines bright above
the peaceful sound of ghadu singing to our
beautiful guwin.
Heading right to sleep and giving us a sign
of safety
And the nadjun awaits as the galu fly's
away

Smooth, luscious, crystal and beautiful
The ocean is as smooth and luscious as a
puff of cloud
It is calm and peaceful like a rainforest
The water is as crystal clear as a diamond

The peaceful, incredible ocean awaits the
sound of our ancestors
We hear their incredible calm voices flowing
into our ears
We can't understand but try to reply

The ocean sleeps at night. The moon shines
bright above
the peaceful sound of ocean singing to our
beautiful ancestors.
Heading right to sleep and giving us a sign
of safety
And the fresh water awaits as the crane
fly's away

Untitled

~ Jallarah, Year 6, Warrawong Public School

I feel safe when I walk along the ghadu
My precious guwins whispering through my
guri
They made me feel safe, welcome and
happy
As I look over the bibara, the ghadu and the
view
And I think of how lucky I am
They made me feel like I belong here
As I feel the soft, luscious tiny specs of
sand
Circling in between my toes.
A soft swaying wing with smooth barnun
With the djadjun awaiting us
With my mina calling out to me
I walk and remember my lovely guwins

~

I feel safe when I walk along the sea
My precious ancestors whispering through
my ear
They made me feel safe, welcome and
happy
As I look over the mountain, the sea and the
view
And I think of how lucky I am
They made me feel like I belong here
As I feel the soft, luscious tiny specs of
sand
Circling in between my toes.
A soft swaying wing with smooth wind
With the moon awaiting us
With my mother calling out to me
I walk and remember my lovely ancestors



Up Then Down

~ Shannon, Year 6, Warrawong High School

Green long arm of land
The escarpment is as big as a crater
The crystal-clear water
bana shine in the garabangs
Light slithering down from the cracked
rocks
The waratah reaches for the wuri

~

Green long arm of land
The escarpment is as big as a crater
The crystal-clear water
Rain shines in the rocks
Light slithering down from the cracked
rocks
The waratah reaches for the sun

Rainforest

~ Lully, Year 6, Warrawong High School

Green, free rainforest
Trees rough like a garaban
Budjan tall like a tree

The beautiful trees waving in the wind
Laying to rest on the green grass and
The sound of ancestors passing by your
guri

The gundu whispering through the leaves
The trees dancing in the night

~

Green, free rainforest
Trees rough like a rock
Birds tall like a tree

The beautiful trees waving in the wind
Laying to rest on the green grass and
The sound of ancestors passing by your ear

The trees whispering through the leaves
The trees dancing in the night



Port Kembla Beach

~ Mereana, Year 6, Warrawong High School

Smooth, fresh, clearing
The waves are rough like a road
That winds by the beach
The water is crystal clear and
Your feet can sink the moist widjud widjud
The waves sing lullaby's
As you glide through the refreshing nadjun

~

Smooth, fresh, clearing
The waves are rough like a road
That winds by the beach
The water is crystal clear and
Your feet can sink the moist sand
The waves sing lullaby's
As you glide through the refreshing water



Aboriginal Land

~ Cassie, Year 6, Warrawong High School

Shiny blue familiarity,
Those brown mabura shine like bright wuri
In her eyes, the true beauty of the land is
glorious
Beautiful breeze of warm wondering around
the sky
nadjun of breeze are shining on the
humbling gundus
Winds are shouting over the mountain
Its echoing

~

Shiny blue familiarity,
Those brown eyes shine like bright sun
In her eyes, the true beauty of the land is
glorious
Beautiful breeze of warm wondering around
the sky
Waves of breeze are shining on the
humbling trees
Winds are shouting over the mountain
Its echoing

Aboriginal Land

~ Cassie, Year 6, Warrawong High School

This beautiful place where we all belong
Singing in harmony in peace
The bright wuri shining on my mudjjs
mabura
Dancing gundu flashing on amazing dilwan

~

This beautiful place where we all belong
Singing in harmony in peace
The bright sun shining on my friend's eyes
Dancing trees flashing on amazing sunset

My Mum's Heart

~ Ezakhai Roberts, Year 6, Kemblawarra
Public School

The sun is as warm as my mum's heart
Sandy, hot, calming
The water is the discoverer of souls and joy

Untitled

~ Shelly, Year 8, Warrawong High School

Light. Blue. Water
The daragan, blue like the sky on a wari day
Crystal daragan shining like a jewel
The crystal water stares back at me

~

Light. Blue. Water
The water, blue like the sky on a sunny day
Crystal water shining like a jewel
The crystal water stares back at me



Untitled

~ Bryce, Year 8, Warrawong High School

Soft lovely and smashing
Widjud widjud is like galindja
Snake hissed, snakes slivering in sun
When the sun shines on the grains of sand
Like wabura protecting us

~

Soft lovely and smashing
Sand is like honey
Snake hissed, snakes slivering in sun
When the sun shines on the grains of sand
Like eyes protecting us

Untitled

~ Mareana, Year 6, Warrawong High School

Warrawong makes me feel safe and like I
belong,
When I know I'm safe,
I like to see smiling faces from the people I
care about.



Untitled

~ Bryce, Year 8, Warrawong High School

The widjud widjud is like galindja,
It is rough and it makes me calm,
The sound of the waves from gadu is pieces
of my mind

and a piece of cake
and when the wind blows I get really cold,
sometimes warm,
Bringing peace like a piece of cake on your
birthday.

~

The sand is like honey,
It is rough and it makes me calm,
The sound of the waves from water is
pieces of my mind

and a piece of cake and when the wind
blows I get really cold, sometimes warm,
Bringing peace like a piece of cake on your
birthday.

Untitled (In Dharawal and Kamilaroi)

The bora (bunan) cleanses us,
It cleanses the ngura (garaban),

We celebrate death and rebirth
within our family

The bad tirama (guwin) leave us and we
yullunga the ancestors

We celebrate our culture and our people
with bawa, tucker (dhanga), yabun and gali

~

The ceremony cleanses us,
It cleanses the land,

We celebrate death and rebirth
within our family

The bad spirits leave us and we welcome
the ancestors

We celebrate our culture and our people
with bush tucker, music and dance

- Zane, Year 9, Warrawong High School
- Drew, Year 4, Warrawong High School
- Bryce, Year 8, Warrawong High School
- Mason, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public School

Untitled

~ Nyetarlee, Year 4, Warrawong High School

Dharawal country is a safe place to live,
I like the rivers and the way they flow
together, smoothly.

Untitled

~ Asritha, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public
School

This place is fun like a fair,
The exciting mudji that you can play with,
The teachers help you and the kids are
friendly.

~

This place is fun like a fair,
The exciting friends that you can play with,
The teachers help you and the kids are
friendly.

Ceremonies

we all come together and have fun.
At this ceremony, we have lots of delicious
food. At this ceremony, we come together
as a family.

We all come together to have fun, and to
remember the Dharawal people that have
passed away.

We have fun running, playing, eating and
singing.

We come together as a family and have a
big feast, open presents and have fun.

- Nyetarlee, Year 4, Warrawong High School
- Letayah, Year 4, Warrawong High School
- Asritha, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public School
- Shaniah, Year 4, Kemblawarra Public School