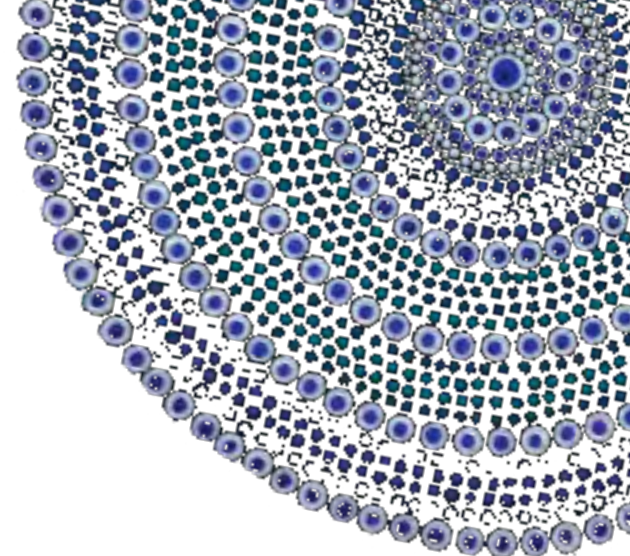




POETRY IN FIRST LANGUAGES GADIGAL

with Kirli Saunders & Joel Davison



Red Room Poetry

Red Room Poetry (RR) 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.

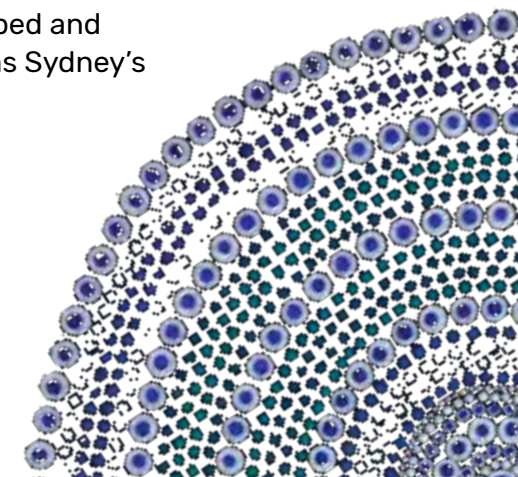
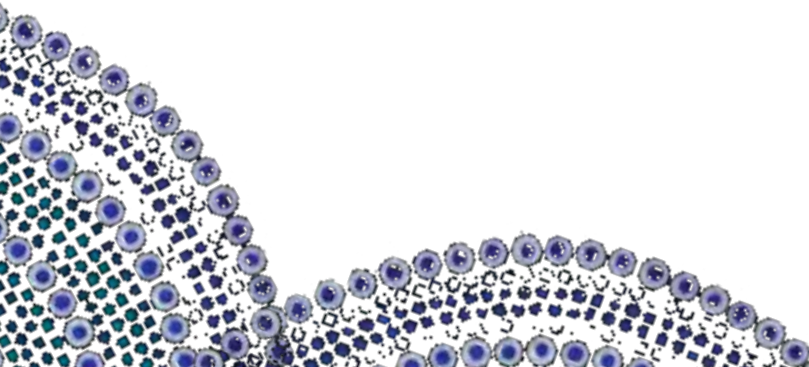
Red Room Poetry brought PIFL to Gadigal country, with the support of Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, NASCA and Art Gallery of NSW.


On November 5th, students from Alexandria Park Community School, Laramba School and Ntaria School connected to culture, country and language through poetry, art, bush medicine and traditional Indigenous Games.

Facilitated by RR with poet Kirli Saunders and Gadigal language custodian Joel Davison. The project mainly focused on Gadigal language, but NT students were encouraged to write in their own First Languages, Anmatjere/ Warlpiri and Western Arrernte.

Cookaroo Flow

As a publishing outcome, some of these poems from this collection were recorded, to be soundscaped and then embedded into the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney's waterways (Dec 18 - Feb 19).





-Tyreek, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

garun garung, bulga, yirran
the daramu are bulbuwul
like my older bangu
the guara daramu cast
bulu on the bulga wayagad
the badu provides for the galu
like munda for her gurung

-

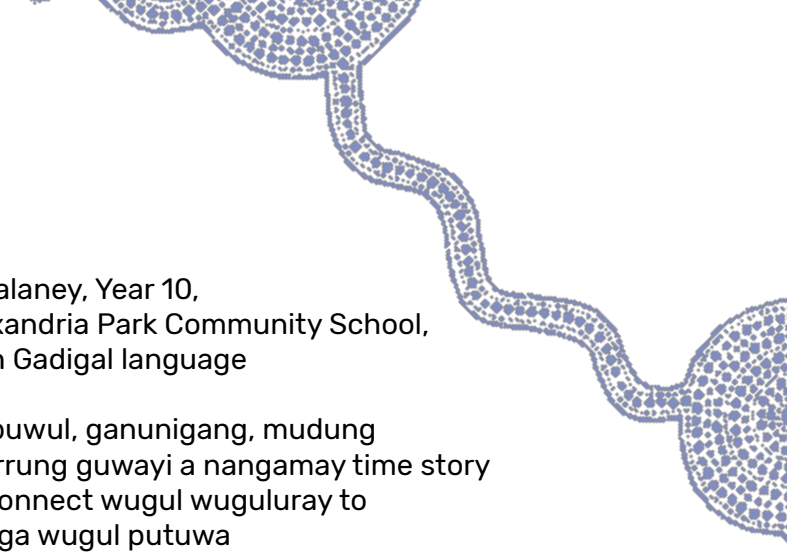
pretty, hilly, many
the trees are strong
like my older sister
the tall trees cast
their shadow on the hill
the water provides for the land
like mother for her child

- Siu, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

the daramu are at ngarunga
like the madung warriors
who dyurala for them
ganunigang, madung ngayanas

-

the trees are at peace
like the brave warriors
who fought for them
old, brave breaths

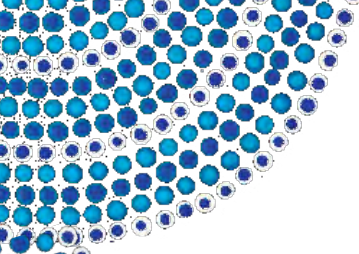


- Kalaney, Year 10,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

bulbuwul, ganunigang, mudung
a birrung guwayi a nangamay time story
to connect wugul wuguluray to
banga wugul putuwa
the garrigarrang baraya
to the bunul

-

strong, old, alive
a star tells a dreaming time story
to connect like fingers
being squeezed together as they
warm one another by the fire
the sea sings to the sunshine



~ Trinity, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

yirran bulga daramu
bulu daramu naminmawawai
the nangamay
I ngara the bayumi of the
djarrawunang
and the bilya gusanagina

~

many green trees
the shadow of a tree show us
The Dreaming
I dance to the music of the
magpie
and the laughing kookaburra

~ Jai, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

the space is familiar like nura
guwing is bunul,
flowers are blooming,
the garrigarang waves
towards the shore

~

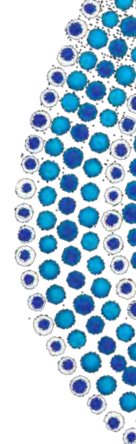
this land is familiar like home
the sun is shining,
flowers are growing,
the sea waves
towards the shore


~ Dharringarra, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

bulga garungarung
burra gilli as ANZ stadium
flowers are puffy and dull like a child's doll
daramu stands tall in the raging gara

~

hilly, green, beautiful
sky bright as ANZ stadium
flowers are puffy and dull like a child's doll
tree stands tall in the raging wind





~ Ethan, Year 10,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

djaramada, colourful, and welcoming
the city is busy just like a djaramada
the yura ngawiya the bulga,
darawum, guwiyang, badu,
and binyang gama,
this makes the environment very
welcoming
everything in the environment supports
one another
just like marri mudjin

~

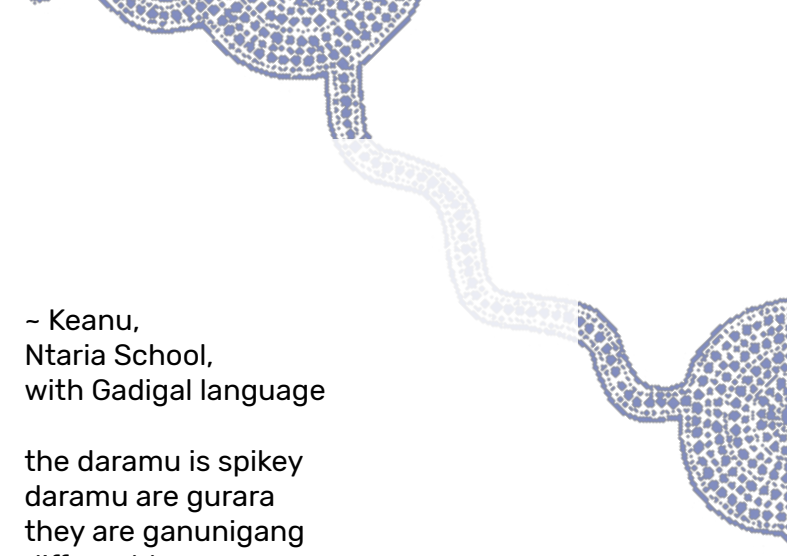
jungle,
the city is busy just like a jungle
the people share the hills
trees, fire, water,
and birds,
this makes the environment very
welcoming
everything in the environment supports
one another
just like family

~ Alfie, Lewis, Jaylan, Didak, Kianu,
Years 7/8, Ntaria School,
with Gadigal language

daramu and djirang
the binyang is cranky like a yaranudi
this nura is a bulga djaramada
the ibis garama your ngununy

~

trees and garden leaves,
the owl is cranky like an old man
this place is a hilly jungle
the ibis steals your lunch



~ Keanu,
Ntaria School,
with Gadigal language

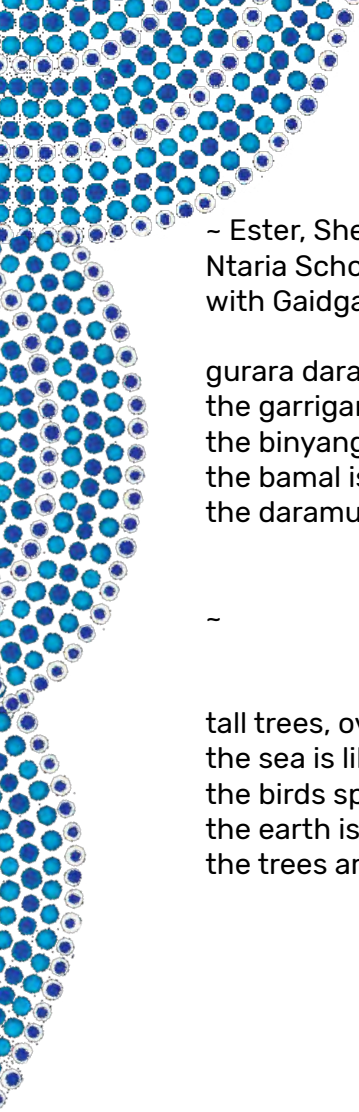
the daramu is spikey
daramu are gurara
they are ganunigang
different to nura

the daramu meet people
the daramu meet animals
the daramu is smart
it knows where the badu is
the daramu can tell me where
the badu is

~

the tree is spikey
the tree is tall
they are old
different to home

the trees meet people
the trees meet animals
the trees are smart
they knows where the water is
the tree can tell me where
the water is



~ Ester, Sherneal, Sarah, Year 7,
Ntaria School,
with Gaidgal language

gurara daramu, duga, buni birrung
the garrigarang is like a painting
the binyang baya about their culture
the bamal is ngarunga dyi
the daramu are like yura living in the city

~

tall trees, over grown, no stars
the sea is like a painting
the birds speak about their culture
the earth is calm here
the trees are like people living in the city

~ Biwali, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

Garrigarrang bamal,
the daramu sway like dangura.
the guwing is your wiyanga,
gura, yanung over you.

~

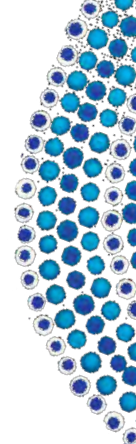
beautiful, nourished,
the trees sway like dancers.
the sun is your mother warming,
looking over you.

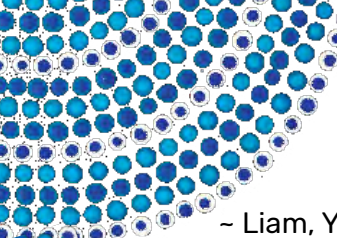
~ Alistar, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

yirrang, daramu, bulga
the gurra is as blue as the garrigarrang
the daramu gives us shade to cool down on
gadalung days
the daramu stretches towards the burra

~

big, trees, green
the sky is as blue as the sea
the trees give us shade to cool down on
hot days
the tree stretches towards the sky





~ Liam, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

guwing, yand, garrigarrang
the yura yand around country like ants
the park is filled with marri daramu like a
jungle
binyang scream to each other like they're
dyurala

~

sun, walk, sea
the people walk around country like ants
the park is filled with big trees like a jungle
birds scream to each other like they're
fighting

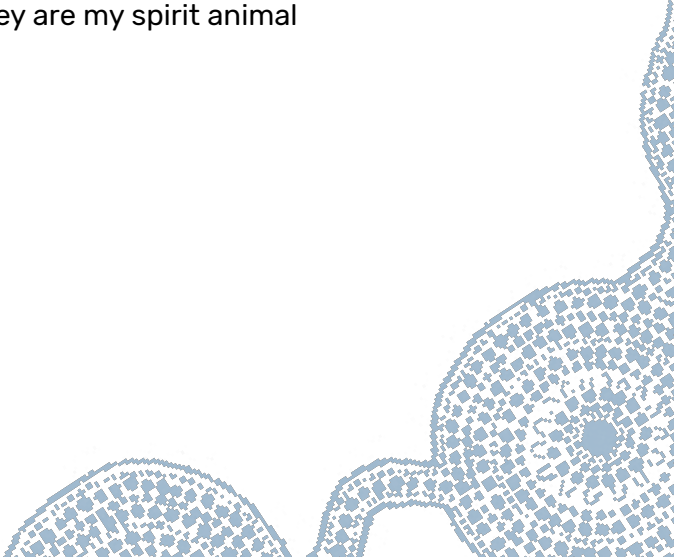
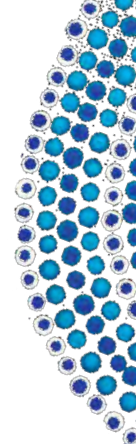
~ Sharlese, Year 9,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

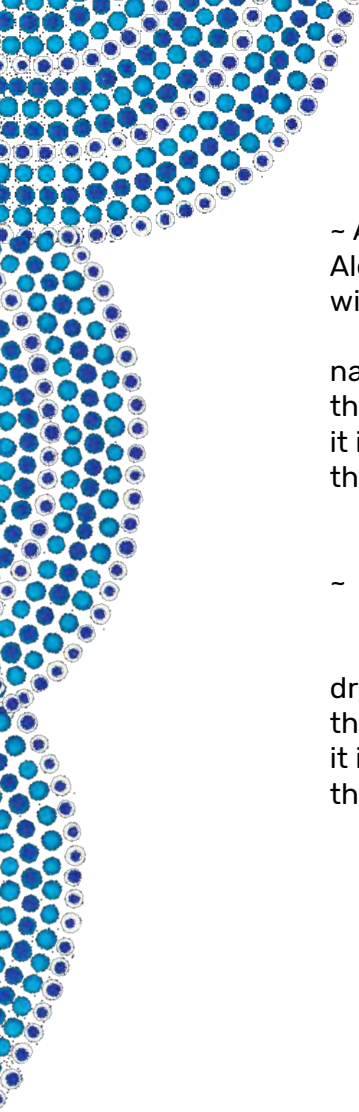
garrigarrang, yurungay, dyarra murrama
guwing

standing in front of the garrigarrang
it looks like a painting
the dyarra murrama guwing
it puts colour in the burra
standing in front of the garrigarrang
the cool breeze slowly moves past me
the salty smell of the garrigarrang makes
me feel nura
reminds me wawu
I'm from
turungi namiwa like
they know who I am
like they know wawu I'm from
ngaya mirring gumada

sea, black duck, sunset

standing in front of the sea
it looks like a painting
the sun starts to set
it puts colour in the sky
standing in front of the sea
the cool breeze slowly moves past me
the salty smell of the sea makes
me feel home
reminds me where
I'm from
black ducks looks at me
like they know who I am
like they know where I'm from
they are my spirit animal



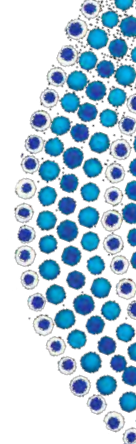


~ A.J, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

nangamay, ngawiya, land
the daramu is marri and bulbuwal like a footy player
it is bulga and big like my home in New Zealand
the garrigarrang is smooth like a baby's skin

~

dream, give, land
the tree is great and strong like a footy player
it is green and big like my home in New Zealand
the sea is smooth like a baby's skin

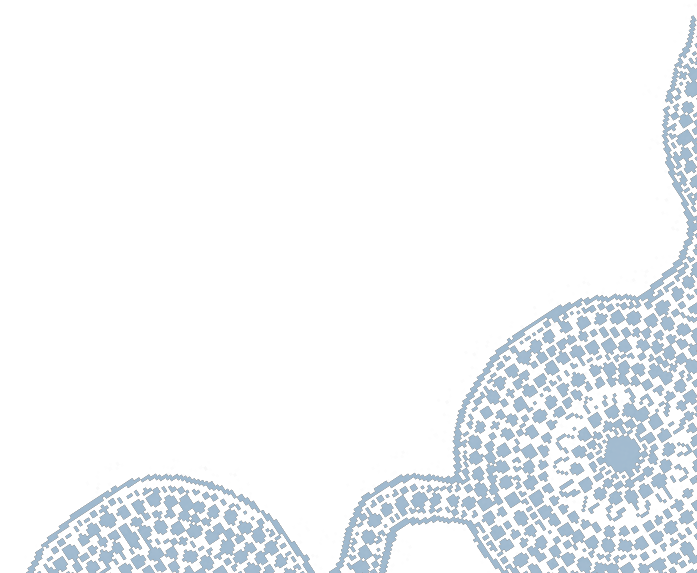


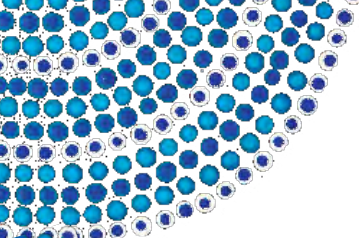
~ Sherneal, Esther, Sarah
Ntaria School,
with Western Arrernte language

tall tree, overgrown, no ntelpara
cold breeze from the sea, birds speak in
different language
like we have different language amongst
the people

~

tall tree, overgrown, no stars
cold breeze from the sea, birds speak in
different language
like we have different language amongst
the people



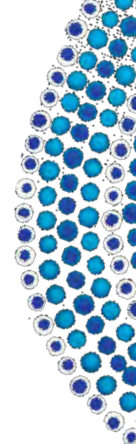


By Emmanuel, Year 11
Laramba School,
with Arrernte language

kwaty, atherrken, awepwarm
nwern arem kwaty alkerater
anang arrpen map amankamp rlteek.
plawel arpen atherl.
octobus-arty arnang arngem artwenner.

~

water, grass, hearing things
we see water like sky
[no translation given]



~ Jarad, Year 12,
Alexandria Park Community School,
with Gadigal language

badu, bulga, welcomed
the daramu giving shelter from the walan
yilaba and the guwing
the bamal giving us life so we can roam the
plains
your ancestors give guidance as you
ngamuru

~

water, green and welcoming
the tree giving shelter from the pouring rain
and the sun
the land giving us life so we can roam the
plains
your ancestors give guidance as you see the
way

