

POETRY IN FIRST LANGUAGES DHARAWAL

with Nicole Smede and Ethan Bell

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

On May 7 and 8 in partnership with Mettigon Theatre and Wollongong Art Gallery, First Nations students from Years 3-11 at Figtree Primary School, Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, Warilla North Public School, Port Kembla Public School, Dapto High school, Figtree High School and Oak Flats High School came together for the Poetry in First Languages, Dharawal programs.

With the guidance of Dharawal based poet and musician, Nicole Smede, and Dharawal based Ngunawal Poet, Ethan Bell, Gundungurra Custodian Aunty Trish and Gumea Dharawal language custodian, Jacob Morris, the students connected to country through language, story and art to create poetry in Dharawal language. These poems were interpreted into artworks and will be performed in the local area at community events.

Red
Room
Poetry

Nicole Smede

Born on Dharawal country, Nicole's descendants are Worimi, English, Irish and German.

Nicole is a classically trained vocalist, musician and graduate of the Conservatorium of Music, Sydney with experience ranging from classical, theatre, rock and contemporary music through to film and other media.

Drawing from varied experience in Education, having worked with the NSW Arts Unit, The Song Company and Bundanon Trust, Nicole is excited to be working with Elders and Language Custodians to support the reconnection and continued growth of First Languages.

Ethan Bell

Ethan is a Wallabalooa man from the Ngunawal Nation. He is an emerging artist and student based in Campbelltown, Sydney.

Ethan's practice is storytelling, drawing from his love of hip-hop. Ethan writes poetry in hopes to give insight into his life.

Untitled

*By Turner Y7, Zac Y8, Harley Y7, Angel Y10, Jemia Y12, Chernece Y11
Dapto High School, Oak Flats High School*

Nya djadjun yanggum, controlling the naruwan, piercing through with faint beams,
Painting the drana milk as they sway and lean.
Nya murra is a budjeri place, murra is full of gundulali, wildlife, and clear blue ngarawan.
Nya wurigel heat willia nangannaadingia me and made my skin glow.
Ganbi is kal-lalti and it heals us.
Boonirah gently passes the beautiful gundulali, making them gali djamba.
The gahdu smelled clear nya njudjoong was perfect, and a dilwaan in the background.

~

The moonlight sings, controlling the ocean breaks, piercing through with faint beams,
painting the gums milk as they sway and lean.
The earth is a beautiful place, earth is full of trees, wildlife, and clear blue water.
The suns heat radiated around me and made my skin glow.
Fire is hot and it heals us.
Wind gently passes the beautiful trees, making them dance slowly.
The ocean smelled clear the water was perfect, and a sunset in the background.

Untitled

*By Namish Y7, Cooper Y7, Domamic Y10, Mayrah Y10, Daniel Y8
Dapto High School, Oak Flats High School*

The murramal ngara the birrabain namrag
Naway ngia ngara ngia mudah
The garrang dthurroon runs djawayarr
Ngia yilag naway goodjie at last.

~

The clapping resembled the emu's footsteps/waddle
And I hear my bush
The big river runs fast
I feel happy and home at last.



Untitled

*By Keira Y11, Will Y7, Terry Y7, Kael Y7, Beau Y7
Oak Flats High School, Dapto High School*

Walking in the mudah
with gurabin and uncles

Ngala under a dulban
kundu

I felt connected to the
gadhu

The djedjung bulladjaraang* perfectly
On the river

Ngara to the gadhu shore
with gurabinlali and ngundahmurra

~

Walking in the bush
with cousins and uncles

Sitting under a shady
tree

I felt connected to the
ocean

The moon reflected perfectly
On the river

Listening to the sea shore
with cousins and Aboriginal people