



New Shoots Workshops

with Kirli Saunders

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.

New Shoots at Cranbourne Gardens

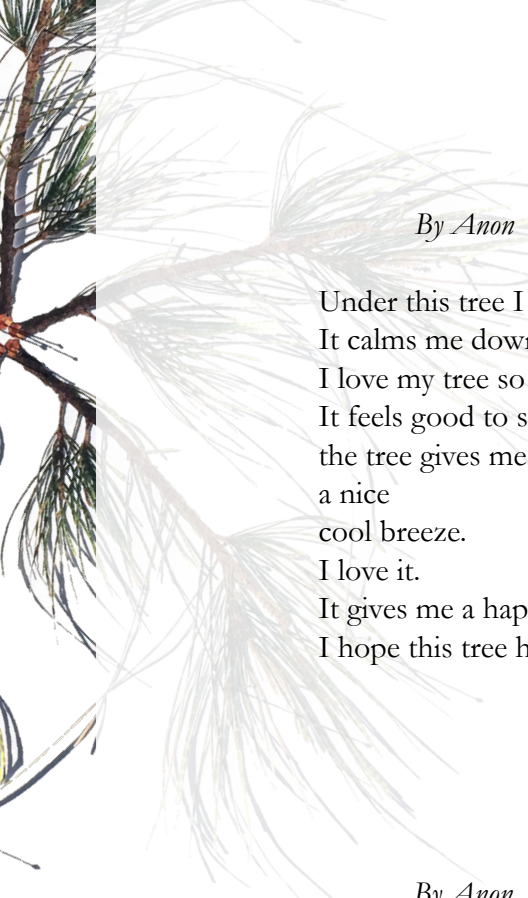
Created by Red Room Poetry, New Shoots is a project that celebrates, cultivates and collects poems inspired by plants. By connecting with plants we aim to deepen our personal and cultural connections with nature.

Here at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria, New Shoots is helping us to uncover the secret stories of the leaves and trees around us. We're looking forward to growing and sharing plant poems with you and your community.



Kirli Saunders

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai woman with ties to the Gundungurra, Gadigal, Yuin and Biripi people. Kirli is the Manager of Poetic Learning at Red Room Poetry. Her first children's picture book, *The Incredible Freedom Machines* (illustrated by Matt Ottley) is published internationally in French and English. Her other forthcoming picture books include, *Our Dreaming*, and *Happy Ever After*. Kirli's poetry collection, *Kindred* is forthcoming in 2019. Her poetry has been published in Cordite and Overland as well as in permanent infrastructure at RBG Melbourne and for the Tumbalong Gatherers Project, Sydney. Kirli will be writer in residence at The Literature Centre, Fremantle in 2019.



By Anon

Under this tree I feel amazing.
It calms me down.
I love my tree so much.
It feels good to sit with a tree,
the tree gives me
a nice
cool breeze.
I love it.
It gives me a happy feeling. I love this tree.
I hope this tree has a good life.

By Anon

If I was Tarzan I
would swing tree to tree
and when I go to this tree I feel so free,
feels like a good home for me
to live and helps me hide in the
leaves. And if I was quiet enough
I might just hear it speak to
other trees and me. And it
is like a guardian by its sense
of smell, to warn bugs not to
come.

By Eze

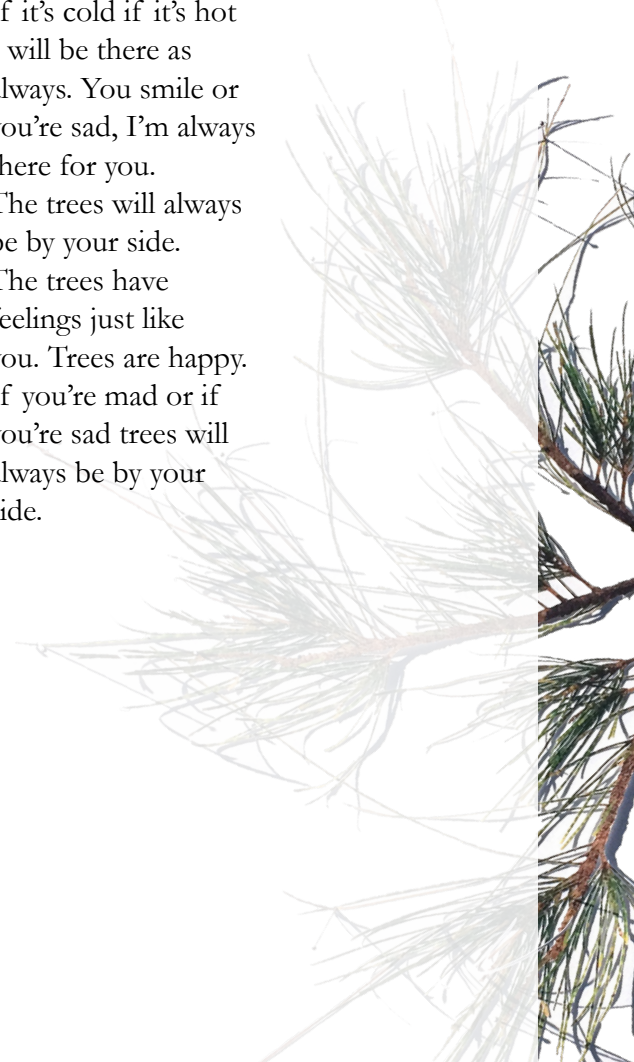
My family got it
from a person that
was moving houses.
It is special because
it produces red
spicy chillies for my
family that we use
for cooking. Once a
bird ate the first chilli
it produced after we
got it.


By Anon

It has witness me
do so much. For example
it has watched me play
with my family, friends, and
pets. It has also witnessed
me sing, run, pick fruit and
eat its own fruit. As
well as that it has
helped me through months
when pomegranates bloom.
It witnessed me feeling
happy, sad, angry, disappointed
and guilty. It gets me
excited about when the
pomegranates are going
to bloom. And lastly
it has always been there,
ever since we moved here.

By Anon

I stand still I feel
weird as a stone.
Colours fill my head
with happiness and joy.
If it's cold if it's hot
I will be there as
always. You smile or
you're sad, I'm always
there for you.
The trees will always
be by your side.
The trees have
feelings just like
you. Trees are happy.
If you're mad or if
you're sad trees will
always be by your
side.





By Anon

It feels rough
I feel good when I
touch it, it feels
like it's soft in my hand
the leaves feel – the
leaves are shaped
like a Christmas tree
I feel calm
It reminds me of
my old tree at my
old house – I slept
in the tree when I
was feeling sad – when
someone dies in our family
I pray for them in my tree
– I would talk to the tree
and give it water, I
would collect all of
the fallen branches and I
made a small – I would
crush it and put it on
the tree, last night it
was raining – it got more water
The tree would say “good job for filling me up with water,
I thank you for reminding me about all the good times”

By Akki

This tree may be a normal tree
o you, for me it makes me
have a feeling, a nice feeling
that I may only feel if I am
with this tree. This tree is a
kind one, one where it may
give me shade every tree
may do that but this tree
is my one tree.
Your life may be
different but my life with
you is the best. When
I may be down I sit
under you, you give shade
with your powerful branches
you wave your
branches on windy days
to make sounds with
your special leaves.

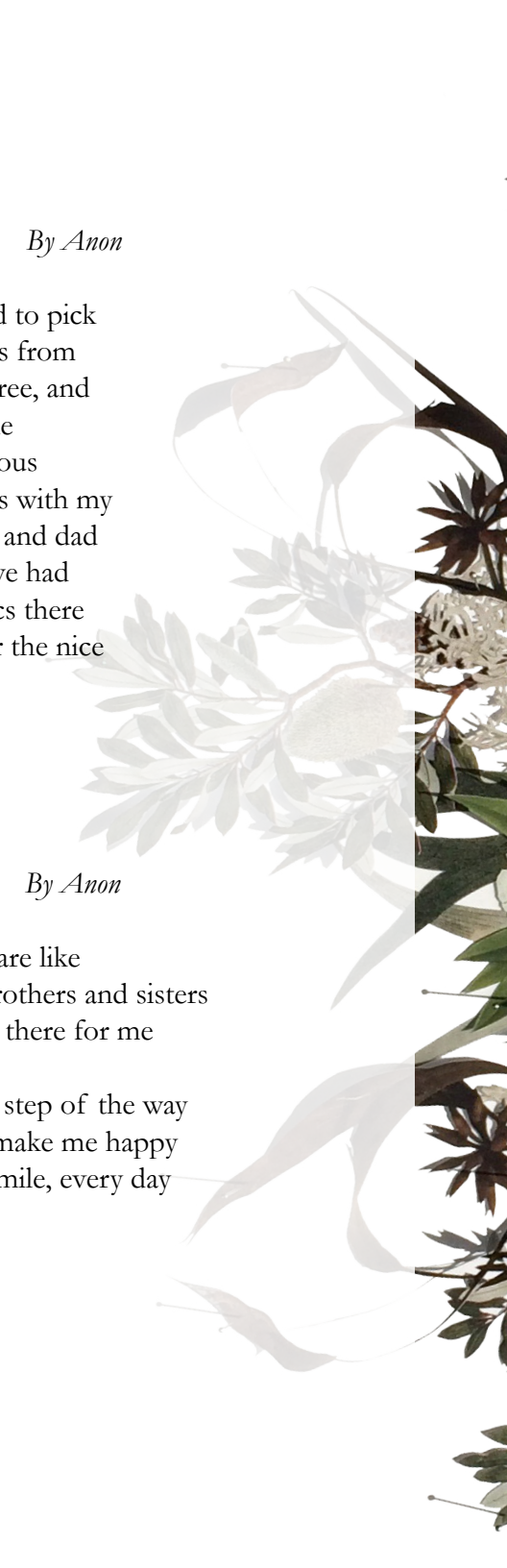
By Anon

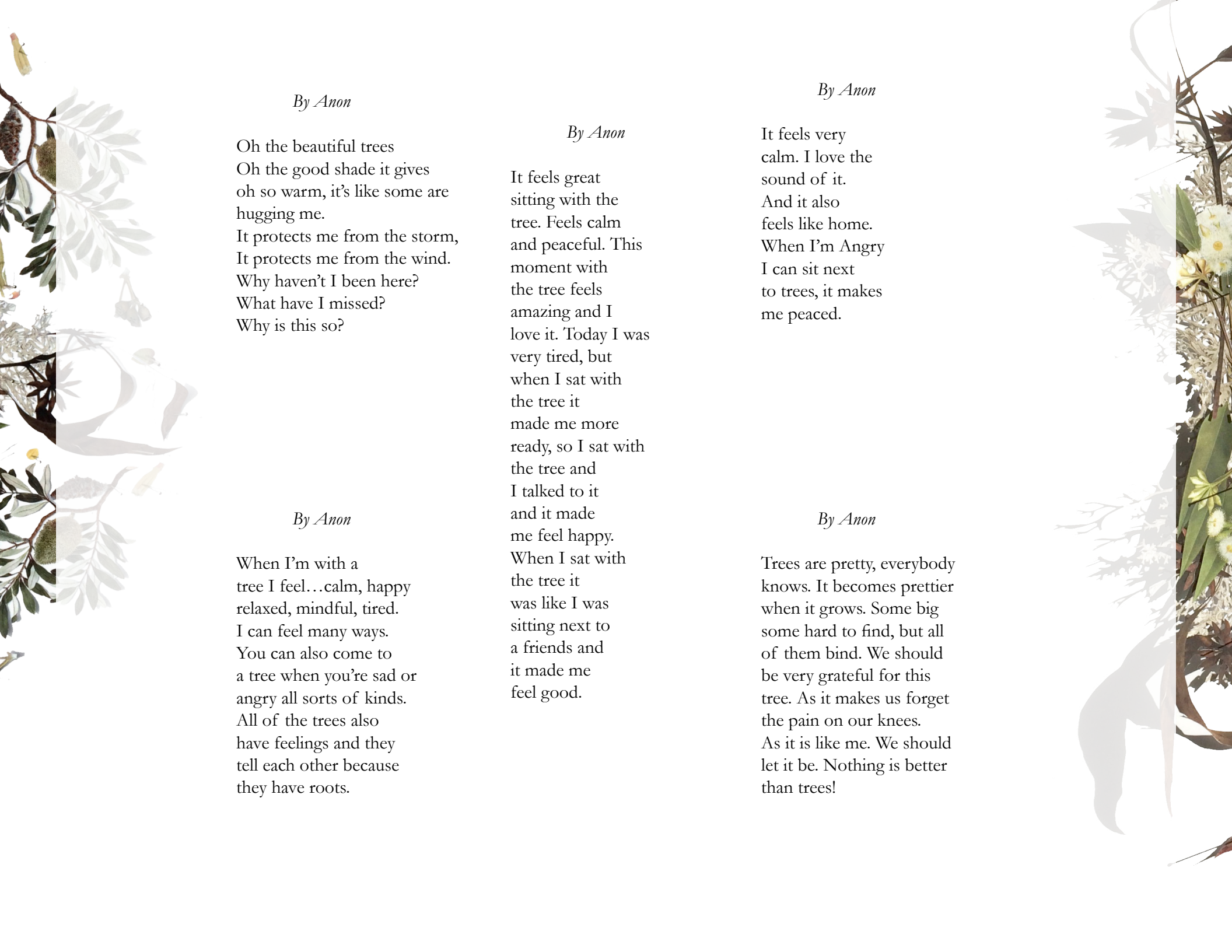
I used to pick
apples from
that tree, and
ate the
delicious
apples with my
mum and dad
and we had
picnics there
under the nice
tree

By Anon

trees are like
my brothers and sisters
being there for me

every step of the way
they make me happy
and smile, every day





By Anon

Oh the beautiful trees
Oh the good shade it gives
oh so warm, it's like some are
hugging me.
It protects me from the storm,
It protects me from the wind.
Why haven't I been here?
What have I missed?
Why is this so?

By Anon

When I'm with a
tree I feel...calm, happy
relaxed, mindful, tired.
I can feel many ways.
You can also come to
a tree when you're sad or
angry all sorts of kinds.
All of the trees also
have feelings and they
tell each other because
they have roots.

By Anon

It feels great
sitting with the
tree. Feels calm
and peaceful. This
moment with
the tree feels
amazing and I
love it. Today I was
very tired, but
when I sat with
the tree it
made me more
ready, so I sat with
the tree and
I talked to it
and it made
me feel happy.
When I sat with
the tree it
was like I was
sitting next to
a friends and
it made me
feel good.

By Anon

It feels very
calm. I love the
sound of it.
And it also
feels like home.
When I'm Angry
I can sit next
to trees, it makes
me peaced.

By Anon

Trees are pretty, everybody
knows. It becomes prettier
when it grows. Some big
some hard to find, but all
of them bind. We should
be very grateful for this
tree. As it makes us forget
the pain on our knees.
As it is like me. We should
let it be. Nothing is better
than trees!