We will make
them together
of grasses
and winds.
We find along
the river of
time, made of
smooth stone

Red Room Poetry

2020 Annual Report

2021 Poetic Program

I wade into the water.
I know you are here by the trees.
I know everyone is here. Tall trees grow here.
The girthed trees are the Elders.
They remind me to rest.
In the comfort of their shade I perceive my daughter.
She lives here in the shadows unable to leave.
She has become water that slows silent over sand.
I follow her to the sedge grass.
It grows strong here. I weave a dilly-bag to carry her.
I weave a dilly-bag to carry us.
I weave my way back through the mystery of time.
I am footsteps in the sand.

I send you stories in my dreams.
I read your stories in the leaves.
I love our secrets. I have guarded mine since birth,
my inheritance from my grandmother.
A story-tree grows inside me and can only be viewed
in my eyes.
I remember you held me in your gaze.
You know my secret.
Now everything is secretive.
Ask the birds.

~ Ali Cobby Eckermann and Joy Harjo from 'Story Tree' Fair Trade

2021 POETIC PROGRAM

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Red Room Poetry acknowledges the Elders and Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters, sky and languages where we work, live and write. We are grateful to collaborate with First Nations people and aim to respectfully follow protocols as we move across Country.

FROM OUR PATRON



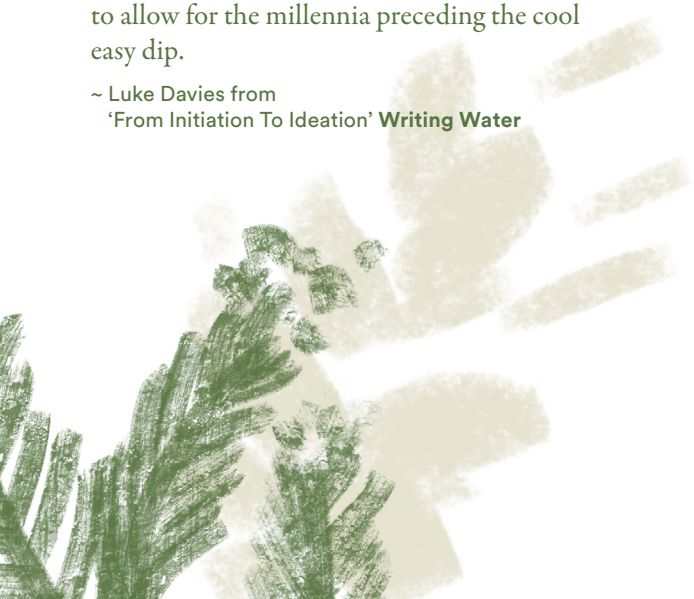
"Great oaks from little acorns grow". Although I did not plant the seed nor indeed provide the early fertilizer, I have been fortunate to be part of the Red Room Poetry journey, watching it reach skywards, small twigs becoming branches to find new ways to enliven poets and create opportunities for thousands of young people. Additionally, I have been able to educate myself to some of the forms of poetry not least the writing of free verse which, as Robert Frost said, is like playing tennis with the net down.

Many projects have been undertaken, each another "leaf" in the canopy of creation. I remain proud to be associated with Red Room Poetry, a place where poets can contribute and be rewarded and where a forest of poems will be tilled and nurtured in an environmentally ambitious program encouraging a new generation of poems and poets. I hope all who are interested in poetry will join us on this journey.

John B Fairfax AO
Patron

in the middle of the moment one tends never
to allow for the millennia preceding the cool
easy dip.

~ Luke Davies from
'From Initiation To Ideation' **Writing Water**



FROM OUR CHAIR

Names, voices and stories all told in sacred song
And Grandmothers of she-oak hold sacred bends strong

~ Dakota Feirer from 'She-oaked shores' **Poem Forest**



Despite the pandemic-related adversity that has confronted all arts organisations in 2020, I am delighted to report that in the past year, Red Room Poetry has expanded the scale and social impact of its projects; its strategic partnerships have grown in number and significance. We are justifiably proud that Red Room Poetry continues to be Australia's leading organisation for commissioning, creating, publishing and promoting poetry in meaningful ways.

Our major sponsors and partners believe in the mission of Red Room Poetry and provide ongoing and generous support for our projects. We are grateful for the confidence in Red Room Poetry that they demonstrate. Those sponsors and partners include, among others, public bodies such as the Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and Melbourne, the City of Sydney, Art Gallery of NSW and the State Library of NSW; outstanding commercial organisations such as PWC and American Express; and an ever-growing list of private foundations, personal donors and other supporters.

As this report goes to print, several exciting new initiatives are coming to fruition. They are the Poem Forest project in conjunction with The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and the Poetry Month celebration, which will commence in August and become an annual event. I have no doubt that both projects will further enhance Red Room Poetry's reputation for creativity and excellence. And there is more to come in the future.

I am, as always, indebted to our Director, Dr Tamryn Bennett, for her leadership and energy; to our Patron, John B. Fairfax AO, for his vision; to my fellow board members for their diligence; and to the hard-working and creative team at Red Room Poetry, who came through this pandemic year with flying colours and made the organisation an even stronger contributor to the Australian arts community.

Hon. MA Pembroke
Chairman

you have gone
beyond the
atmosphere
and reached,
with no help
from any
science,
the other side
of the universe

~ Helena Fox from 'dissociate is to' **MAD Poetry**

FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Mathematics may be the language of the cosmos but it's poetry that helps explain the equations of emotion that carry us to 'the other side of the universe'.

Poetry reaches across communities and speaks to us through smoke and fences, in the aftermath of loss, in the midst of panic and throughout distanced days.

That's why, in 2020, we paid and supported more than 200 poets nationally to write our way through to the other side, delivering 30+ digital events and engaging audiences of 4.3 million through publications, audio, video, public art installations and workshops.

This annual report details the scale and social impact of our projects and the support of all who helped to ensure our poetic existence in 2020.

As we lift our eyes to the horizon in 2021, our vision and purpose is fortified with new initiatives like Poetry Month (1-31 August) a national celebration of poetry in all its forms, and Poem Forest, a student writing prize that plants a tree at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan for every nature poem received.

More than ever we need poetic voices in the fabric of Australian arts and culture to connect us to community, authentic storytelling and the imagination needed to reshape our future.

We hope these pages inspire and thank you again for your encouragement of our poetic projects in 2021 and beyond.

Dr Tamryn Bennett
Artistic Director

OUR STORY

Vision

Red Room Poetry's vision is to make poetry in meaningful ways.

Impact

We are Australia's leading organisation for commissioning, creating, publishing and promoting a spectrum of poetic styles and voices.

Collaborating with poets, communities and partners nationally, we create projects with positive impact in core areas of:

— **Environment**

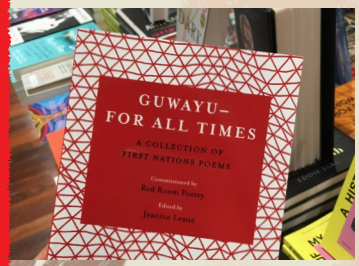
— **Amplification and Visibility**

— **First Nations**

— **Youth**

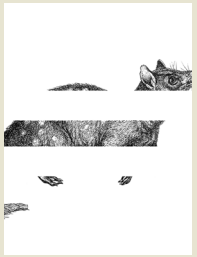
— **Marginalised Voices**

Our projects are unparalleled in quality, scale, professional opportunities, payment, partnerships and engagement of poets, students and audiences. We make poetry highly visible, vibrant, relevant and accessible, especially to those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.



18
years experience

245+
cross-sector partners
9 international partners





80+
major projects

1,200+
poets commissioned and employed



4.5M
local, national, international audiences p.a.

2.1M
digital reach p.a

21,300+
poems created, published







207,400
students engaged across schools and correctional centres

OUR TEAM

Love like dust,
everywhere at once.

~ Georgina Reid from 'There is Nothing Heavier Than a River' **Writing Water**

Patron

John B. Fairfax AO

Board

Chair
Hon. Michael Pembroke

Treasurer
Craig Lawn

Member
Judy Foster

Member
Daryn McKenny

Member
Andrew FitzSimons

Observer
Annie Chen

First Nations Advisory Council

Artistic/Poetic
Jeanine Leanne,
Wiradjuri poet and academic

Language Mentor
Daryn McKenny,
Director Miromaa Language Centre

Youth Unlocked
Lluwannee George

Additional Council members to join in 2021

Staff

Artistic Director
Dr Tamryn Bennett

General Manager/Development
Kate Wilson

Senior Project Manager
David Stavanger

Senior Project Manager
Annie Te Whiu

First Nations Project Manager
Lyndsay Urquhart

Communications Manager
Amelia Theodorakis

Office Manager/Producer
Lorin Reid

Project Assistant
Sage Wolf

And our dedicated volunteers

redroompoetry.org/about



Uncle Ivan Wellington and Dakota Feirer, Poem Forest ceremony. Image Lucy Cash

OUR 2020 POETS

200+ POETS commissioned across all styles, stages, landscapes and languages. Our community of poets continues to grow every year.

Adam Phillip Anderson NSW
Adrian Flavell SA
Adrian Webster NSW
Aitken Michael NSW
Alex Wharton NSW
Ali Whitelock NSW
Alice Allen VIC
Alice Savona VIC
Alise Blayney NSW
Amani Mahmoud NSW
Anastasia Radievska NSW
Andrew Cox NSW
Andy Kissane NSW
Angela Gardner QLD
Angela Peita QLD
Anisa Nandaula QLD
Anna Jacobson QLD
Anne Casey NSW
Anne Elvey VIC
Anne M Carson VIC
Anne Shenfield VIC
Anne-Marie Te Whiu NSW
Anthony Mannix NSW
Antonia Pont VIC
Astrid Lorange NSW
Audrey Molloy NSW
Autumn Royal VIC
Benjamin Dodds NSW
Bennie Solah VIC
Bron Bateman WA
Brooke Scobie NSW
Bruce Pascoe VIC
Caroline Reid SA
Cassandra Atherton ACT
Catherine McGuiness NSW
Charmaine Papertalk Greem WA
Christine Anu NSW
Claire Albrecht NSW
Claire Cao NSW
Dakota Feirer NSW
Damian Showyin NSW
Daniel Swain NSW
David Brooks NSW
David Reiter QLD
David Stavanger NSW
Declan Furber Gillick VIC
Duncan Hose TAS
Duy Quang Mai NSW
Eleanor Jackson VIC
Ella Jeffery QLD
Ellen van Neerven QLD
Eloise Grills VIC
Em Konig SA
Enoch Mailangi NSW
Esther Ottaway TAS
Eunice Andrada NSW
Evelyn Araluen VIC
Felicity Plunkett NSW
Gabrille Averall VIC
Gareth Jenkins NSW
Gayatri Nair NSW
Georgina Reid NSW
Gloria Demillo NSW
Graeme Miles TAS
Greg Sindel NSW
Guy Fredericks NSW
Hani Abdile NSW
Helena Fox NSW
Holly Isemonger NSW
James Walton VIC
Jane Gibian NSW
Jaycee Kim NSW
Jeanine Leane ACT
Jennifer Mackenzie VIC
Jenny Pollack NSW
Jessica L Wilkinson SA
Jill Jones SA
Jo Langdon VIC
Jo Pollitt WA
Jocelyn Dean VIC
Joel Ma VIC
Johanna Featherstone NSW
Jonathan Dunk VIC
Juan Garrido Salgado SA
June Perkins QLD
JV Birch SA
Kevin Brophy VIC
Kirli Saunders NSW
Kit Kelen NSW
Kobie Dee NSW
Kristel Saxon NSW
Kyre NSW
Laura Jean McKay VIC
Lauren Kerjan NSW
Laurie May NT
Leni Shilton NT
Les Wicks NSW
Lillian Rodrigues Pang NSW
Lisa Scott NSW
LK Holt VIC
Lucia Gelonesi NSW
Lucy Alexander ACT
Luke Davies NSW
Luke Fischer NSW
Lyndsay Urqhuart NSW
Maddie Godfrey WA
Magdelena Ball NSW
Manaia Tuwhare NZ
Margaret Owen Ruckert NSW
Mark Tredinnick NSW
Mathew Calandra NSW
Meagan Pelham NSW
Melanie Mununggurr NT
Melinda Bufton VIC
Melinda Smith ACT
Michael Alexandratos (aka Misha the maniac) NSW
Michael Farrell VIC
Michele Seminara NSW
Michelle Cahill NSW
Mohammad Awad NSW
Nadia Rhook WA
Naima Ibrahim NSW
Nardi Simpson NSW
Natalie D-Napoleon WA
Natalie Harkin SA
Negar Rezvani QLD
Nick Paton NSW
Nicole Smede NSW
Nicole Titihua NZ
Oliver Driscoll VIC
Omar Sakr NSW
Ouyang Yu VIC
Page Alana Maitland NSW
Paris Lay Yee NSW
Paul Collis ACT
Paul Hetherington ACT
Peter Mitchell NSW
Phil Sidney NSW
Prithvi Varatharajan VIC
PS Cottier ACT
Raynen Bajette O'Keefe NSW
Rebecca Jessen QLD
Robbie Coburn VIC
Robin M Eames NSW
Rozanna Lilley NSW
Saba Vasefi NSW
Sara Morgillo WA
Sara Saleh NSW
Scott-Patrick Mitchell WA
Sean West QLD
Shona Hawkes INT
Skye Saxon NSW
Steve Hodder QLD
Susan Bradley Smith VIC
Susan Fealy NSW
Tamryn Bennett NSW
Tayi Tibble NZ
Thom Roberts NSW
Thom Sullivan SA
Thuy On VIC
Tim Heffernan NSW
Toby Fitch NSW
Tony Birch VIC
Tricia Dearborn NSW
Victoria Atkinson NSW
Winnie Dunn NSW
Zainad Syed WA
Zenobia Frost QLD
Zoe Anderson ACT
π.O VIC



Nardi Simpson on Guwayu For All Times at Sydney Writers' Festival. Image Tawhai Rigazzar.

2021 Poetic Program

Commissioning and celebrating 200+ poets of all styles and stages, our 2021 program nurtures poetic voices, collaborations and connections across communities in impact areas of:

— **Environment**

— **Amplification and Visibility**

— **First Nations**

— **Youth**

— **Marginalised Voices**

Our 10+ key projects encompass **Poetry Month**, **Poem Forest**, **Poetry in First Languages**, **MAD Poetry** and a range of cross-sector partnerships that embrace inventive delivery, public installations and partnered events for everyday experiences with poetry in meaningful ways.

ENVIRONMENT

POEM FOREST

leaves rustle with the wind
forever whispering
as if they have a secret to tell.

~ Jamie, Year 7, Picton High School



Student tree planting. Images Lucy Cash and Tad SSouden

Created by Red Room Poetry, in collaboration with The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, **Poem Forest** is a new nature poetry prize that encourages young people to use their words to make positive climate action.

Launching March 2021, **Poem Forest** nurtures our connection with nature by inviting students and communities to create and publish poems inspired by the natural world that sustains us. For every poem received a tree will be planted to help heal habitats and create a **Poem Forest** for future generations.

GOALS

8
poets commissioned and engaged

Learning resources distributed to schools nationally

300
schools engaged

3000
student and teacher poems created and published (2021)

22000
trees planted with Greening our City, Premier's Priority, Climate Change Fund

8
major partnerships



Partners

Generously supported by
Principal Patron,
John B. Fairfax AO
The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan
Australia Council for the Arts
Copyright Agency
Create NSW
Graeme Wood Foundation
McLean Foundation
Oranges & Sardines Foundation
Billy Blue Creative
Magabala Books

redroompoetry.org/projects/poem-forest

NEW SHOOTS

we've walked past
tree trunks
shaped like femurs
creatures hide themselves
frogmouths, bats,
cicadas wait for their
hour and season

~ Ali Jane Smith 'Thorny Juicy' commissioned for Sculpture in the Garden, Wollongong Botanic Garden

Dakota Feier. Images Lucy Cash



New Shoots: Garden of Poems celebrates and cultivates poems inspired by plants and ecosystems to deepen people's creative and cultural connections with nature.

Since 2016, **New Shoots** has bloomed across Botanic Gardens and Parks nationally. In 2021, we'll extend New Shoots through a collaboration with Wollongong Botanic Garden as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations to unfurl local commissions and events connecting people, plants and place during **Poetry Month** in August.

GOALS

5
poet commissioned and filmed

3
community workshops

1
community event

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, Oranges & Sardines Foundation, Wollongong Botanic Garden, Wollongong City Council

redroompoetry.org/projects/new-shoots

POETRY MONTH

An eternity can exist in a moment, an hour, or in the song life of
the humble sparrows who mutter as they dream in the tree
that breaks through concrete and sorrow of this poem.

~ Ali Cobby Eckermann and Joy Harjo from 'Story Tree' **Fair Trade**



Ali Cobby Eckermann and Joy Harjo images supplied

To elevate Australian poetry locally and internationally as well as amplifying poetry as part of our national consciousness, RR is creating **Poetry Month**. Taking place in August 2021, Poetry Month is a national program of high-profile commissions, events, readings, residencies, showcases, publications, professional development, awards, public initiatives, and community-led activities with major partners to raise the profile of Australian poetry and poets.

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, City of Sydney, Copyright Agency, Create NSW, Oranges & Sardines Foundation, State Library NSW, Red Room Poetry, The Wheeler Centre, Commissioning Circle, generous individuals, more TBC

Our signature **Poetry Month** programs include:

— **Fair Trade** – award-winning Australian and international First Nations poets collaborate across skies and seas to co-create poems about culture (including a collaboration between Ali Cobby Eckerman, winner of the Campbell Wyndham Prize and Joy Harjo, current US Poet Laureate)

— **30in30** – 30 poets published over 30 days with thematic commissions and participatory activities spanning environment, science, sport, public spaces, mental health awareness, social justice, and empowering marginalised, older and emerging voices

— **Line Break** - online poetry review show featuring poetry in all its forms

— **Poetry Ambassadors** - high profile public figures engaged to publicly promote and advocate for poetry through media interviews, digital campaigns, and other communication strategies

— **PM Calendar** - a national calendar promoting community-led and RR initiatives across August

Our Poetry Month engagement strategy will leverage cross-sector partners and target audiences across Australia inspiring the creation of new works and lifting appreciation of the art form.

GOALS

1.4M+
audiences

50+
poets commissions and engaged for performances (written, audio and video)

5
international poet commissions

8
Poetry Ambassadors engaged

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetry-month

AMPLIFICATION & VISIBILITY

POETIC MOMENTS



Profiling and publishing contemporary poetry in unexpected places and public installations, **Poetic Moments** makes poetry accessible, connecting communities and individuals with their environments, stories and each other.

In 2021, our poetic installations, partnerships and public call outs ensure diverse and creative voices echo through our communities across the country including:

— **PIFL Dharawal** student group poem on permanent signage at Minnamurra Rest Site with Transport NSW

— **Poetry Object** etched installation of student poetry at Hickson Park, Barangaroo, Sydney

— **Muru Nanga Mai** at Badu Mangrove Boardwalk, Sydney Olympic Park

— **New Shoots** poetic pathways in Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Royal Botanic Garden Victoria and Wollongong Botanic Garden

GOALS

4M
audiences across RR installations and programs

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Billy Blue Creative, Create NSW, City of Sydney, Copyright Agency, Dept Planning, Industry & Environment, Go Transit, Nelson Meers Foundation, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Sydney Olympic Park, Transport NSW, Wollongong City Council, 107 Projects



redroompoetry.org/projects/poetic-moments

Ellen van Neerven image Anna Jacobson



RED ROOM POETRY FELLOWSHIP

Encouraging excellence, the **Fellowship** recognises the achievements and artistic goals of contemporary Australian poets previously commissioned by RR.

Each RR Fellow receives:

— $5000 poetic stipend

— $1000 poem commission

— 2 x weeks residency at Bundanon Trust with local workshops

Our 2021 Fellow, Ellen van Neerven, was selected from over 45 entries. Ellen's Fellowship project is 'Kweensland: Sovereign Bodies and the Colonial Nation-State'. Given the calibre of Fellowship submissions, 9 shortlisted poets were also commissioned to create new poems aligned with themes of their individual projects.

Partners

The Fellowship is made possible by generous individuals and Bundanon Trust

GOALS

10
poet commissions and performances

3
community workshops

1
public event / performance

"Thank you to Red Room Poetry and the judging panel for this amazing opportunity. I feel honoured and privileged to be the fifth recipient of this fellowship. The work selected is called Kweensland: Sovereign Bodies and the Colonial Nation-State, it's about us as queer First Nations people - our traditional country does sit within the parameters of what is now called Queensland but our sovereignty was never ceded. For thousands of years pre-Invasion, our families lived and thrived here and despite colonial-neoliberal disruption we continue to practice a connection to Dhagun. It's about our gender diversity before the ships came. about listening deeply to Dhagun and stories that have been silenced. This project is an ode to what to some are small protests, and small details, but to me, are revolutions. I'm looking forward to the residency in July on Wodi Wodi Yuin country, looking forward to immersing myself in the writing, running workshops with community and presenting the poetry that comes out of this time with you all in the future..."

~ Ellen van Neerven **2021 Red Room Poetry Fellow**

redroompoetry.org/projects/fellowship

Walk slowly through
the day,
take care of yourself,
do not count on harm,
things lost are now a
small waste to retrieve,
even the ocean is
messy, let it teach you
to trust

~ Michelle Cahill from ‘Later Dusk’



Red Room Poetry Fellowship workshops with Jeanine Leane Image Tad Souden

FIRST NATIONS PROGRAMS

Bimbali winha birrabang wuruwin dyiraany dhi gibirbang wayan balungin waangandarra bundarra birrang wuruwin murruwa
fire burning outside through mountain, my people lost dying, tormenting cloud smoke through wind

~ Group poem Reiby Youth Justice Centre, Airds

Our First Nations programs celebrate, share and conserve knowledge of First languages and culture through supporting First Nations artists and Custodians of language and culture to work with communities in the practice of poetry, music, dance, art, sport and play. Connecting Elders, Custodians and young people, our programs have been delivered with multiple partners and communities.

Poetry in First Languages (PIFL) commissions, publishes and delivers First Nations-led student poetry programs on Country. PIFL Dharawal, Yuin and Gandangara (Gundungurra) programs are continuing into 2021.

"Positive impact on spirituality, mental health and wellbeing. Great to be back into culture having a sense of identity and creativity. Feel empowered."

~ Oolong House Unlocked participant



Timothy Edward Gray and Stephen Ardler at Unlocked with Oolong House and Bundanon. Image Lyndsay Urquhart

PIFL Dharawal workshops at Wollongong City Gallery in November with poet Dakota Feirer and Lyndsay Urquhart

RR's First Nations policies and frameworks are constantly being reviewed and updated. During 2021 we will implement:

— First Nations Advisory Council refresh

— Editing guidelines and cultural protocols for First Nations writers

— First Nations Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights policy, reviewed by an independent expert

— Endorsed Reconciliation Australia Stretch RAP will be shared with our partners and collaborators



Partners

Aboriginal Educational Consultative Groups, Aesop Foundation, Adès Foundation, American Express, Australia Council for the Arts, Bundanon Trust, Copyright Agency, Create NSW, Department for Planning, Industry & Environment, Graeme Wood Foundation, Land Councils, Local Councils, Magabala Books, Miromaa Language Centre, MIRVAC, Nelson Meers Foundation, Oolong House, Oranges & Sardines Foundation, Pantera Press Foundation, Reconciliation Australia, Royal Botanic Gardens, Wollongong City Gallery

GOALS

6
First Nations poet commissions

8
programs, projects and productions

52
First Nations arts and cultural practitioners engaged

35
engagements and events including Guwayu at Sydney Writers' Festival

12+
partners engaging with the RR RAP

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetry-first-languages

POETIC LEARNING

I know
your voice is an apartment you just moved into

~ Anisa Nanduala 'I Know', **Poetic Learning**



Anisa Nandaula image supplied

RR cultivates engagement with poetry and nurtures future generations of poets through a range of intensive creative workshops, programs, prizes, learning resources, publication and performance opportunities as well as employment and professional development for emerging poets.

Our youth programs and workshops include:

— **Poem Forest**
— **Youth Unlocked**
— **Poetry in First Languages**
— **Poetry Month**

GOALS

5
poet commissions

4000
students engaged

3000+
student and teacher poems published

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetic-learning

UNLOCKED

Fire warns me before walking into traps
Water is my Goddess, my mother, my strength and clarity

~ Howie M. Oolong House **Unlocked** participant



Unlocked and Youth Unlocked delivers poetry programs with participants from juvenile justice and rehabilitation centres to express and create the world on their terms.

In 2021, will deliver workshops and programs at:

— Reiby Youth Justice Centre, Airds
— Oolong House Drug and Rehabilitation Centre, Nowra

Partners

Aesop Foundation, American Express, Australia Council for the Arts, Bundanon Trust, Create NSW, Oranges & Sardines Foundation

GOALS

2
poets commissioned

2
programs

20
participating students

"Our talking ranged from the fragility and beauty of a budgie's egg to ways our ancestors communicate with us, custodianship of a feather, to being a queen and dancing just cause it's fun. All of it was nurtured and held in confidence with open hearts of Aunty and their sis Lyndsay. For my own practise this workshop was a deep reminder that we as humans, our ancestors and the earth, harbour a need to connect deeply and that truth should be at the core of any of my 'work'."

~ Lillian Rodrigues Pang, Youth Unlocked facilitatorw

redroompoetry.org/projects/youth-unlocked

MARGINALISED VOICES

RR co-produces community-led projects with poets who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, have lived experience of mental health difficulties, and live in regional or remote areas, as well as LGBTQI+ and older voices. This year we will support at least 10 x commissions in addition to delivering physical and digital workshops, online showcases, and publication outcomes that empower marginalised voices.

Our 2021 program focuses on extending **MAD Poetry** as well as collaborations with **Sweatshop** and **Gran Slam!**



Kobie Dee. Image supplied

MAD POETRY

it is the coming down time
coming down from the vision place
the reminder of concrete landings and the smashing of intellect

~ Tim Heffernan, 'from the book of puns and other altered sentences' **MAD Poetry**

"As a facilitator I have loved working with creative people all around NSW and sharing my philosophy of writing as an act of self care."

~ Helena Fox, **MAD Poetry** workshop facilitator

"Brilliant program - feels like it's leading the way with this type of project in Australia. More of it please."

~ workshop participant

The focus of **MAD Poetry** is to create a safe writing space for experienced and emerging voices with a lived experience of mental health issues to express how they see the world. In 2021 we will deliver a raft of activities across Mental Health Month in October including new commissions, workshops on the South Coast NSW, and a lived experience anthology public call out in partnership with poet David Stavanger.

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, COORDINARE - South Eastern NSW PHN, NSW Mental Health Commission, Wollongong City Council, Wollongong City Library

GOALS

3
lived experience workshops

5
poet commissions

30
emerging poets selected as part of a lived experience anthology

redroompoetry.org/projects/mad-poetry



Writing Water on Sydney Ferries. Image Tawfik Elgazzar

2020 Annual Report

KEY PROJECTS

Amidst swirling skies of environmental catastrophe and a global pandemic, we commissioned 200+ poets across 16 projects, making 2020 our largest program to date.

Through inventive collaborations, digital events and publications we celebrated a diversity of voices and supported creative communities who lost their gigs, launches and employment opportunities in key impact areas of:

— **Environment**
— **Amplification and Visibility**
— **First Nations**
— **Youth**
— **Marginalised Voices**



18
years experience

21
poems, audio and video responses as part of Shadow Catchers exhibition with the Art Gallery of NSW

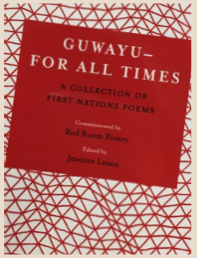
80
poets paid and featured via In Your Hands digital anthology as part of our COVID-19 response

18
digital poetic learning workshops and Youth Unlocked poetry workshops

200+
poets commissioned to create, perform and publish 3100+ poems



6M+
audiences across Australia and internationally through poetic installations in parks, gardens, public transport, communities and digitally





73+
First Nations artists and Language Custodians employed

13
Studio A artists living with disabilities commissioned and participating in workshops for Past/Present Pets

95+
partners

24
workshops for MAD Poetry led by poets with lived experience for Mental Health Month



2227
student poems for Poetry Object competition with 19,000 views of our resources created with ClickView

ENVIRONMENT

WRITING WATER: RAIN, RIVER, REEF

in each hour there is a season to be again look,
another hour to hold your life-raft

~ Duy Quang Mai from 'The Act of Water' **Writing Water**



"Thank you for organising the workshop. I found Eunice to be a very hospitable and knowledgeable poet. I commend Red Room for launching the event, and giving us the opportunity to submit for publication."

~ **Writing Water** workshop participant

Writing Water explores our relationships with water to raise public awareness of environmental change and conservation issues related to drought and bushfires. Commissioning featured poets, Tony Birch, Luke Davies, Georgina Reid and Eunice Andrada, **Writing Water** also selected 20 poets from a national public call-out for water-inspired poems. These works were published on Ferries and in limited edition chapbook distributed.

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, 107 Projects, Billy Blue Creative, City of Sydney, Copyright Agency, Create NSW, Rizzeria, TarraWarra Biennial, Torch Media

24
poets commissioned and published

366
public contributors

500
handmade chapbooks

60
workshop participants

9
partners

212,230
audiences of publications on Sydney Ferries and waterways

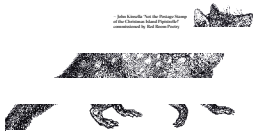
35,668
digital reach

Writing Water poems on Sydney ferries image Tawfik Elgazzar

redroompoetry.org/projects/writing-water-rain-river-reef

EXTINCTION ELEGIES

the soft-spot of reminisce and distress



I tuned in—haunting
premonition of loss,
forage zone of the
spiritually lost, the
vulnerable, the lonely.
What family will post
your obituary

~ John Kinsella from 'Not the Postage Stamp of the Christmas Island Pipistrelle!' **Extinction Elegies**

Extinction Elegies deepens human empathy and understanding of extinction, ecology and loss through poetic commissions, public submissions, workshops, interviews and exhibitions with partners in Australia and internationally. As bushfires swallowed habitats and homes, we broadcast a special series of **Extinction Elegies** poems with the Community Radio Network and **Dumbo Feather**. Selected public contributions will appear in **Philosophy Activism Nature** journal in 2021.

Our workshop collaboration with the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney for Threatened Species Day was rescheduled to 2021 due to COVID-19.

Partners

Billy Blue Creative, Community Radio Network, **Dumbo Feather**, Durham University UK, **Philosophy Activism Nature** journal

6
poets and poems commissioned

206
public contributors

306,000
audiences Sydney train campaign with public call out Sep 2019 - Mar 2020

6
partners

1.1M+
digital engagement on Community Radio and Dumbo Feather in Jan 2020

redroompoetry.org/projects/extinction-elegies



AMPLIFICATION & VISIBILITY

Poetry on the Block hoardings with student poetry and City of Sydney. Image Billy Blue Creative

POETIC MOMENTS

to see the world through your own face, or, rather,
see the face through which you view the world.

~ David Brooks from 'Snow Country' **Shadow catchers**

RR amplifies accessibility of poetry via unexpected, highly visible installations, publications, exhibitions and hundreds of paid opportunities for poets. From buses, billboards and broadcasts to ferries, boardwalks and regional signage, we publish and profile poetry for enhanced experiences and cultural placemaking. Amplifying poetry across our program and adding to permanent poetic installations nationally, Poetic Moments in 2020 included:

— **Poetic Moments** journeys with poems on trains, buses and ferries

— **Poetry on the Block** - urban poetry on hoardings with City of Sydney featuring commissioned and student poems with designs by Billy Blue Creative

— **Youth Unlocked** student poems in Dharawal on murals at Coreen School in Western Sydney with Koori artist David Cragg

— **Poetry Object** etched installation of student poetry at Barangaroo

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Art Gallery of NSW, Billy Blue Creative, City of Sydney, Copyright Agency, Create NSW, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Go Transit, MIRVAC, Nelson Meers Foundation, Rizzeria, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Royal Botanic Garden Victoria, S & J Media, Sydney Olympic Park, Torch Media, Transport NSW

12
activities and events

20+
partners

3M+
audiences for public art installations

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetic-moments

AMPLIFICATION & VISIBILITY

SHADOW CATCHERS



RR collaborated with the Art Gallery of NSW to present poetic reflections of the mirrored realms and split selves of the **Shadow catchers** photography exhibition. Commissioning five poets, and one specially-selected public poet, **Shadow catchers** invited the public to peer through the looking glass and respond poetically the Gallery's collection. COVID-19 caused the delivery of planned **Shadow catchers** events to shift - successfully - into the digital realm.

Partners

Art Gallery of NSW, Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, Sydney Writers' Festival

6
poets commissioned

16
poems published and audio recorded

96
public submissions received to callout competition

42,959
digital reach

RR and AGNSW staff pictured with Shadow catchers commissioned poets Joelistics, Melinda Smith, Saba Vasefi, David Brooks and Ali Whitelock.

"I am indebted to Red Room Poetry for this opportunity to dig so deep poetically, emotionally and psychologically – and to come out the other side knowing that while we may never be able to completely cast off the shadows of our pasts, we can still create despite them."

~ Ali Whitlock, commissioned poet

The road is a blade
And it smells of blood.
Where, now, in my heart
Can I steal her safe.

~ Sava Vasefi 'Minerva', responding to 'Self-portrait at 40 Holland Avenue 2007'

redroompoetry.org/projects/shadow-catchers

RED ROOM POETRY FELLOWSHIP

things lost are now a small waste to retrieve,
even the ocean is messy,
let it teach you to trust so you may know how to heal

~ Michelle Cahill 'Later, dusk' **RR 2020 Fellow**



Michelle Cahill, 2020 Red Room Fellow. Image Nicola Bailey

"It is a privilege to walk in the steps of Ali Cobby Eckermann, Candy Royalle and Jeanine Leane; and to be in the company of nine extraordinary Australian poets, whose work I admire. This comes as a lifeline to me, at a time when the freedom to think as a poet is challenged by external restrictions and the world we know and love is rapidly changing."

~ Michelle Cahill, **Red Room Poetry Fellow** 2020

Encouraging poetic excellence, the **Red Room Poetry Fellowship** recognises the achievements and artistic goals of contemporary Australian poets. To be eligible, poets must have been previously commissioned by RR.

Our 2020 Fellow, Michelle Cahill, was selected from over 30 entries. Michelle's Fellowship project is a poetic reflection on the impact of colonialism, species hierarchy and climate emergencies following the Australian bushfires. The creation of a new suite of poems extended her work within **Extinction Elegies** and resulted in performances at the **Requiem** exhibition for Sydney Festival. Given the calibre of Fellowship submissions in 2020, 9 shortlisted poets were also commissioned to create new poems aligned with themes of their individual projects.

The Fellowship is made possible by generous individuals and Bundanon Trust.

10
poets / 30 poems commissioned

21
workshop participants

2
public presentations with Sydney Festival

1
film produced

47,434
digital reach

Each RR Fellow receives:

— $5000 poetic stipend
— $1000 poem commission
— 2 x weeks residency at Bundanon Trust on the NSW South Coast, with student workshops
— Opportunity to undertake an intensive period of writing, professional development, publication and workshop delivery

redroompoetry.org/projects/fellowship-2020

this is us and we are
this into the shadows
behind the full
bookcase into a
calligraphy of *Egretta*
sancta upon surrender
to slow porridge
and fine china release
your mortal anxiety,
send the mist upward

~ from Panacea

COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECTS

Ensuring paid, collaborative and creative opportunities for our poetic communities was at the core of many of our COVID-19 response projects including **In Your Hands** and **Panacea** as well as over 50 digital workshops delivered by RR from March to October 2020.



PANACEA



Panacea is a participatory poetry experiment coded in collaboration with poet and programmer Benjamin Laird. During the distanced days of lockdown, **Panacea** was created as an interactive chain poem to support creative connection. We invited poets, teachers, truckies, lawyers, accountants, artists and non-arts alike to add their own seven-word responses to create a collective work. The result is an animated co-creation in which every line hinges on its relationship to another. Or as Benjamin suggests, '**Panacea** is a social poem in the pandemic' and while physical distancing kept us apart, the very existence of **Panacea** depended on coming together.

218
public contributions

Partners

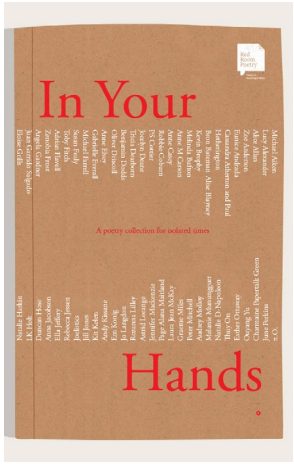
Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW

redroompoetry.org/projects/panacea

IN YOUR HANDS

There's a cosmos of light down here,
shifting in concert with our feelings.

~ Prithvi Varatharajan from 'Inner-City Reflection' **In Your Hands**



Offering a little poetic relief in response to COVID-19, RR collaborated with Oranges & Sardines Foundation to develop **In Your Hands**, a free digital poetry anthology. Promoting poets and publishers, the project paid 80 poets whose book launches and performances were cancelled due to the closure of live events and festivals. **In Your Hands** was successfully launched by live-stream in late April, followed by a States of Spoken Word online panel with lead producers and practitioners across the country in August.

80
poets / 80 poems. All poets paid for their work

2
live-stream events

1,615
views of the downloadable PDF published on the RR website

8,812
digital reach

Partners

Principal partner - Oranges & Sardines Foundation

Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW

redroompoetry.org/projects/in-your-hands

Gurumgan guwalehn
Gannganah ban.gehn wahlu

stars broke
when they heard you died
dust fell at our feet

~ Ellen van Neerven 'Gibam Garandalehn (Full Moon)'
Poetry in First Languages

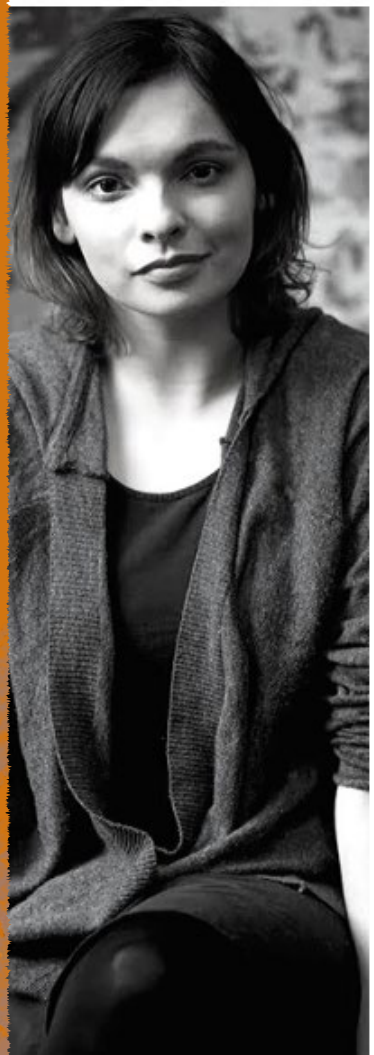
FIRST NATIONS

The intentions of all our First Nations programs and collaborations are to celebrate, share, conserve and promote knowledge of First languages and culture through poetry, music, dance, art, sport and play. We collaborate with First Nations Elders, poets, artists, knowledge-holders and Custodians of languages, lores, and cultures, communities, community groups, teachers, and schools to deliver programs with a wide range of partners and communities.

With a fresh change in leadership for our First Nations programs, Munkata Yuin woman, Lyndsay Urquhart joined RR in July 2020. Our team and Board engaged in deeply inspiring decolonisation workshops and together we revised further outcomes as reflected in our new Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan in 2021.










POETRY IN FIRST LANGUAGES (PIFL)

The gunduwubli (trees) wishing and washing what will they do,
they will claim the bubara (mountain) down below.

We can jump whada (where) the purple glows on the tip top.
Baladjarang (shine) down on the nguru (country)
whada he is laying in the hole rest in peace they blow.

~ Years 5 & 6, Wollongong City Gallery Primary School Dharawal workshop



Wollongong Art Gallery First Nations Poetry Workshops Nov 2020

PIFL commissions, publishes and delivers First Nations-led student poetry programs on Country, and/or in First Nations community-led locations. In 2020, programs on Gundungurra (Gundungarra) and Yuin countries were postponed due to COVID-19. However, 9 Dharawal community workshops were able to be delivered at Eagle Vale High School in Western Sydney late in the year, in addition to a Dharawal language workshop and artist talk delivered at Wollongong City Gallery with Koori students from 3 local schools in celebration of the Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Artists' exhibition.

Partners

Aboriginal Educational Consultative Groups, Adès Foundation, Australian Council for the Arts, Copyright Agency, Create NSW, Department for Planning, Industry & Environment, Graeme Wood Foundation, Land Councils, Local Councils, Magabala Books, Miromaa Language Centre, MIRVAC, Nelson Meers Foundation, Oranges & Sardines Foundation, Pantera Press, Reconciliation Australia, Royal Botanic Gardens, Transport NSW, University of Wollongong, Wollongong City Gallery

"This was a great day. The young people made me proud in how much they have listened to the stories and connected with Dharawal culture and their own culture. I love their passion for language and that the school has embraced the language from the time you enter the grounds. Having Lyndsay, Katrina and Uncle Charlie around on the day gave many perspectives and reinforced how strong our Aboriginal Culture is. Congratulations - so honoured to be a part of the process."

~ Aunty Jodi Edwards, Dharawal Language Custodian

260
First Nations participants engaged

10
workshops delivered

18
programs postponed

26+
employment opportunities created for First Nations poets

11
Elders/Custodians engaged

40
poems published in Dharawal language

17+
generous partners

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetry-first-languages

FIRST NATIONS

GUWAYU

bahloo
I am watching you watch me
with light carried by voice gentle

~ Evelyn Araluen from 'Bahloo' **Guwayu**



Poets commissioned for Guwayu

"...several thematic threads emerge, the continuity, survival and power of Aboriginal culture, the enduring impact of racist and colonialist power structures on Aboriginal communities today, and questions of belonging, place and country are key concerns for many poets - as is the resilience and power of language."

~ Sarah Holland-Batt, excerpt from Review, **The Australian**

Guwayu – For All Times is a collection of First Nations poetry commissioned by RR and edited by Wiradjuri poet and academic Dr Jeanine Leane. Published in collaboration with Magabala Books, **Guwayu** is the first anthology of its kind to feature poetry in 12 different First Nations Languages. **Guwayu** was launched in 2020 to champion a range of emerging and established First Nations voices to new audiences across Australia and Internationally.

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Copyright Agency, Create NSW, Nelson Meers Foundation, Melbourne Spoken Word, Magabala Books, Miromaa, Red Dirt Festival

36
First Nations poets paid and published

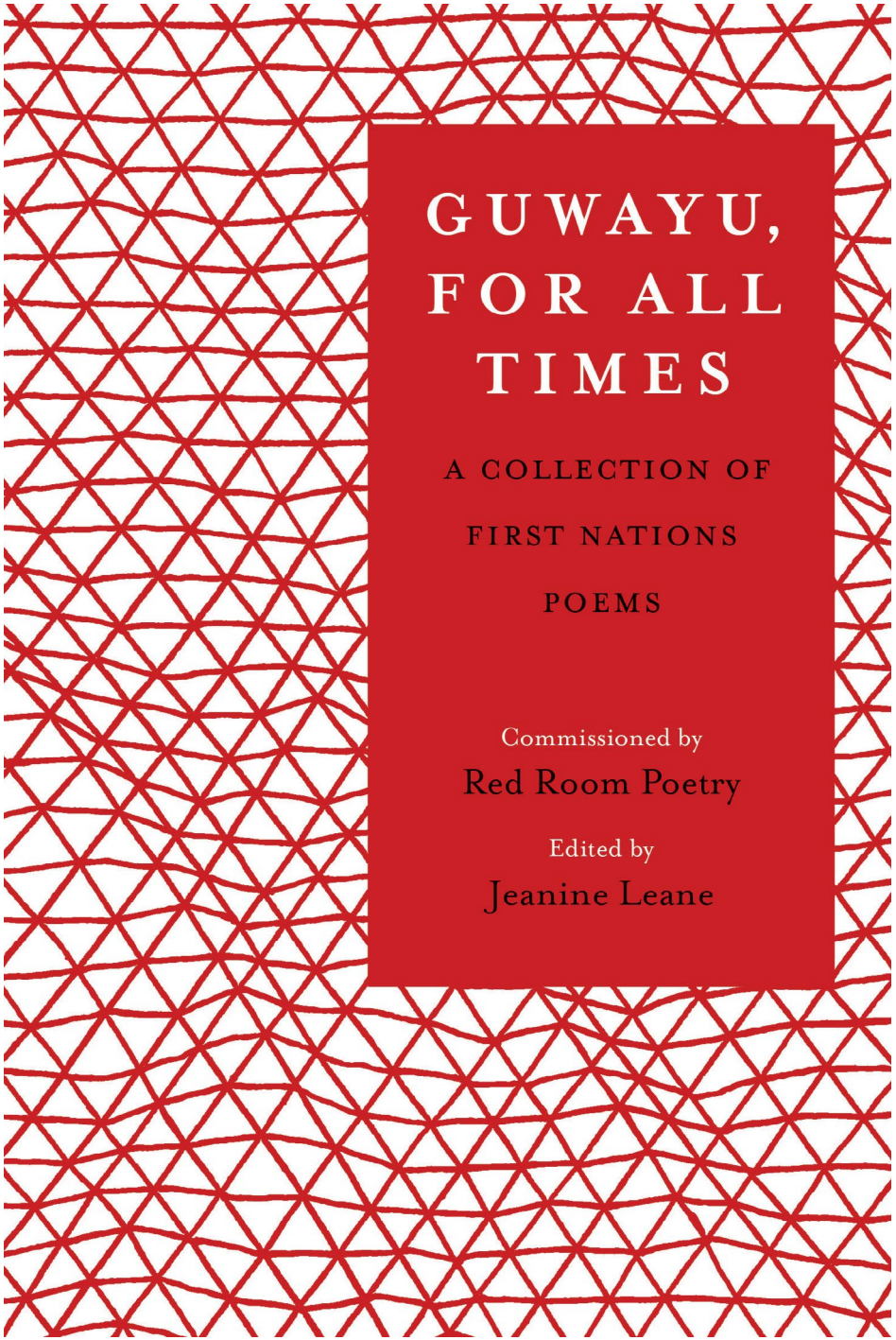
63
poems commissioned

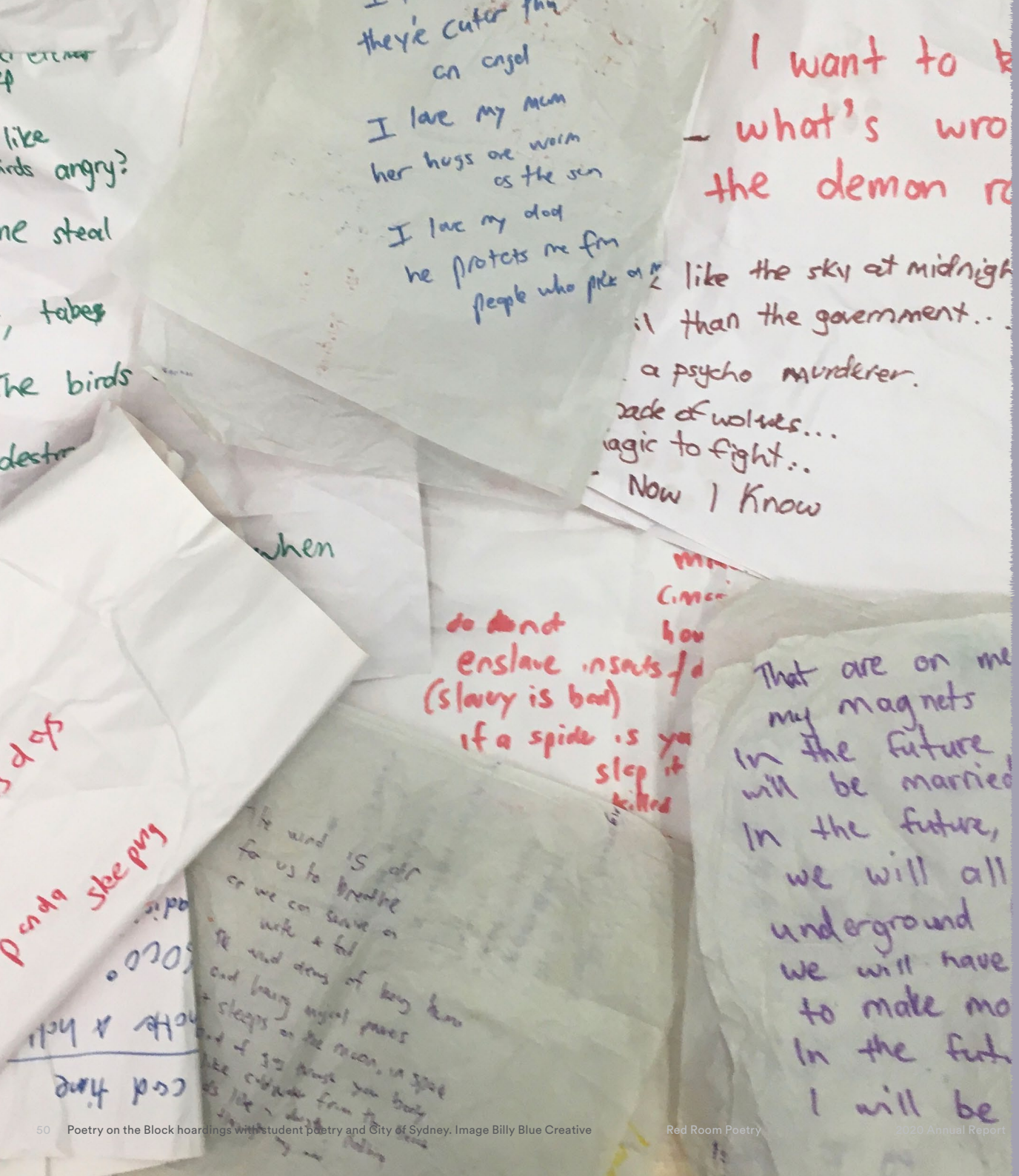
2000
copies sold + second print run

1M+
audiences of Guwayu poems on Sydney trains Apr - Sept 2020 and Melbourne trains Oct 2020 - Feb 2021

89,341
digital reach

redroompoetry.org/projects/guwayu





Poetry on the Block hoardings with student poetry and City of Sydney. Image Billy Blue Creative

YOUTH

RR nurtures future generations of poets through a range of intensive creative programs, prizes, learning resources, publication outcomes and professional development for emerging poets.

With a focus on sustainable program delivery, young people are engaged in the following projects via face to face and digital workshops to bring poetry to schools and communities in low socio-economic areas.

POETIC LEARNING

It is small, but has the strength of Maui's hook.
The size of the pinky I use to make promises with my friends.

~ Iritana, 'Poounamu/ Greenstone' Year 5, **Poetry Object**



Image Tawfik Elgazzar

10
poets employed

6
poems commissioned and published

631
student and teacher participants

26,459
digital reach of learning resources

2020 saw **Poetic Learning** pivot to a primarily digital workshop delivery mode, with commissioned poets and spoken word artists streaming into classrooms to inspire students and teachers to create, perform and discuss poetry in meaningful ways. In 2020, we delivered 18 **Poetic Learning** workshops in schools nationally.

"I just wanted to thank you and the fantastic poets who ran the workshops for our Year 8 students this morning. All the teachers came back buzzing from the sessions and the girls were clearly so involved in the activities."

~ Eleanor Martens, English Teacher (Ravenswood School for Girls)

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetic-learning

YOUTH UNLOCKED

I am not the river
if you drop a rock in me
I won't ripple

~ Adrian, Coreen High



Youth Unlocked mural by artist David Cragg. Image Tim Lorking

Youth Unlocked delivers poetry programs with students from juvenile justice and behavioural intervention centres, engaging high needs participants in telling their stories on their terms. Due to COVID-19 **Youth Unlocked** was streamlined in 2020 with 9 workshops at Coreen School in Blacktown NSW undertaken outdoors at Nurragingy Reserve. The remainder of planned programs were postponed to 2021.

Partners

Aesop Foundation, Oranges & Sardines Foundation, Coreen School

"The Youth Unlocked program has become a cherished part of our curriculum. Students who may be at risk of disengaging are expertly nurtured in a productive and meaningful manner. Poetic devices, metaphor, simile and other essential literary techniques are taught in a meaningful way, breaking down barriers and allowing young people to express themselves through poetry. The students from our school have grown academically, emotionally and socially because of their involvement in the workshops."

~ Luke Rowland, Assistant Principal Coreen School, Western Sydney

2
facilitating poets

2
poems commissioned

14
workshop participants

10
student poems published

5
teachers/learning support involved

redroompoetry.org/projects/youth-unlocked

POETRY OBJECT

writhing Rainbow Serpent
emerald eucalypts, opal skies
It holds the stories of sorrow and hope
that Aunty told me

~ Lily Year 8 'Friendship Holder', **Poetry Object** Shortlist



"I have not seen the students yet and I know they will be ecstatic. These students are some of our quietest and gentlest. To have their voices heard in this way is such a wonderful thing!"

~ Kathy Shortland Jones, Teacher, Christmas Island District High School



Poetry Object workshops. Images Tawfik Elgazzar

From 2011 – 2020, **Red Room Poetry Object** was Australasia's largest free poetry-writing competition for young people and their teachers. It sparked creativity by inviting poems about treasured, curious, everyday, extraordinary, interplanetary, or talismanic objects. The national competition was reimagined across Australia in partnership with Copyright Agency in 2020, with a strong digital focus and new judging format including student and teacher judges.

In August the **Poetry Object** winners' announcement was live streamed on the RR YouTube channel. Despite the significant impact of COVID-19 on schools and this project, final submissions were nearly equal to 2019 levels.

In 2021, we launched a new **Poem Forest** Prize for students and teachers, planting a tree for every nature poem received.

Poetry Object workshops. Images Tawfik Elgazzar



"I think the PO comp is a great way for young poets to have their poems heard and get excited about poetry."

~ Byron A. Highly Commended PO Primary School



Partners

ClickView, Copyright Agency, Craig and Joy Lawn, Good Reading, Kookie, Musem of Applied Arts & Sciences, Walker Books, and generous individuals

"It has been an absolute delight to inhabit the worlds of so many incredible young and not-so-young poets. From two-to-three dimensional objects, from the abstract to concrete, whether personified, disembodied or human, the range of subjects explored by the PO participants was a refreshing insight into the role of material culture beyond the financial value of goods to a deeper understanding of how people and objects are linked through memory, social connection and feeling."

~ Eleanor Jackson, Head PO Judge

2227
poems submitted

8
digital workshops

8
poets employed to run workshops and as judges

2
poems commissioned

$5000+
in cash, mentoring and book prizes

101,820
digital reach

redroompoetry.org/projects/poetry-object

MARGINALISED VOICES

RR co-produces community-led projects that commission and mentor 35+ poets p.a with lived expereince of mental health and disabilities.
We also deliver programs with a focus on supporting LGBTQI, culturally diverse, regional and older voices via commissions, face-to-face and digital workshops, performances, exhibition and publication outcomes.



Mohammad Awad image supplied image

MAD POETRY

Take this pill and follow it to the belly of a whale, don't pray, but wake to whichever sun scalps the waiting-room wall.

~ Jonathan Dunk, 'Ghost Song' **MAD Poetry**



Holly Isemonger image supplied

"This project was actually super instrumental in helping me get back into writing and performing more, after not having done it for a long time due to my mental illness."

~Holly Isemonger, commissioned poet

We are full of worlds that can't be contained by a pill. **MAD Poetry** is a community workshop initiative delivered by and for people with a lived/living mental health experience. The program promotes authentic storytelling with digital publication outcomes for participants alongside established writers and high profile commissions including Helena Fox and Christine Anu in 2020. Throughout Mental Health Month (October 2020) we delivered 28 NSW digital and face to face workshops culminating in publication and a live-streamed **MAD Poetry** Showcase.

Partners

Create NSW, NSW Mental Health Commission, Wollongong City Council, Wollongong City Library

8
facilitating poets paid

20
poems commissioned plus a PDF of participant poetry published on RR website

10
video poems (all poets paid)

126
workshop participants across 24 workshops

1
live streamed showcase (470 viewers and 1200+ reach)

56,425
digital reach

redroompoetry.org/projects/mad-poetry

PAST/PRESENT PETS

The sun is in the lake
The sun turtle
The sun turns the lake into sunlight

~ Victoria Atkinson, 'Dream of Turtle Song' **Past/Present Pets**



Past/Present Pets is a collaborative project with Studio A honouring the life force of animals through a body of poetic and visual work that captures the spirit of companionship. The project commissioned 14 x Studio A artists living with intellectual disabilities to collaborate with poets via Zoom and create a series of poetic responses to accompany their art themed around pets – past, present, fantastic and from the future.

"For some sessions with particular artists and poets, I literally had tears brewing in my eyes at how much beauty was being brought out of the artists in the Zoom discussions!"

~ Emma Johnston, Studio A Principal Artist

14
artists commissioned and published

42
contact hours of Zoom workshops

6
facilitating poets employed

7702
digital reach

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, Orange & Sardines Foundation, Studio A

"In times of struggle these works remind us of something wholly necessary: love brings us together, and begets life after death.."

~ Robin M Eames, facilitating poet



Artworks by Lisa Scott, Megan Pelham, and Guy Fredericks

redroompoetry.org/projects/pastpresent-pets

A SWEATSHOP IN A RED ROOM



Naima Ibrahim, commissioned poet for A Sweatshop in a Red Room

A Sweatshop in a Red Room is an ongoing collaboration that invites emerging writers from Sweatshop: Literacy Movement, a Western Sydney community collective, to showcase their poetic voices through a paid RR commission. From the margins of race and class, six poets were commissioned in 2020 to explore the theme of local and cultural slang to create and publish new works for a wider audience.

Partners

Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, Sweatshop

I'm with my Brown
women akka, didi, siss.
Adorned in my Anokhi
home dress we brush
each other's hair
slightly curly too thick
and dark like
the rivers-rain
we plait.

~ Gayatri Nair
'Big Aunty Energy'
A Red Room in a Sweatshop 2020

6
poets commissioned

10
new poems published

350
webpage views

Poems shared across Sweatshop website, social media platforms and e-newsletters



"'A Sweatshop in a Red Room makes space for poetry that is forcibly marginalised.
From the intersections of race, gender, class, ability and sexuality comes confronting yet comforting poems that we need for our times."

~ Winnie Dunn, General Manager, Sweatshop

redroompoetry.org/projects/sweatshop-red-room

2020 MEDIA

Total digital reach:

1M+

Website pageviews:

380,766

Facebook reach:

202,000

Twitter impressions:

306,594

Instagram reach:

59,800

YouTube impressions/views:

517,800 / 100,056

Total radio, TV, print media reach:

1.1M average

Radio, tv, print, and external media mentions:

68 external media mentions (print/digital)



Red Room Poetry's POEM FOREST program launched today. Photo supplied.

OUR 2020- 21 SUPPORTERS

Red Room Poetry gives heartfelt thanks to our supporters and partners who help make poetry meaningful, strengthen communities and nurture new voices.

Proudly supported by

Australian Government | Australia Council for the Arts

NSW GOVERNMENT

"Supporting the development of the POEM FOREST with Red Room Poetry and The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is the pinnacle of my involvement with Red Room Poetry."

~ John B. Fairfax AO

Principal Supporters

John B Fairfax AO
Oranges & Sardines Foundation
Brett Walker SC
Tim Game SC

Supporters

Adès Foundation
Aesop Foundation
American Express
Andrew FitzSimons
City of Sydney
COORDINARE - South Eastern NSW PHN
Copyright Agency
Craig and Joy Lawn
Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment
Edward Griffin
Francois Kunc
Graeme Wood Foundation
Howard Tanner AM
Chief Justice James Allsop AO
Julian Ludowici
Liz Cuninghame
McLean Foundation
Michael & Margaret Arnott
Mark Wakely
Hon. Michael Pembroke
Nelson Meers Foundation
Pantera Press Foundation
Paul Ruiz
Robert Albert AO
Ruth Armytage AM
Shanny Crouch

OUR PARTNERS

Red Room Poetry is a registered not-for-profit organisation and we rely on donations, in kind and pro bono support to achieve impact.

Partners

107 Projects
Aboriginal Educational Consultative Groups
Art Gallery of NSW
Australian Association for the Teaching of English
Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan
Australian Museum
Australian Poetry
Billy Blue Creative
Brisbane Writers Festival
Bundanon Trust
ClickView
Community Radio Network
Corban & Blair
Cordite Poetry Review
Coreen School
Department of Education
Digital Writers' Festival
Dumbo Feather
Durham University UK
Go Transit Media
Good Reading
Kookie
Magabala Books
Melbourne Spoken Word
Miromaa Language and Technology Centre
Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences
National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy
National Young Writers Festival
National Indigenous Times
NSW Mental Health Commission
Oolong House Drug and Rehabilitation Centre
Philosophy Activism Nature journal
PWC
Queensland Poetry Festival
Reconciliation Australia
Reconcilliation NSW
Red Dirt Festival
Reiby Youth Justice Centre, Airds
Rizzeria
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
Royal Botanic Garden Victoria
Royal Botanic Gardens
S & J Media
State Library NSW
Studio A
Sweatshop
Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Sydney Writers' Festival
TarraWarra Biennial
Torch Media
Transport NSW
University of Wollongong
Walker Books
Western Sydney University
Wingecarribee Shire Council
Wollongong Art Gallery
Wollongong Botanic Garden
Wollongong City Council
Wollongong City Gallery
Wollongong City Library



Image Tad Souden

HELP MAKE POETRY IN MEANINGFUL WAYS

"The project met a need for many poets to have a chance, stolen by the lockdowns, to promote new major works. It was a celebration and recharging of the community of creativity we all work within...the event reached a wide audience, which reminds all of us there is a deep well of need for poetry out there, and a larger market for our work than we realised. The event was a heart-warming enactment of poetic fellowship/kinship."

~ In Your Hands poet

Red Room Poetry's priorities are aligned with our Strategic Plan 2020- 2025.

For 2021 and beyond, these include:

Broadening the accessibility and profile of Australian poetry

Cultivating projects that employ a diversity of poets (200+ p.a)

Supporting and celebrating First Nations poets and collaborators

Implementing scalable program options for regional communities

Embedding impact measurement across our programs

Ensuring financial viability through partnerships and fundraising



Red Room Poetry Fellowship workshops with Jeanine Leane Image Tad Souden

Support Red Room Poetry

As we assess the impact of COVID-19 on our projects and plan for the future, we continue to carefully manage our resources and find alternative funding models to help us maintain a strong financial position and achieve our aims.

This includes seeking new multi-year funding partnerships and growing the Red Room Poetry Commissioning Circle.

To help us make poetry in meaningful ways, scan the QR code, or visit:

redroompoetry.org/support-us

FINANCIALS

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2020 $	Year ended 31 December 2019 $
Donations and non-government grants	17	385,876	334,001
Government grants	20	328,944	348,059
Other revenue	4	289,675	93,668
Total revenue		**1,004,495**	**775,728**
Contractors and employee expenses		(554,460)	(494,169)
Poetry commissions and appearance fees		(70,531)	(94,501)
Production costs		(46,522)	(25,358)
Consumables and office expenses		(6,335)	(35,588)
Publicity and promotion		(44,734)	(39,619)
Accounting and audit		(16,158)	(15,009)
Insurances		(12,162)	(10,936)
Travel costs		(3,679)	(10,120)
Repairs and maintenance		(320)	(671)
Depreciation expenses		(33,915)	(13,931)
Other expenses		(8,459)	(5,142)
Results from operating activities		**207,220**	**30,684**
Financial income	**5**	**5,881**	**8,146**
Surplus before income tax expense		**213,101**	**38,830**
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after income tax expense		**213,101**	**38,830**
Total comprehensive income for the year		**213,101**	**38,830**

Full financial report available on request, including notes which should be read in conjunction with these statements.

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	As at 31 December 2020 $	As at 31 December 2019 $
Assets: Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	423,010	313,038
Trade and other receivables	8	19,869	27,842
Other financial assets	7	483,677	438,091
Total current assets		**926,556**	**778,971**
Assets: Non-Current			
Plant and equipment		7,395	6,662
Right-of-use assets		22,281	51,245
Total non-current assets		**29,676**	**57,907**
Total assets		**956,232**	**836,878**
Liabilities: Current			
Trade and other payables	10	43,221	42,660
Deferred revenue	11	197,790	288,226
Employee entitlements	12	32,949	15,084
Lease liabilities	13	22,870	29,191
Total current liabilities		**296,830**	**375,161**
Liabilities: Non-Current			
Employee entitlements	12	22,920	15,466
Lease liabilities	13	-	22,870
Total non-current liabilities		**22,920**	**38,336**
Total liabilities		**319,750**	**413,497**
Net assets		**636,482**	**423,381**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		636,482	423,381
Total equity		636,482	423,381



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