2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Bring out your baskets
and your wooden tables.
Lay your broken pencils close.
Apologise with all your longing,
With all your broken hope.
Clear the buildings!
Mine the pavement!
Blow all the clouds out of the way!

RED ROOM POETRY

Feel the future shade.
Listen to the wind rustling the emptiness.
Sing the song of a homeless bird.
Sip eucalypt tea with the sleep-deprived bats,
And share your fruit with the starving ants.
Let a possum fall asleep on your arm,
And donate your leaves to the beetles below.
Bring out your baskets and your wooden tables.
Lay your broken pencils close.
Apologise with all your longing,
With all your broken hope.
Clear the buildings!
Mine the pavement!
Blow all the clouds out of the way!
Guide the sun-burnt cattle forth,
And dig a comfy hole in the earth.
Ask its mother for a single seed,
And weep to water the ground.
Turn away and slowly sit down.
Lean against our home.

~ Cooper L. Year 12, 'Spell to grow a tree' from POEM FOREST

CONTENTS

From our Patron	02
From our Artistic Director	03
From our Chairman	04
Our Story	06
Our Team	08
Our Poets	10
2021 Annual Report	12
Media	26
Supporters	28
Partners and Collaborators	29
Financials	30



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Red Room Poetry acknowledges the Elders and Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters, skies and languages where we live, work, write and share poetry. We are grateful to collaborate with First Nations people and respect their continuing cultures as we move across Country.

FROM OUR PATRON



Don't look away now
An act of consciousness is
What brought you here – breathe

~ Dakota Feirer from ' A Haiku Garden Bed'

We live through a Pandemic; we see the cruelty of war in Ukraine, and during the course of a year we have witnessed tragic floods and bushfires. But there is always another side to the coin, itself a rare object in a changing world. The flip-side is that we live with freedoms in a literary land of words and rhyme.

We holidayed with our eight grandchildren on a remote island where the poetry was the gentle roll of waves on white sand; where terns glided majestically pondering their next mouthful; where crabs crafted patterns soon to be expunged by a rising tide and where the rustle of leaves directed our gaze to a lizard of grandeur, proud in its poetic stance. Red Room Poetry provides us with an escape from the demands of a complex life. We all should become involved, making it our Mount Parnassus, regarded by the Greeks as a symbol of poetry, literature and learning.

John B Fairfax AO

FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Things the fire makes from sand, ash
lead to other things
rearranging atoms in time and time and time

~ Ali Jane Smith from 'Thorny, Juicy' commissioned for *New Shoots Wollongong*



Rearranging atoms remains a constant and like so many we find ourselves again reshaping Red Room Poetry projects and programs.

In 2021, thanks to our dedicated team, Patron, board, generous supporters and poetic communities we managed to lift two new major projects, POEM FOREST and POETRY MONTH, into the sky. These projects, and many more detailed in this report, saw us deliver over 174 activities and events, engage over 185 poets, and publish more than 5000 student poems, each becoming a tree in the growing forest of poems.

This year, we continue to provide poetic nourishment, paid and participatory opportunities for communities across the continent. Our focus is making poetry meaningful, accessible and ensuring it is valued as an essential part of our cultural consciousness. Together with our poets, Ambassadors, thousands of emerging poets, partners and supporters we're excited to share these creative atoms and sparks with you.

Dr Tamryn Bennett

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Listen to the mountains in the distance,
Something new has begun,
And into dreams,
Let's hear them again.

~ Tenzin Choegyal from 'An evening melody' Poetry Month



I am delighted to report that 2021 was another outstanding success for Red Room Poetry. In addition to continuing its major role as Australia's leading arts organisation for commissioning, creating, publishing and promoting poetry, Red Room successfully launched two major, life-affirming, poetry events in 2021 – POEM FOREST and POETRY MONTH.

POEM FOREST is an innovative poetry-writing and tree-planting project undertaken in conjunction with The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan. For every nature poem submitted, a tree is planted, helping to heal endangered habitats. In its first year, Red Room received over 5,000 poems from students at 300 schools, allowing over 5,000 'poem trees' to be planted.

POETRY MONTH was launched in August 2021 and is designed to become an annual August poetic institution. Its object is to elevate Australian poetry locally and internationally. POETRY MONTH will continue to grow. This year it will again witness the creation of a world class national program of high-profile commissions, events, readings, residencies, publications and more. Red Room's wonderful Poetry Ambassadors in 2021 were Grace Tame and Dr. Carl Kruszelnicki. We are grateful that Bronte Campbell and Archie Roach have agreed to be Poetry Ambassadors in 2022.

Red Room's FAIR TRADE project, led by Anne-Marie Te Whiu, continues to inspire and bear creative fruit. It allows poetic exchange and reciprocity between international and Australian First Nations poets, weaving words across land sand seas, gathering collaborative threads and shining a light on First Nations poetry.

Finally, Red Room's financial position is strong and getting stronger. The organisation is fortunate to enjoy the continuing generous support of government and leading arts organisations, including for the first time in 2021, the Wheeler Centre in Melbourne in connection with the inaugural POETRY MONTH. Many individual supporters also deserve credit for their generosity but special mention should be made of JB Fairfax AO, philanthropists Johanna Featherstone and Geoff Ainsworth AM (through their foundation) and Bret Walker AO, SC. While government support is steady, we will be increasing our support focus on individuals in 2022. There is much to look forward to.

Hon. MA Pembroke
Chairman

OUR STORY

Remember when we used to do things
Time was a spider web, a new leaf

~ Jill Jones from 'An Address To The Shadow That Follows Me'
commissioned for *Red Room Poetry Fellowship*



265+

265+ cross-sector partners,
10 international

VISION

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

IMPACT

RR is Australia's leading organisation for commissioning, creating, publishing and promoting poetry. We aim to make poetry highly visible, vibrant, relevant and accessible for all audiences. Our projects are created in collaboration with a spectrum of poets, communities, schools and partners for positive impact in core areas of

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

19

19 years experience



6.5m+

6.5M+ live and digital audiences p.a





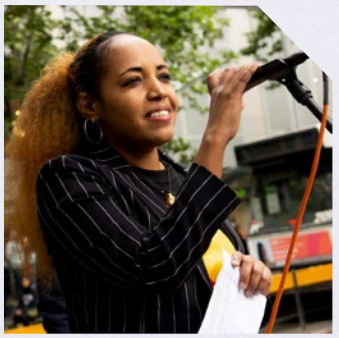
85+

85+ major projects



1300+

1,300+ poets commissioned and employed



26,500+

26,500+ poems created and published

213,450+

213,450+ students engaged in schools and correctional centres

OUR TEAM

a dead tree more valuable than a living tree
the straight physics of this

~ Ella O'Keefe and Dr Karl from 'Sunlight and Wind are Free'
commissioned for *POETRY MONTH*

Patron

John B. Fairfax AO

Board

Chairman
Hon. Michael Pembroke

Treasurer
Craig Lawn

Member
Judy Foster

Member
Daryn McKenny

Member
Andrew FitzSimons

Member
Martin Green

Observer
Annie Chen

First Nations Advisory Council

Artistic/Poetic
Jeanine Leanne, Wiradjuri poet and academic

Language Mentor
Daryn McKenny, Director Miromaa Language Centre

Additional Council members to join in 2021

Staff

Artistic Director
Dr Tamryn Bennett

Development Director
Sarah Gilchrist

Senior Project Manager
David Stavanger

Senior Project Manager
Annie Te Whiu

Office Manager/Producer
Lorin Reid

Digital Producer
Izzy Roberts-Orr

Digital Coordinator
Natalie Bühler

First Nations Consultant
Lyndsay Urquhart

and our dedicated volunteers

redroompoetry.org/about



OUR POETS

Yassmin Abdel-Magied UK
Bior Aguer Kuir SA
Hassan Al Nawwab WA
Ren Alessandra VIC
Narges Alizadeh NSW
Eunice Andrada NSW
Evelyn Araluen VIC
Meera Atkinson NSW
Tusiata Avia NZ
Mohammad Awad NSW
Yasaman Bagherishahkhali QLD
Guillermo Baitz-Cano NSW
Hinemoana Baker NZ
Mary Baker NSW
Ella Bancroft NSW
Aunty Verna Barker NSW
Jerzy Beaumont ACT
Maxine Beneba Clarke VIC
Leanne Betasamoaske Simpson CAN
Tony Birch VIC
Alise Blayney NSW
Pascalle Burton QLD
Mary Anne Butler NT
Michelle Cahill NSW
Ken Canning NSW
Mark Anthony Cayanan PHL
Lauren Chapman Carpenter NSW
Tenzin Choegyal QLD
Eileen Chong NSW
Ali Cobby Eckermann SA
Paul Collis ACT
Jennifer Compton VIC

Tom Cooney QLD
Brendan Cowell NSW
Andrew Cox NSW
Emily Crocker VIC
Kelle Cunningham
Luke Currie-Richardson NSW
Natalie D-Napoleon WA
Joel Davison NSW
Tricia Dearborn NSW
Joel Deaves NSW
Tara Denny
Nadeena Dixon NSW
Benjamin Dodds NSW
Winnie Dunn NSW
Alice Eather QLD
David Eggleton NZ
Anne Elvey VIC
Dakota Feirer NSW
Toby Fitch NSW
Peter FitzSimons NSW
Alison Flett SA
Declan Fry VIC
Andrew Galan ACT
Anahera Gildea NZ
Kat Gledhill WA
Jane Gleeson-White NSW
Maddie Godfrey WA
Carissa Lee Godwin VIC
Fable Goldsmith WA
Peter Goldsworthy SA
Tim Gray NSW
Dominic Guerrera SA
Daniel Hansen WA

Joy Harjo USA
Natalie Harkin SA
Tim Heffernan NSW
Ruby Hillsmith VIC
Dan Hogan NSW
Tom Hogan NSW
Sarah Holland-Batt QLD
Eleanor Jackson VIC
Anna Jacobson QLD
Rayma Johnson NSW
Gabe Jones NSW
Jill Jones SA
Walter Kadiki VIC
Rohan C King TAS
John Kinsella WA
Krissy Kneen QLD
Em König SA
Dr Karl Kruszelnicki NSW
Patrick Lahan Kankanange Gunasekera WA
Jeanine Leane ACT
Luka Lesson NSW
Bella Li VIC
Loki Liddle QLD
Layli Longsolder
Helen Loughlin
Emily Lubitz NSW
Grace Lucas-Pennington QLD
Bella Luna NSW
Caitlin Maling WA
Jacqui Malins ACT
Laurie May NT
Laura Jean McKay NZ

Nina Mingya Powles UK
Scott-Patrick Mitchell WA
Jazz Money NSW
Lorna Munro NSW
Nooky NSW
PiO VIC
Louise Nicholas SA
Jackson Nieuland NZ
Jacqui North NSW
Ellie Nouri VIC
Damen O'Brien QLD
Ella O'Keefe VIC
Steven Oliver QLD
Thuy On VIC
Hope One QLD
Simon Ortiz USA
Bruce Pascoe VIC
Vidya Rajan WA
Daley Rangi WA
Solli Raphael NSW
Caroline Reid SA
Negar Rezvani USA
Lillian Rodrigues Pang NSW
An Ross
Troy Russell NSW
Omar Sakr NSW
Sara Saleh NSW
Ben Salter TAS
Brenda Saunders NSW
Kirli Saunders NSW
Jaya Savige UK
Richard Scott-Moore NSW
Elfie Shiosaki WA

Danny Silva Soberano VIC
Nardi Simpson NSW
Sigbjørn Skåden NOR
Nicole Smede NSW
Ali Jane Smith NSW
Steve Spacek NSW
Anna Spargo-Ryan VIC
Skye Staniford NSW
David Stavanger NSW
Emily Sun WA
Grace Tame TAS
Jahin Tanvir
Daniel R. Tardona
Sarah Temporal NSW
Lyndsay Urquhart NSW
Lucy Van VIC
Ellen van Neerven QLD
Dzenana Vucic QLD
Sam Wagan Watson QLD
Arika Waulu VIC
Sean West
Eve White NSW
Megan Wilding NSW
Troy Wong NSW
Evie Wyld UK
Manal Younus SA
Sista Zai Zanda VIC
Stevie Zhao SA

redroompoetry.org/poets/

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Remember when we used to do things
Time was a spider web, a new leaf

~ Jill Jones from 'An Address To The Shadow That Follows Me'
commissioned for *Red Room Poetry Fellowship*

Commissioning and celebrating poets of all styles and stages across the continent, our 2021 program exceeded hopes for poet, audience and partner engagement despite the continued impacts of the pandemic.

174

174 activities and events delivered live and digitally



POETRY MONTH

Presented Australia's inaugural POETRY MONTH

151

151 poets and artists performing and engaged



65+

65+ First Nations poets, artists and Language Custodians engaged



52

52 workshops delivered across school, justice, mental



101

101 poems commissioned



60+

60+ partner collaborations



5008

5008 student poems for POEM FOREST with 90,000+ resource engagements

4.25m+

4.25M+ audiences via digital reach and media partnerships

2.17m

2.17M+ audiences via live events, workshops, installations

POEM FOREST

The cool winds now disappear
All signifying Ngoonungi is here.

~ Sayf Eldeen A, Lower Primary Winner from 'A Dharawal Spring', Year 3 Arkana College NSW





OUTCOMES

- **12 Elders and poets** commissioned and engaged
- **5008 student poems** created and published
- **5000+ trees** planted at Mt Annan
- **2,100+ students** engaged in workshops
- **86,440+ engagements** with learning resources and content

Created by Red Room Poetry, in partnership with The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, POEM FOREST is a free nature poetry prize that invites students and teachers to use their words to make tangible climate action. For every nature poem received a tree is planted to help heal critically endangered habitats and create a POEM FOREST for future generations.

Supported by Principal Patron, John B. Fairfax AO POEM FOREST was launched with a soil turning ceremony and tree planting with local Dharawal Elders.

I feel nature running through my bones, it isn't something I am a part of. It is something I am, and writing poetry allows me to take these feelings of unity and collectivity with nature and express them so wholeheartedly.

~ Clodia S, Australian Botanic Garden Local Prize Winner, Year 11, Macarthur Girls High School NSW

It has been an absolute joy to be involved with POEM FOREST. There was so much talent on display. Picking one winner from each group was an almost impossible task when there were so many beautiful poems to love. Seeing such writing talent, sensitivity and passion in the next generation helps me feel hopeful about the future of our planet and our relationship to the natural world.

~ Holly Ringland, Judge POEM FOREST

Poems and partners > redroompoetry.org/projects/poem-forest/2021/

NEW SHOOTS: GARDEN OF POEMS

Don't look away now
An act of consciousness is
What brought you here - breathe

~ Dakota Feirer from ' A Haiku Garden Bed' commissioned for *New Shoots Wollongong Botanic Garden*

New Shoots: Garden of Poems celebrates and cultivates poems inspired by plants to deepen our creative and cultural connections with nature. Since 2016, *New Shoots* has bloomed across Botanic Gardens and Parks nationally.

In 2021, we collaborated with Wollongong Botanic Gardens to create NEW SHOOTS WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN as part of 50th anniversary celebrations. The collaboration spanned commissions, workshops, installations released throughout the year for Sculpture in the Garden, Botanic Gardens Day, NAIDOC Week, Tree Planting Day and Mental Health Month.

I want to applaud the Poems initiative in the Botanic Garden. This was a brilliant idea that added another creative dimension to the sensory experience of walking in the Gardens. It was also gratifying observing the number of people reading the poems, or parts of them. I was especially pleased to see groups of young people - tweens and teens - doing this. Having the poems commissioned by local poets was the icing on the cake. It would be wonderful if poems in the Botanic Gardens could be a regular event.

~ Angela Beckett, audience, Wollongong Botanic Gardens



OUTCOMES

- **6 poets** commissioned
- **4 community events** and workshops delivered
- **75,000+ audiences** for poetic trail installation and poems on busses

Poems and partners >
redroompoetry.org/projects/new-shoots-garden-of-poems/nsw/wollongong-botanic-garden/

POETRY MONTH

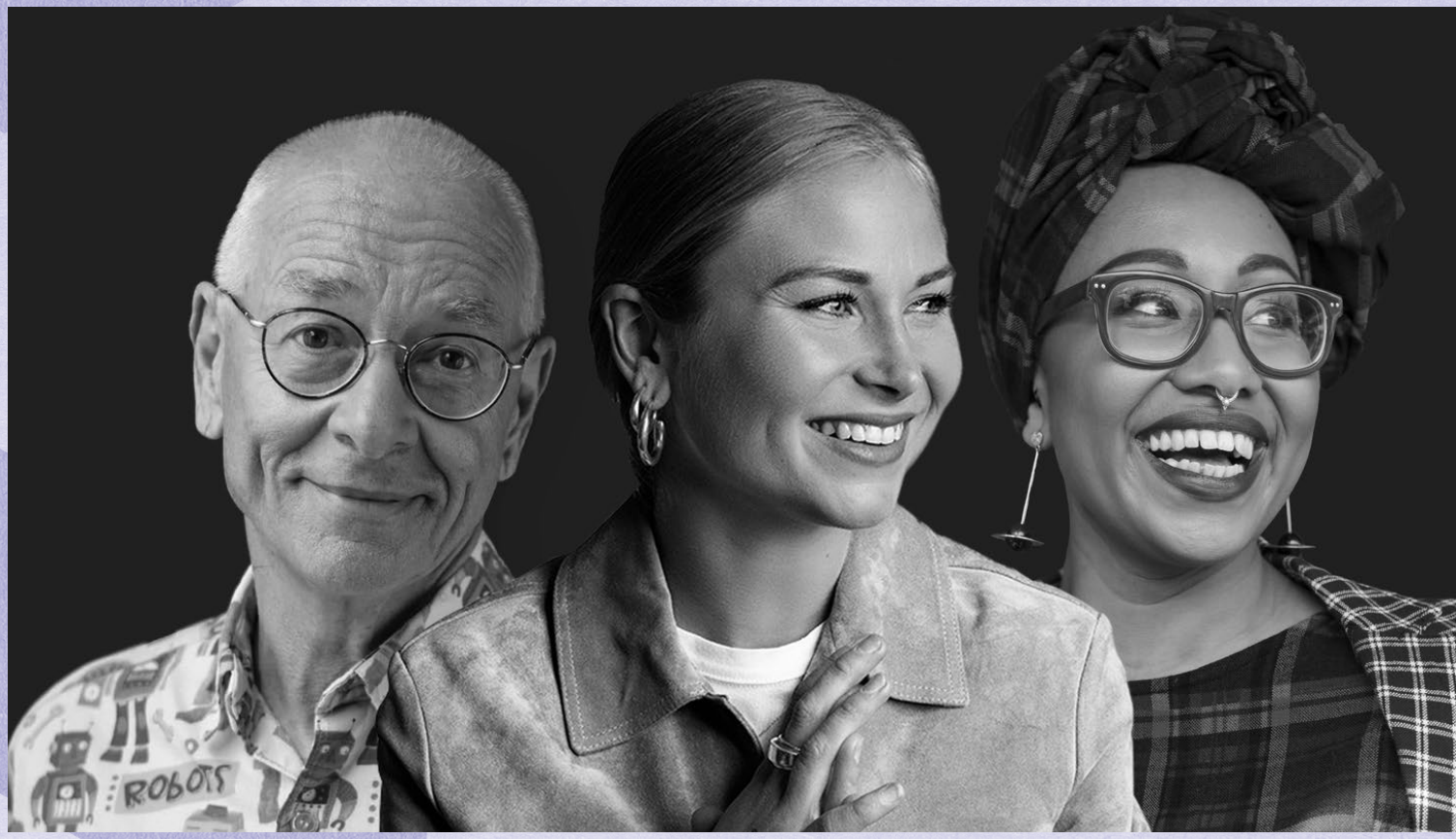
Our inaugural POETRY MONTH (1-31 August) was a resounding success with an electrifying national program of high-profile commissions and ambassadors from Grace Tame to Dr Karl championing the form. With daily writing prompts, live and digital events, readings, workshops, international showcases, publications and community-led activities amplifying, we celebrated the vibrant spectrum of Australian poetry and poets.

Poetry changes lives. In Australia, we have been slow to acknowledge or champion this fact: we have no poet laureate, and rarely is poetry publicly celebrated, even by those who otherwise champion the arts. A national Poetry Month is long overdue.

~ Sarah Holland-Batt
commissioned poet

OUTCOMES

- **107 poets commissioned**, published and performing
- **15 live** and digital events
- **31 daily poems** and writing prompts
- **10 First Nations** Australian and International poets creating collaborative poem
- **8 partners** including The Wheeler Centre, The Guardian, NZ Poetry Day
- **18 media profiles** including ABC RN, The Guardian, ArtsHub and 2SER 107.3FM
- **1.5M+ audiences** across radio, digital and live platforms



POETRY MONTH Ambassadors
Dr Karl, Grace Tame and Yassmin Abdel-Magied



Absolutely brilliant programming and fostering of the reading, writing and teaching of poetry. You have furthered appreciation of this special art form and prompted much needed unity, collaboration and self expression through poetry! Thank you and congratulations on such a fantastic outcome!

~ Participant feedback, Instagram

Tell us about being exploited
while we exploit you
because you are ours

~ Grace Tame from 'Hard Pressed' commissioned for *POETRY MONTH*

Poems and partners >
redroompoetry.org/projects/poetry-month/2021/

POETIC MOMENTS



Making meaningful connections between poetry, people and place, *Poetic Moments* creates accessible and highly visible public installations and activations. In collaboration with communities and partners we bring poetry to everyday experiences on buses, boardwalks, trails, trains, lightboxes and more.

Amplifying poetry across our program and adding to permanent poetic installations nationally, our 2021 *Poetic Moments* included:

- **New Shoots**: Garden of Poems poetic trails at Wollongong, Sydney and Victoria Botanic Gardens
- **Poetic Moments** journeys with poems on NSW transport signage
- **Muru Nanga Mai** poems in language with audio installation at Sydney Olympic Park
- **Poetry Object** etched installation of student poetry at Barangaroo

Our poetic placemaking continues in 2022 with *POEM FOREST* pathways at The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and Storybox installations with local councils.

Places and partners > redroompoetry.org/projects/poetic-moments/

RED ROOM POETRY FELLOWSHIP

Cos I need my kin to be ready
for the story of the storm

~ Ellen van Neerven from
'Portrait of a Genderkweeron Fire'

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

Our 2021 Fellow, Ellen van Neerven, was selected from over 45 entries. Given the calibre of Fellowship submissions, 9 shortlisted poets were also commissioned to create new poems aligned with themes of their individual passions/ projects or passion projects. These poems were performed as part of a special Poetry Month digital showcase.

Each RR Fellow receives:

- **$5000 poetic stipend**
- **2 x weeks residency at Bundanon Trust on the NSW**
- **Opportunity to undertake an intensive period of writing, professional development, publication and workshop delivery**



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.

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

OUTCOMES

- **10 poets** commissioned
- **1 digital showcase**
- **Residency and workshops** postponed to 2022 due to Covid

Poems and partners > redroompoetry.org/projects/fellowship/2021/

FIRST NATIONS

Yilabara, badjamibuni, midyungmibuni
Today, do not harm, but mend

~ Joel Davison from 'The Wounded Brave' featured in *Guwayu — For All Times*

I unlocked a part of my dyslexia which allowed me to apply pen to paper. I'm a very expressional human being by nature, but the form of poetry allowed me to open the mind and expand my concentration.

~ Unlocked participant,
Oolong House

This is a generative offering, rising from that relational space only hard conversations can create ... I think this poem represents an unexpected moment in time that feels epic, intimate and fleeting, and above all, grounded in respect.

~ Natalie Harkin,
Fair Trade commissioned poet

Our First Nations programs celebrate, share and conserve knowledge of First languages and culture. Supporting First Nations poets, Elders, artists, musicians and Custodians of language, we work with communities to share stories, knowledge and strengthen cultural connections to Country through poetic programs.

We commission and engage poets, artists, Elders, Custodians and communities across all Red Room Poetry projects as well as through dedicated programs. Impacts of Covid-19 on our First Nations program delivery in 2021 remained significant. Despite this, we supported a record number of poets in paid opportunities and programs across the year.



OUTCOMES

- **66 First Nations poets** commissioned and performing
- **22 First Nations Elders**, Custodians and supporting artists engaged
- **7 Youth Unlocked workshops** at Reiby Youth Justice and Oolong House Rehabilitation Centre
- **6015 engagements** with First Nations poets featured in Power Through Poetry partnership with the Australian Museum
- **3 GUWAYU For All Times events** at Sydney Writers' Festival and Waverley Council
- **GUWAYU learning resources** in development with Copyright Agency
- **First Nations consultations** with Elders for expansion of POEM FOREST on Yuin Country

Places and partners > redroompoetry.org/projects/

POETIC LEARNING

Trees are, *Pokok adalah*,
Our second mother, *Mak kedua kita*.
And we need to respect them like one
Remember that. *Ingat Itu*.

~ Saufi, Year 10, Christmas Island District High School (WA), *POEM FOREST*



OUTCOMES

- **8997+ students** actively engaged and creating poetry through workshops and projects
- **5030+ student poems** published in our digital library
- **557 teacher participants**
- **90,000+ digital reach** of learning resources
- **13 media features** on ABC RN, ABC TV, NIT, Kookie Mag, The Age, 2GB, RRR, SpineOut Mag, Canberra Times and more
- **140,791 views** of top 10 educational resource videos via YouTube

RR's *Poetic Learning* programs nurture future generations of poets through a range of intensive creative workshops, poetry prizes, learning resources, publications and performance opportunities as well as professional development for emerging poets and teachers.

In a year when home-schooling continued for many families across the country, we focused on sustainable digital delivery, providing free learning resources and workshops with commissioned poets to inspire young people and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry in meaningful ways. Our 2021 youth programs included, *POEM FOREST*, *Youth Unlocked*, *Poetry in First Languages* and *Poetry Month*.

Before this project I felt as though I wouldn't be able to help out with the fight to heal this earth, but now I feel as though my voice finally might be able to be heard

~ Participant feedback, Culture Counts evaluation

After this project I felt that I was making a difference in people's lives, contributing to the community and helping endangered species with habitat loss like bees to grow in population again.

~ Participant feedback, Culture Counts evaluation

I felt like I was totally connected to nature and felt a sense of passion - this poem competition not only opened my mind up to poetry, but also to nature! Before this competition, I hated poetry, but now I actually quite enjoy it! This is an amazing project to activate consciousness on something bigger than us - nature. I LOVED the Poem Forest competition!

~ Participant feedback, Culture Counts evaluation



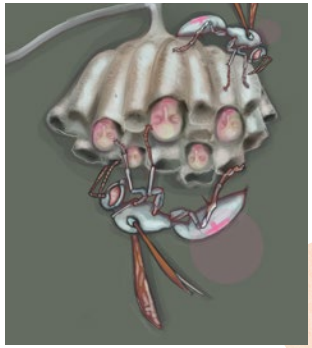


RR co-produces community-led projects to annually commission and mentor **35+ poets** with lived experience of mental health, disabilities, forced migration and offshore detention. We also deliver programs with a focus on supporting creative spaces for culturally diverse, LGBTQI+, regional and older voices via commissions, face-to-face and digital workshops, performances, exhibition and publication outcomes. Our 2021 projects included MAD Poetry and WRITING IN RESISTANCE.

WRITING IN RESISTANCE

In 2021, WRITING IN RESISTANCE was founded, edited, and translated by journalist, scholar and poet Dr Saba Vasefi. In collaboration with Red Room Poetry, the project published poems by young women with experience of living in Australia's offshore processing regime on Nauru. Their poetry resists and documents the intersection of displacement and the detention system.
In 2022 we continue to foreground the importance of marginalised testimonies by featuring the poetic expressions of non-binaries and women with the experience of displacement or living in Australia's offshore indefinite detention regime.

MAD POETRY



draw your sword of justice and pray they come to understand the mutual life of pluralism for inner multitudes

~ An Ross from 'Borderline' commissioned for *MAD Poetry*

I have been doing a lot of grappling with how my mental illness sits with my identity - to be part of this little community just for a few short weeks gave me so much more comfort and confidence in myself, in owning my experiences

~ Participant feedback, Culture Counts evaluation

OUTCOMES

- **10 poets commissioned**, published and featured in poetic short films
- **5 poets engaged** to facilitate online workshops
- **162 workshop participants** across 7 workshops
- **140 submissions** to Mental Health Anthology call out
- **2 x lived experience editors engaged** to select the poets for the anthology
- **5 project partners**

In 2021, MAD Poetry focused on creating a safe writing space for experienced and emerging voices with a lived experience of mental health issues/illness to express how they see the world. Across Mental Health Month, October 2021, we delivered:

- 5 new lived experience commissions from Illawarra-South Coast poets
- Inaugural series of 4 free national online MAD Poetry workshops with 147 participants, incredible feedback and huge demand for more online national delivery in 2022
- The first in-patient Zoom workshop held at the Wollongong Acute Adult Mental Health Ward
- A national callout to emerging lived-experience voices to submit their work as part of a new anthology led by David Stavanger, resulting in 140 submissions and the engagement of 2 lived experience editors Mohammad Awad and Radhiah Chowdhury to select 30 x poems
- New poetic film initiative in partnership with Survivors of Suicide and Friends releasing daily videos from 10-16 October

Places and partners > redroompoetry.org/projects/mad-poetry/

2021 MEDIA

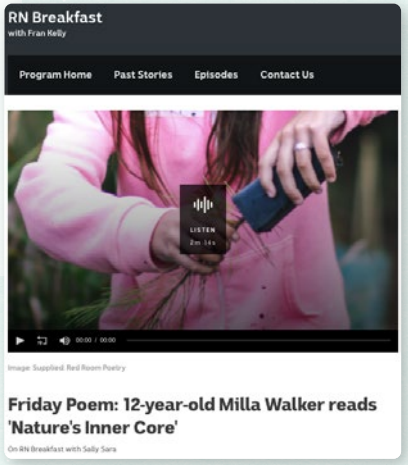
In 2021, we launched a number of new projects with a digital focus including POETRY MONTH and the POEM FOREST Prize for students and teachers. These key initiatives, coupled with strategic media collaborations such as The Guardian, ABC RN and Community Radio Network, significantly expanded our digital audience and reach. We're excited to continue developing digital programming and partnerships into the future.

4.25m+

Total digital reach = 4.25M+

- Website pageviews:
  550,660 unique pageviews **44%** ↑
- Facebook reach: **499,163** **147%** ↑
- Twitter impressions:
  1,221,900 impressions **298%** ↑
- Instagram reach: **163,496** **173%** ↑
- YouTube impressions/views:
  820,654 impressions **58%** ↑
  160,661 views **60%** ↑
- Community radio: **1.25M+**
- External media mentions: **57** including ABC RN, The Guardian, Behind the News









POEM FOREST filming with Storybox at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS

Red Room Poetry is a registered not-for-profit organisation and we rely on donations, in kind and pro bono support to achieve impact. We give heartfelt thanks to our invaluable supporters, partners, collaborators, and the generous individuals who help make poetry meaningful, strengthen communities and nurture new voices.

PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS
Australia Council for the Arts
Create NSW
City of Sydney
Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund
Coordinare

TRUSTS and FOUNDATIONS
Ades Foundation
Aesop Foundation
American Express
Copyright Agency Cultural Fund
Graeme Wood Foundation
Landcom
Nelson Meers Foundation
McLean Foundation
Oranges & Sardines

PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS
John B. Fairfax AO
Bret Walker AO SC
Tim Game SC

SUPPORTERS and COMMISSIONING CIRCLE
Margaret & Michael Arnott AM
Edward Griffin
Hon. Justice Francois Kunc
Julian Ludowici
Seamus Quick & Sabrina Meier
Paul Ruiz
Mark Wakely
and other generous friends

MAJOR DONORS
Robert Albert AO RFD RD
Craig & Joy Lawn
Hon. Michael Pembroke
Dr Liz Cuninghame
Andrew FitzSimons

Support Red Room Poetry

Help us make poetry highly visible, vibrant, relevant and accessible – especially to those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities – by donating via our online donation form.

Contact us on 02 9319 5090 or contact@redroompoetry.org to explore potential partnership opportunities.

2021 POETIC PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Red Room Poetry deeply values our poetic partners and collaborators who support meaningful poetic projects and positive collective impact. We're thankful to all the poets, artists and creatives that inspire and encourage us.

98+ partners and collaborators p.a.

Corporate
American Express, Landcom, Baker McKenzie, Corban & Blair

Culture
107 Projects, Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Artology, Australian Poetry, Brisbane Writers Festival, Bundanon Trust, Cordite, Digital Writers' Festival, Fremantle Press, Giromondo, Magabala Books, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, National Gallery of Australia, National Young Writers Festival, Ockham NZ Book Awards, Queensland Poetry Festival, Pantera Press Foundation, Poetry Says Podcast, Recent Work Press, Red Dirt Festival, Rizzeria, Sweatshop, Sydney Living Museums, Sydney Writers' Festival, TarraWarra Biennial, The Wheeler Centre, Upswell Publishing, University of Queensland Press, Wollongong Art Gallery, Writers SA

Education
Australian Association for the Teaching of English, Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups, DART, Miromaa Language & Technology Centre, QUT, Reconciliation Australia and NSW, Department of Education and school communities and libraries nationally, UNSW, UOW, UTS

Environment
Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (Cranbourne Gardens), Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Wollongong Botanic Garden, Wonderground

Government
Aboriginal Affairs NSW, City of Freemantle, Department of Education, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW, Transport NSW, Waverley Council, Wollongong City Council

Health
Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, Mental Health Commission of NSW, Survivors of Suicide and Friends

Media
Community Radio Network, The Guardian, Storybox

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2021 $	Year ended 31 December 2020 $
Donations and non-government grants	17	488,870	385,876
Government grants		374,523	328,944
Other revenue	4	193,629	289,675
Total revenue		**1,057,022**	**1,004,495**
Employee expenses		(461,755)	(448,790)
Business Development expenses		(85,042)	(87,587)
Poetry commissions and appearance fees		(94,697)	(70,531)
Production costs		(38,988)	(46,522)
Contractor expenses		(47,468)	(18,083)
Consumables and office expenses		(17,089)	(6,335)
Publicity and promotion		(42,491)	(44,734)
Accounting and audit		(17,201)	(16,158)
Insurances		(13,552)	(12,162)
Travel costs		(4,245)	(3,679)
Repairs and maintenance		(385)	(320)
Depreciation expenses		(26,374)	(33,915)
Other expenses		(11,462)	(8,459)
Results from operating activities		**196,273**	**207,220**
Finance income	**5**	**1,050**	**5,881**
Surplus before income tax expense		**197,323**	**213,101**
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after income tax expense		**197,323**	**213,101**
Total comprehensive income for the year		**197,323**	**213,101**

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 2021

	Notes	As at 31 December 2021 $	As at 31 December 2020 $
Assets: Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	755,666	423,010
Trade and other receivables	8	16,246	19,869
Other financial assets	7	697,751	483,677
Total current assets		**1,469,663**	**926,556**
Assets: Non-Current			
Plant and equipment		3,302	7,395
Right-of-use assets	9	-	22,281
Total non-current assets		**3,302**	**29,676**
Total assets		**1,472,965**	**956,232**
Liabilities: Current			
Trade and other payables	10	81,588	43,221
Deferred revenue	11	499,525	197,790
Employee entitlements	12	37,588	32,949
Lease liabilities	13	-	22,870
Total current liabilities		**618,701**	**296,830**
Liabilities: Non-Current			
Employee entitlements	12	20,459	22,920
Lease liabilities	13	-	-
Total non-current liabilities		**20,459**	**22,920**
Total liabilities		**639,160**	**319,750**
Net assets		**833,805**	**636,482**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		**833,805**	**636,482**
Total equity		**833,805**	**636,482**



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