

Red  
Room  
Poetry

Poetry in  
Meaningful Ways

2017  
Poetic  
Program

2016  
Annual  
Report

## **K1: Yellomundee**

Beyond your stage  
the audience murmur  
men and women weep  
and silk their skin bare,  
for here and gone and taken.  
You wear crowns  
of returning eucalypt:  
I can't see your lashes  
but feel them still soft  
like that skin they try to skin  
to wear you with words  
and all them names they reason  
and rub out.

All this might be lonely  
but then the stars come here  
to shine the shape of song  
and hear you say  
it's nice  
to have someone  
to talk to.

~ Evelyn Araluen Corr, *Poetry Object*

# 2017 Poetic Program

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The Red Room Company  
ABN 35 103 464 446  
PO Box 1105 Surry Hills NSW 2010

(02) 9319 5090  
contact@redroomcompany.org  
redroomcompany.org

Artwork: Lucy Simpson  
Design: sensorycreative.com.au

# From our Director

pillar of larger sky, of facts like clouds  
their sky ways wending

~ Stuart Cooke, New Shoots  
commissioned poet

Over the past year the poetic seeds we've planted have become a veritable forest of poems flourishing in gardens, parks, planes, trains, street banners, luminous projections, schools & communities.

Throughout 2016 the new direction of Red Room Poetry (RR) saw us expand & deepen creative, cultural & community connections, unearthing new voices & supporting the echoes of first languages, pioneering highly visible publishing platforms & nurturing new partnerships nationally. The result has been RR's most successful year with increased impact, visibility, engagement, invention & poetic opportunities as detailed in the reflections of this report.

In 2017, more than ever, RR's approach is a collaborative one. Our projects POETIC MOMENTS, NEW SHOOTS, POETRY OBJECT, UNLOCKED & our inaugural FELLOWSHIP see us publishing over 3500 poets & students through partnerships with Australian Poetry, Byron, Melbourne & Queensland Writers' Festivals, City of Sydney, Electric Canvas, LendLease, Mirvac, National Museum of Australia, Rex, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria & Sydney, Sculpture by the Sea & Sydney Olympic Park to name a few.

Making poetry a meaningful part of everyday life in these ways is no mean feat. Underpinning our thriving activity is the tireless support & investment of our Patron, John B. Fairfax AO, our Board, Foundations, Government & the many individuals whose generosity makes poetic existence possible. As we continue to chart new poetic realms we warmly invite you along for the journey.

**Dr Tamryn Bennett**  
Director

## From our Patron

Activity at Red Room Poetry never stops & last year has been one of its busiest. While words & verses have continued to flow & some generous donations have been received, the team has re-located, albeit to temporary premises. At the same time, we continue the poetic vitality that dominates this wonderful Australian literary organisation.

It is a pleasure for me to be involved & I often reflect on who & what we are. Creativity emanates from our everyday thoughts; night-time too. Our dictionary is vast & special & always meaningful. Anyone can & should be part of what we do. The satisfaction comes from knowing we are aiding & encouraging existing poets; that we are educating children to a special form of literature; that our tentacles spread far. My thanks to those who contribute.

**John B. Fairfax AO**  
Patron

## From our Chairman

The enterprise of Red Room Poetry has continued to flourish, in a year of yet more changes in our circumstances. Our staff have managed the challenge of new premises, continued funding needs while again producing remarkable projects. We hope to live up to the goal of poetry in unusual & useful ways, over the next year.

*Poetic Moments* will take poems off the page & into public spaces. *Yala Gari* will fly poems in indigenous language throughout NAIDOC Week. *New Shoots* have spread from Sydney to Melbourne's Botanic Garden, to Byron Bay & possibilities of Adelaide & in Poland. *Poetry Object* expands with 3,000 student poems, being spread on trains & planes.

Our thanks to everyone for this year's achievements & next year's prospects.

**Bret Walker SC**  
Chairman

# Our 2016 - 2017 Poets

Richard James Allen	NSW	Fiona Hile	VIC	Ryan Prehn	VIC
Eunice Andrada	NSW	Cameron Hindrum	TAS	Lorin Reid	NSW
Eric Avery	NSW	Duncan Hose	VIC	Mark Roberts	NSW
Maryam Azam	NSW	Kathryn Hummel	SA	Lillian Rodrigues Pang	NSW
Jeremy Balius	WA	Anna Jacobson	QLD	Candy Royalle	NSW
Miro Bilbrough	NSW	Virginia Jealous	WA	Autumn Royal	VIC
Tony Birch	VIC	Gareth Jenkins	NSW	Omar Sakr	NSW
Lisa Brockwell	NSW	Jeanine Leane	VIC	Brenda Saunders	NSW
Nova Brown-Longhurst	NSW	Carissa Lee	VIC	Kirli Saunders	NSW
Nick Bryant-Smith	NSW	L-Fresh The Lion	NSW	Paul Scully	NSW
John 'Muk Muk' Burke	NSW	Cameron Lowe	VIC	Berndt Sellheim	NSW
Eileen Chong	NSW	Gabrielle Jones	NSW	GT Sewell	VIC
Anne M. Carson	VIC	Jill Jones	SA	Richard Short	NSW
Bonny Cassidy	VIC	Graham Kershaw	WA	Scott Sneddon	QLD
Coral Carter	WA	Ashley Leatherland	NSW	Maryann Smith	NSW
Eileen Chong	NSW	Jeanine Leane	VIC	Stiff Gins (Nardi Simpson,	
Evelyn Araluen Corr	NSW	John Leonard	ACT	Kaleena Briggs)	NSW
Chris Wallace Crabbe	VIC	Luka Lesson	NSW	Anna G Stone	NSW
Rico Craig	NSW	Tony Lintermans	VIC	Jenni Stone	NSW
Nathan Curnow	VIC	Kirsty Malesev	NSW	Maria Takolander	VIC
Anne-Louise Currenti	NSW	Caitlin Maling	WA	Mark Tredinnick	NSW
Benjamin Dodds	NSW	Joel McKerrow	VIC	Todd Turner	NSW
Joel Ephraims	NSW	Lorna Munro	NSW	Amelia Walker	SA
Lionel Fogarty	NSW	Omar Musa	ACT	Margaret West	VIC
Toby Fitch	NSW	Ellen van Neeven	QLD	Anna Westbrook	NSW
Zenobia Frost	QLD	Linda Nix	NSW	Alison Whittaker	NSW
Andrew Galan	ACT	Josephine Parsons	NSW	Chloe Wilson	VIC
Joe Geia	NSW	Bruce Pascoe	VIC	Hamish Wood	NSW
Elena Gomez	VIC	Scott-Patrick Mitchell	WA	Manal Younus	SA
Matthew Heffernan	NT	Adam Pettet	QLD	Zohab Zee Khan	NSW

# Our Story

the dancing light, the scattered cloud, the river that lies potentially between its banks, the speeding train. I reach for them. They reach for me.

~ Brook Emery, from 'Proof', commissioned poet

## Vision

Red Room Poetry's vision is to make poetic experiences a meaningful part of everyday life.

## Mission

We create poetic projects & learning programs in collaboration with a spectrum of poets, schools, communities & partners for positive social impact. We aspire to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.  
[redroomcompany.org](http://redroomcompany.org)

## Values

Values of invention, creativity, innovation, collaboration, care, quality, responsiveness, diversity & integrity underpin our work.

## Our Team

Patron John B. Fairfax AO

### **BOARD**

Chairman	Bret Walker SC
Treasurer	Craig Lawn
Secretary	Judith Pini
Board member	Johanna Featherstone
Board member	Kiersten Fishburn
Board member	Mary Gillespie
Observership Program	Tess Ariotti

### **STAFF**

Director	Dr Tamryn Bennett
Director External Relations	Sally Marwood
Manager Poetic Learning	Kirli Saunders
Producer Poetic Learning	Eunice Andrada
Office Manager	Lorin Reid
Content Manager	Kristy Wan

& our dedicated volunteers



**14**  
years

**780+**  
poets  
employed

**45+**  
projects

**19**  
programs in  
correctional  
centres



**22.5K+**  
students  
actively  
engaged

**240K+**  
website views  
annually

Local,  
national &  
international  
audiences

## History

Since 2003, Red Room Poetry (RR) has grown to be Australia's leading organisation for the creation & commissioning of new poetry by established & emerging poets as well as students.

Reflecting the diversity of Australian voices, RR embraces all styles of poetry – page, performance, hip-hop, rap, visual – promoting the form across a range of languages & mediums including radio, stage, installation, digital publishing initiatives & learning programs. This has seen Red Room poets collaborating with truck drivers, Indigenous communities, musicians, inmates, translating poetry into over 18 languages & developing Australia's first interactive poetry mapping app featuring over 160 commissioned poems that chart disappearing places & invisible histories.

Through these imaginative projects & programs RR reframes critical & creative engagement with poetry by providing poets, students & communities with artistic opportunities as well as pathways to professional employment, mentoring & publication.



# 2017 Poetic Program

Red Room Poetry is collaborating with a range of POETIC PARTNERS to deliver pioneering POETIC PROJECTS & LEARNING PROGRAMS that increase the visibility, sustainability & vibrancy of Australian poetry.



allowing the universe to find its breath  
in imperious and strange relations

~ Lachlan Brown, from 'Evensong',  
commissioned poet

## POETIC PROJECTS

### Visibility, Diversity & Invention

In 2017 our poetic projects, *Red Room Poetry Fellowship*, *Poetic Moments*, *New Shoots* & *Rhyming in Harmony* aim for:

- Quality & innovation
- Experimentation & invention
- High visibility through poetic installations & large scale publishing platforms across Australia
- Commissioning, mentoring & employment opportunities for emerging & established poets
- Accessibility & diversity of voices via translation & publishing, performance & experiences with poetic partners & Australia-wide communities
- Cross-disciplinary approaches & profile-raising of Australian poetry
- Increasing local & national responses to contemporary social & cultural issues



## **POETIC LEARNING**

### **Enrichment, inclusion & participation**

*“Red Room Poetry is a rare thing to find in Australia: an organisation that exists purely to promote a love of poetry reading and writing. Red Room injects real poets into schools, and provides essential resources teachers to draw on, even if faced with inflexible or results-focused curricula. For young students, the idea that poets are living creatures - not dusty, rotten corpses in old books - can be revolutionary.”*

~ Zenobia Frost, commissioned poet

Intrinsic to our poetic projects, RR’s poetic learning portfolio encompasses poets-in-residence, *Poetry Object*, *Yala Gari* & *Unlocked* programs for diverse communities as well as school & university students & students from correctional centres.

- Improving literacy & creative expression
- 22,500+ students actively engaged
- 230+ school communities in Australasia
- Engaging culturally diverse & Indigenous poets, disadvantaged communities, young people, seniors & inmates
- Poet-in-residence programs with highly visible publishing outcomes
- Professional development with free digital resources
- Endorsement by NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) & Corrective Services NSW
- Largest free Australasian student & teacher poetry writing competition
- Employment and mentoring for young & emerging poets

## **POETIC PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Collaboration, corporates & collective impact**

Our POETIC PARTNERSHIPS not only expand experiences of contemporary poetry for wider audiences, they foster creation, publication & interaction with poetry in new & unexpected ways in walkways, on buildings, trains & planes.

RR's 2017 partners include generous individuals, foundations & government: Create NSW, Australian Association for Teaching English, Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation, Australia Council for the Arts, Bundanon Trust, Byron Writers' Festival, City of Sydney, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, Electric Canvas, Ernst & Young, Eucalypt Australia, Good Reading, Kinokuniya, LendLease, Melbourne Writers' Festival, Ministry of Communication & the Arts, Rex, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria & Sydney, Sculpture by the Sea, S& J Media, Sydney Olympic Park, TfNSW, Waverley Council.

#### **Collective investment enriches**

- National visibility, artistic development, community engagement & social impact
- Sustainable support & diversity
- Programs & poetic experiences to create deeper cultural connections between people, places & environments
- Engagement whilst maximising spend



# Poetic Projects

Fire hung on a nail makes a lamp,  
two moons make a friend

~ Eileen Chong, 'Elementary Chinese',  
commissioned poet

## Red Room Poetry Fellowship

"I'm a huge fan of the Red Room and its projects. It's such an inspired and inclusive concept and a fabulous resource for poets of all ages, and poetry for all ages...as the projects are all live and living organisms. I just love it, and can't thank you enough for this wonderful service to the poetry community and the broader community!"

~ Jena Woodhouse, commissioned poet

*Red Room Poetry Fellowship* recognises the achievements & artistic goals of contemporary Australian poets previously commissioned by The Red Room Company.

In 2017, the inaugural Fellowship offers the winning recipient:

- \$5,000 poetic stipend
- 2 weeks residency at Bundanon
- the chance to undertake an intensive period of creative & professional development involving a range of poetic commissions, recording & publication outcomes in major & specialist media & on trains whilst raising their own profile within the Australian literary community.

A generous stipend, paid commissions & employment is offered as part of the Fellowship.



The *Red Room Poetry Fellowship* is proudly supported by generous philanthropists.

Eileen Chong,  
former poet-in-residence Bundanon Trust



The ocean opens its embrace like an old friend  
 nowey  
 gunya  
 marrang  
 time and place transcend

~ Lorna Munro, from 'yilaalu-bu-gadi-(once-upon-a-time-bay-gadi)',  
 commissioned poet

## Poetic Moments

*Poetic Moments* (PM) elevates the visibility & accessibility of contemporary Australian poetry by publishing in unexpected places from trains to planes, street banners, buildings, murals & sculptural installations.

Spanning multiple languages, the project creates opportunities to engage, respond & reflect via poetic provocations & partnerships that connect people & place. PM aims to inspire audiences of all ages to find their own voices through poetry.

### Poems will be presented via:

- Urban & country trains, ferries, buses, light rail, planes
- Bus shelters, billboards, street banners, murals
- Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria & other gardens
- Projections on buildings
- Coffee cups
- Sculptural installations

PM sees us working closely with a range of poetic partners as we collectively create unusual & experimental platforms for engagement with poetry & is supported by:

Ministry of Communications & the Arts  
 Arts NSW  
 Australia Council

### Poetic Moments partners include:

Australian Poetry, Byron Writers' Festival, City of Sydney, Electric Canvas, LendLease, Melbourne Writers' Festival, Mirvac, Rex, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney & Victoria, Sculpture by the Sea, S & J Media, Sydney Olympic Park, TfNSW, Waverley Council



2017  
 Poetic Program

# Poetic Projects

She would whisper in my mother tongue,  
ghes beli - don't rush

~ Manal Younus, from 'Meshrefet',  
commissioned poet



Lillian Rodrigues  
Pang

## Rhyming in Harmony

*Rhyming in Harmony*, led by bilingual poet & storyteller Lillian Rodrigues Pang, works with refugee communities to write, record & translate old & new nursery rhymes in multiple languages including Arabic & Burmese.

The project provides professional development & pathways to employment for refugee poets & storytellers who are being commissioned to create a collection of multilingual nursery rhymes for young children, parents, librarians & educators in collaboration with City of Sydney. Working

with refugee communities, translators & musicians, rhymes are being set to music, recorded for radio broadcast & will also form part of an illustrated book & learning resource for distribution via the NSW Libraries Association.

### ***Rhyming in Harmony* is supported by:**

City of Sydney  
SCARF (Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families)  
Kinderling Radio  
Big Fat Smile

## In roots of the ribbon gum metaphor moves like spores

~ Bonny Cassidy, from 'GROUNDS',  
commissioned poet

## New Shoots

Stemming from the success of *New Shoots 2016* with the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney & Bundanon Trust, *New Shoots 2017* is growing poetic gardens in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV), Australian Poetry, Sydney Olympic Park (SOP), Byron Writers' Festival & the Australian Botanic Garden (ABG).

*New Shoots 2017* will commission 11 Victorian poets including Bruce Pascoe, Maria Takolander, Tony Birch, Bonny Cassidy, Chris Wallace Crabbe & Autumn Royal to create a series of poems that respond to sites, stems, seeds & spores at RBGV. Poems will be recorded, performed, shared on seed packs, 'planted' in the garden & launched in conjunction with the Melbourne Writers' Festival.

Eco poetry workshops across these sites continue to cultivate creative connections with plants throughout the year with the first workshops being led by Eileen Chong at ABG & Yuin poet, Kirli Saunders at Bundanon Trust.

### **New Shoots 2017 is supported by:**

Arts NSW  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Australian Poetry  
Byron Writers' Festival  
Eucalypt Australia  
Liz & Sue Cuninghame  
Andrew FitzSimons  
Melbourne Writers' Festival  
Ministry for Communications & the Arts  
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (inc ABG)  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria  
Sydney Olympic Park  
The Planthunter





# Poetic Learning

*“I really appreciate your professionalism, the time and effort that went into the preparation and the quality of the workshop itself. The students really enjoyed it. Some of our most recalcitrant students got right into it and wrote poetry. Some students commented that they really loved seeing poetry performed - that the experience was both confronting and empowering. We are definitely keen to book another workshop for next year.”*

~ Petra Clark, Teacher,  
Barrenjoey High School, NSW

*Poetic Learning* engages students, teachers & communities in the creation & publication of poetry. Fostering poetic practice through experimental & critical investigation, our learning programs connect poets with students to open up poetic ways of experiencing, writing & responding. Young poets will find their poems published on trains & banners as we share their creativity with new audiences.

As the eucalypt stood still, plastered  
to the earth, mother  
nature’s bedroom floor, the flora  
and fauna slept.

~ Malacai, Year 7, Nowra High School

**In 2017, *Poetic Learning* will focus on the following initiatives:**

- Poets-in-residence programs for young people, marginalised & all ages
- Professional learning & mentoring for poets, NESA accredited learning for educators & engagement in national conferences
- Learning resource development to expand reach, interactivity & income in partnership with poets & organisations nationally
- Enhanced regional & remote participation facilitated by sustainable digital delivery

***Poetic Learning* is supported by:**

Geoff Ainsworth AM & Johanna Featherstone  
Graeme Wood Foundation  
Arts NSW  
Australian Association for Teaching English  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Big Fat Smile  
City of Sydney  
English Teachers Associations  
Ministry for the Communications & the Arts  
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria  
Sculpture by the Sea  
Sydney Olympic Park

Inside the smile there's the child.  
 Inside the child there's a tooth.  
 Inside the tooth there's a cavity.

~ Niamh, Year 6, Our Lady of Mt Carmel

## Poetry Object

*"Inspiration, high hopes,  
 collaborative learning and  
 sharing. Ideas flowing,  
 courage in unlikely places.  
 Memories unfolding, stories  
 untold finally seeing light.  
 Poetry coming alive."*

~ Sarah Newman,  
 Teacher, Casuarina Street  
 Primary, NT

*Poetry Object* (PO) is a free national poetry writing competition that invites students & their teachers from Grades 3–10 to submit poems inspired by 'talismatic' objects that are special to them. All entries are published online, engaging students with authentic audiences. PO's judge for 2017 is celebrated Australian poet, Mark Tredinnick.

### In 2017 PO will:

- Engage over 180 school communities nationally
- Publish more than 3250 student & teacher poems
- Offer prize packs valued at \$10,000+
- Deliver NESA accredited professional development resources & workshops
- Commission six poets across Australia
- Award the Poetry Object Prize (POP) with professional development outcomes for students & teachers
- Publish winning poems on public transport

### *Poetry Object* is supported by:

Craig & Joy Lawn	National Museum of
Graeme Wood Foundation	Australia
Australian Association for	NZ Poetry Day
Teaching English	NT Writers Festival
Copyright Agency Limited	Rex
Good Reading	S & J Media
Kinokuniya	



When I hear the word Yana,  
I imagine leaves dancing by & the wind  
starting to sing.

~ Yilja, Year 6, Alexandria Park  
Community School

## Yala Gari - Speak the Truth

*"This year we have had the opportunity to be a part of Red Room's Yala Gari project, working with Aboriginal poets and artists to build language skills, in particular Gadigal and encourage pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander culture. Working with and learning from Lorna and Eric developed our students' skills in creativity, collaboration and narrative..."*

~ Diane Fetherston, Principal Alexandria Park  
Community School

After a successful pilot, *Yala Gari* poetic workshops will expand in 2017 at Alexandria Park Community School to create, record, publish & exhibit poetry/artworks that celebrate and share first people's culture & language (Wiradjuri, Gamilaroi, Gadigal & Dharawal). *Yala Gari* is led by Wiradjuri/Gamilaroi poet Lorna Munro, a local resident & Alexandria Park alumnus.

As part of Red Room Poetry's *Poetic Moments*, poems by Lorna & the students with designs by Indigenous visual artist, Lucy Simpson, will be published on City of Sydney street banners during NAIDOC Week (2-9 July celebrating the 2017 theme 'Our Languages Matter'.

### **Yala Gari is supported by:**

Aboriginal Education Council  
Alexandria Park Community School  
City of Sydney  
Graeme Wood Foundation  
Green Square School



Dreams, the window to our souls,  
 Dreaming of the past, Dreaming of the present, Always dreaming,  
 Dreaming of the future

~ Andrew W. *UnLocked* student, Balund-a

## Unlocked

*“The Unlocked program was excellent and speaking on behalf of the resident participants it was inspiring for them learning about how to put their feelings into words and song. Everything was from the heart - the words put into the poems came directly from the heart and it will be remembered for the rest of their lives.”*

Chris Walker - Bundjalung Elder - Balund-a mentor, 2016

*Unlocked* supports poets & hip-hop artists to run creative workshops with inmates in NSW Correctional Centres to enhance literacy & encourage positive self-expression in the hope of reducing recidivism. Since 2010, RR has successfully delivered 19 creative literacy programs across NSW.

*Unlocked 2017's* focus is Indigenous rehabilitation as Aboriginal people represent 3% of the total population, & as high as 27% of total Australian inmates. In collaboration with Balund-a (a diversionary centre for Indigenous offenders), we will run comprehensive poetic & artistic workshops & performances with poet Lionel Fogarty, musician Joe Geia, local Elders & schools, Northern Rivers TAFE, Shine for Kids & Jambama Arts Centre Casino.

### **Unlocked is supported by:**

Arts NSW  
 Australia Council for the Arts  
 Geoff Ainsworth AM &  
 Johanna Featherstone



the  
ocean  
the  
Norway  
transcend  
friend  
open its arms

**2016**  
**Annual**  
**Report**





# Poetic Projects

The gardens on the cove might  
almost be one's other life,  
a silence adumbrated, where wisdom takes its time  
to grow, and all the many selves you are assemble in the dark

~ Mark Tredinnick, *New Shoots* commissioned poet

## New Shoots

*New Shoots*, is a poetic collaboration with the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (RBG), Sydney Olympic Park (SOP) & Bundanon Trust. The project celebrates & cultivates poems inspired by plants & trees as a means of enriching eco-narratives & cultural connection with the environment. Through poet-in-residence programs, Mark Tredinnick, Eileen Chong, Eric Avery & Lorna Munro, were commissioned to create eco-poems for installation at RBG, SOP & Bundanon. Linked creative learning resources also support ongoing workshops across these sites & other parks & gardens.

### ***New Shoots* outcomes included:**

- 16 poems created & installed across RBGS sites
- 230+ *New Shoots* Poetry Prize contributions
- 6 Eco-poet profiles created & shared by The Planthunter & ABC RN
- Eco-poetry school programs at Bundanon Trust
- 2 sold out launch events with poetic tours at RBGS with Sydney Writers' Festival
- Creation of Lorna Munro's poetry in local languages for installation at SOP Badu Mangroves
- Publishing of poems on seed packs & in learning resources for ongoing engagement & greening
- Syndication in other parks/gardens with new partnerships

### ***New Shoots* was supported by:**

ABC Radio National  
Arts NSW  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Australian Poetry  
Byron Writers' Festival  
Eucalypt Australia  
Liz & Sue Cuninghame  
Andrew FitzSimons  
Melbourne Writers' Festival  
Ministry for Communications & the Arts  
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (inc Australian Botanic Gardens)  
Royal Botanic Garden Victoria  
Sydney Olympic Park  
The Planthunter

They thought we'd gone. But Wiradjuri  
 Mother Country remembers all her children,  
 holds all our stories – keeps our Dreaming.  
 Centuries beyond this short history we are  
 Still here to say at Gundagai  
 deeper tracks wind back.

~ Jeanine Leane, 'Tracks Wind Back',  
 commissioned poet

## The Disappearing 2.0

*"Wow! What a powerhouse of a workshop!  
 Zohab Khan worked with us for three hours,  
 splicing his offerings to our writing needs and  
 desires, often pushing us into places we hadn't  
 thought of going."*

~ David Gilbey, Booranga Writers' Centre

Using geo-location mapping to pin poetry to place, *The Disappearing 2.0* is an interactive digital project that charts & connects fragmentary histories, impressions & memories via poetry in Western Sydney & regional NSW.

Throughout 2016, we collaborated with partners to deliver a series of poetic workshops with publication, event, professional development & curriculum-linked outcomes. Since its inception, *The Disappearing* has commissioned over 160 poets & held workshops in 30+ schools.

- 14 newly commissioned works from Western Sydney & regional NSW poets
- 24 re-published poets mapping regional NSW
- 8 poetic workshops, readings & engagement events in Western Sydney & regional NSW
- Enhanced interactive mapping of disappearing sites & poetic histories
- 2 NESA endorsed creative learning digital resources & professional development for students & teachers
- Publication in highly visible ways including projections on buildings in Wagga Wagga with national & international audiences

***The Disappearing 2.0* was supported by:**

Arts NSW  
 Auburn Writers & Poets  
 Auburn, Cowra, Cumberland & Wagga  
 Wagga Councils  
 Biennale of Sydney  
 Booranga Writers Centre  
 Carriageworks  
 Charles Sturt University  
 WestWords





# Poetic Learning

*“I am so glad I have this Red Room mob in my life...they give me purpose, opportunity and pride in belonging to something that will change the shape of Australian poetry's future.”*

~ Scott-Patrick Mitchell, commissioned poet, WA

As we deepen our Poetic Learning programs by encouraging students & teachers to actively engage in creating & publishing poetry, we also provide NESA accredited free & digital learning resources to ensure sustainability & ongoing opportunities.

2016 saw a genuine focus on engaging Indigenous, culturally & linguistically diverse communities. We are pleased with the broadening of participation & interactivity of Australia's educators, poets & students in our poetic learning activities which can be found, with the support of our partners, in gardens, parks, classrooms & on trains & planes.

a beacon of hope in an island of darkness,  
an island of dancing flame.

~ Elise, Year 7, Hornsby Girls High School, NSW

- 38 school programs (26% regional & remote)
- 40 poets employed
- 4220 contact hours
- 201 school communities engaged
- 22,500 + students engaged
- 668 teachers engaged including NESA-accredited Professional Development
- 5 conferences (NSW, QLD, SA, VIC)
- 241,752 website views annually
- Participation from ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA, NZ



## In 2016 Poetic Learning was supported by:

Graeme Wood Foundation  
Arts NSW  
Australian Association for Teaching English  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Big Fat Smile  
Bundanon Trust  
City of Sydney  
Sculpture by the Sea

A token from the sea that clasps the shore,  
You are a prism of frosted light

~ Kimberly, Year 10, Darwin High School

## Poetry Object

In its sixth year, *Poetry Object* (PO) published 3008 student poems from over 172 schools across Australia & New Zealand. Supported by curriculum-aligned resources, PO invites students & their teachers to create, publish & share poems about their special 'talismanic' objects. Objects ranged from ballet slippers to crocodile tooth necklaces & cherished gifts, giving students insight into each other's experiences while making a genuine difference to the way students & teachers personally connect with each other to create & publish poetry.

*"I was amazed and delighted by the high standard of the poetry in this competition. Some poems were funny some heartfelt or dramatic; some were like speech and some were like a song; but every poem had something brilliant and original in it."*

~ Jill Jones, PO Judge

- 72 schools engaged nationally (24% regional & remote)
- 7 poets commissioned
- 3008 student & teacher poems published
- Participation from ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA, NZ



**Poetry Object is made possible with support from our partners:**

Adelaide Biennial  
Australian Association for Teaching English  
Big Fat Smile  
BIG KIDS Magazine  
Copyright Agency Limited  
Craig & Joy Lawn  
Good Reading  
Graeme Wood Foundation  
Rex  
S & J Media  
Sydney Child  
Teacher Magazine

You come from the dark into light  
 You walk facing the sun  
 You do not remember  
 You cannot remember  
 Although you sit all night, mouth open  
 I am always behind you  
 A hand a breath...

~ Alisha B, *Unlocked* student,  
 Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre

## Unlocked

*“Unlocked has been well received by the participating residents and staff at Balund-a and as a result the participants have been observed to demonstrate increased self-confidence, self-worth and communication skills”*

~ David Elliot MP,  
 Minister for Corrections NSW

In 2016, RR delivered three intensive *Unlocked* programs at Balund-a, (a diversionary Centre for Indigenous offenders), Silverwater Women's & South Coast Correctional Centres with poets Lionel Fogarty, Gareth Jenkins, Johanna Featherstone, & Nick Bryant Smith.

The Balund-a Song was written & composed by Balund-a students with guidance from musician, Joe Geia. Listen via <https://soundcloud.com/the-red-room-company/a-song-unlocked-balund-a-naidoc-2016>.

- 9 full day workshops
- 1 community event at Balund-a engaging 100 +
- 1 Diversionary Centre
- 2 Correctional Centres
- 2 *Unlocked* print anthologies
- 1 *Unlocked* report distributed to NSW Corrective Services

### **Unlocked was made possible by:**

Arts NSW  
 Australia Council for the Arts  
 Corrective Services NSW  
 The Funding Network



Dances of Listening, listening to truth;  
 In our songs  
 We cry out to the sky; “Biame”  
 The land reflected in our eyes

~ Eric Avery, *Yala Gari* commissioned poet

## Yala Gari - Speak the Truth

*“The work culminated in a deeply moving and thought-provoking performance at a whole school assembly.”*

~ Diane Fetherston, Principal,  
 Alexandria Park Community School

Inspired by local poet Lorna Munro & musician Eric Avery, *Yala Gari* was a language pilot program designed to empower Indigenous students from Redfern & Sydney city communities to create, record, publish, perform & exhibit poetry that celebrates first nation culture & languages (including Wiradjuri, Gamilaroi & Gadigal).

Following the successful *Yala Gari* pilot, in 2017, we will broaden the program to strengthen cultural & community connections in & around Redfern, Alexandria & Glebe by displaying poetry on local street banners.

### **Yala Gari was supported by:**

Alexandria Park Community School  
 City of Sydney  
 Graeme Wood Foundation

- 3 Aboriginal poets/artists employed
- 6 half day workshops celebrating first languages
- 300+ school audience
- 17 Yala Gari street banners flying in Redfern with poetry in language





## Media

2016 saw increased reach, web presence & engagement across a spectrum of digital platforms. With our partners (Rex, Sydney's Child, ABC RN, S & J Media) we deepened participation, broadened poetic audiences & presence across print & digital publications\*.

### Facebook reach

**2015**

**2016**

135,626

290,831

### Twitter impressions

132,606

445,600

### Mentions in Print Media

15

14\*

### Mentions in Digital Media

20

44

### Total Website Views

225,614

241,752

\* Including: Rex Outthere, Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney's Child, ABC Radio National, The Age, NT News

# Our Supporters

On behalf of our Board, our team & communities of poets, young people, teachers & readers, thank you for so generously supporting Red Room Poetry. The last couple of years have seen a number of signature gifts as well as securing of key government funding. We are now focused on deepening our partnerships & collaborations, continuing to improve programs, supporting investor stewardship & delivering workshops to diverse & marginalised students & communities. We also aim, with your ongoing support, to increase access to poetic moments in our everyday lives.

## Key Supporters

Geoff Ainsworth AM & Johanna Featherstone  
 John B. Fairfax AO  
 Bret Walker SC  
 Graeme Wood Foundation  
 Tim Game SC  
 Ministry for Communication & the Arts  
 Australia Council for the Arts  
 Arts NSW  
 City of Sydney  
 Copyright Agency Limited Cultural Fund  
 Creative Partnerships Australia  
 Royal Botanic Garden Sydney  
 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

## Supporters

Robert Albert AO  
 Ruth Armytage AM  
 Australian Poetry  
 Andrew & Cathy Cameron  
 Michael Crouch AM  
 Ian Darling  
 Andrew FitzSimons  
 Gartmore & Cuninghame  
 Garden City Plastics  
 Mary Gillespie  
 Tony Green  
 W & A Johnson Family Foundation  
 Craig & Joy Lawn  
 Mark & Louise Nelson  
 Judith Pini  
 Paul Ruiz  
 Sydney Olympic Park  
 Waverley Council

## Friends

JP Beran  
 Phillip Boulten SC  
 Judy Featherstone  
 Sally Marwood

To support RR please visit:  
[redroomcompany.org/support](http://redroomcompany.org/support)



# Partners and Collaborators

Red Room Poetry would particularly like to thank our partners, poets, artists & creatives who inspire us daily.

## Culture

Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Poetry, Bundanon Trust, Biennale of Sydney, Booranga Writers' Centre, Byron Writers Festival, Carriageworks, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, EcoArts, Kinokuniya, Luca & Anita Belgiorino-Nettis Foundation, Melbourne Writers Festival, National Museum of Australia, NT Writer's Festival, NZ Poetry Day, Sculpture by the Sea, Sydney Writers' Festival, Tribal Warrior, Westwords, WordTravels

## Media

ABC, ABC Radio National & Central West, Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, FBI Radio, Jailbreak, Medianet, S & J Media, Sydney's Child, The Planthunter

## Education

Aboriginal Education Council, Australian Association for Teaching English, Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation, Big Fat Smile, BIG KIDS Magazine, Charles Sturt University, Early Start, English Teacher Associations, Good Reading, Kinderling Radio, Lyrikline.org, NESA, NYU Sydney, QUT, School communities nationally, UOW, UNSW, USYD, UTS, WSU

## Government

Arts NSW, Auburn Council, Australia Council for the Arts, City of Sydney, Copyright Agency Limited Cultural Fund, Corrective Services NSW, Cumberland Council, Liverpool City Council, Multicultural NSW, Ministry for Communications & the Arts, NSW Libraries, TfNSW, Wagga Wagga City Council, Waverley Council

## Corporate

Allen & Unwin, Corban & Blair, Dorling Kindersley, Garden City Plastics, Ernst & Young, i2i DESIGN, KPMG, LendLease, Mirvac, The Funding Network

## Environment

Bjarne K Dahl Trust (Eucalypt Australia), Eden Gardens, ETA NSW, Garden City Plastics, Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Sydney Olympic Park




## Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2016	Year ended 31 December 2015
		\$	\$
Donations and non-government grants	16	316,126	284,462
Government grants		105,280	104,280
Other revenue	4	50,902	50,227
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>472,308</b>	<b>438,969</b>
Contractors and employee expenses		(277,934)	(263,342)
Poetry commissions and appearance fees		(50,844)	(56,202)
Production costs		(29,617)	(16,377)
Rental expenses		(26,726)	(27,412)
Consumables and office expenses		(10,455)	(10,282)
Publicity and promotion		(21,051)	(15,355)
Accounting and audit		(24,548)	(24,950)
Insurances		(9,762)	(11,391)
Travel costs		(7,000)	(8,179)
Repairs and maintenance		(1,736)	(572)
Depreciation expenses	9	(2,589)	(4,430)
Other expenses		(1,754)	(2,603)
<b>Results from operating activities</b>		<b>8,292</b>	<b>(2,126)</b>
Financial income	5	6,827	12,387
<b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>		<b>15,119</b>	<b>10,261</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus after income tax expense</b>		<b>15,119</b>	<b>10,261</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>15,119</b>	<b>10,261</b>

## Statement of financial position for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2016	Year ended 31 December 2015
		\$	\$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	490,720	401,457
Trade and other receivables	8	22,927	30,651
Total current assets		513,647	432,108
Plant and equipment	9	3,469	4,328
Total non-current assets		3,469	4,328
Total assets		517,116	436,436
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	37,184	38,107
Deferred revenue	11	184,379	125,190
Provisions	12	14,160	7,089
Total current liabilities		235,723	170,386
Total liabilities		235,723	170,386
Net assets		281,393	266,050
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		281,393	266,050
Total equity		281,393	266,050



Red Room Poetry  
PO Box 1105 Surry Hills  
NSW 2010 Australia

(02) 9319 5090  
[contact@redroomcompany.org](mailto:contact@redroomcompany.org)  
[redroomcompany.org](http://redroomcompany.org)