



# Writer Curriculum Vitae

## Kirli Saunders

### BIO:

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai woman with ties to the Yuin, Gundungurra, Gadigal and Biripi people. Kirli is the Manager of Poetic Learning and Aboriginal Cultural Liaison at Red Room Poetry. She was awarded 'Worker of the Year 2017' at the NAIDOC awards in the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven region and has been nominated for a National NAIDOC award in 2018. Kirli founded the [Poetry in First Languages project](#). Her first children's picture book *The Incredible Freedom Machines*, illustrated by Matt Ottley was selected for Bologna Book Fair and is published internationally in French and English. Her second picture book *Our Dreaming* will be released by Scholastic in December 2019, *Happy Ever After* will follow in July 2020. Kirli's First Poetry Collection, *Kindred* is to be released by Magabala in December 2019, it was *Highly Commended* in the 2018 Black&Write! prize. Kirli's poem 'A Dance of Hands' was Runner-up in the Nakata Brophy Prize. Kirli's poetry has been published by Cordite and Overland and has embedded in infrastructure at Darling Harbour and the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne. In 2018, Kirli will be Writer in Residence at Bundanon Trust, Q Station and The Literature Centre, Fremantle for 'The Sound of Picture Books'.

### EXPERIENCE (2018)


#### Accolades/ Festivals:

- Wollongong Writers Festival Author panellist
- Yours and Owls Festival performance
- NSW Writers Centre Kids YA panellist
- The Sound of Picture Books performances, The Literature Centre
- Girls Write Up panellist
- Nakata Brophy Prize, Runner Up
- Black&Write! Highly Commended 'Mother, Earth Child, Lover' manuscript
- The Incredible Freedom Machines to be presented at Bologna Book Fair
- The Incredible Freedom Machines to be published in English and French internationally

#### Poetry Commissions:

- 'Disconnection' for Cordite Issue 86
- 'Grief' for Cordite Issue 87
- 'A Dance of Hands' for Overland
- 'Mother' Commissioned by Red Room Poetry for Tumbalong Gatherers Project
- 'Unbind' for Raining Poetry in Adelaide competition

#### Writer in Residence:

- Q Station
  - Fremantle Writers Centre (Sounds of Picture Books)
  - Bundanon Trust
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Playwright:

- Dead Horse Gap Co-writer, Merrigong Theatre Company

Children's Author:

- Accepted publication offer for *Happy Ever After*, with Scholastic
- *Mother Speaks*, under consideration for publication
- *Stronger as One*, under consideration for publication

Author Workshops:

- Wollongong West Public School
  - Figtree Public School
  - Kids & YA Festival
  - UOW Discovery Centre
  - Storybox Library filming
  - Terara Public School
  - Wanjiora Public School
  - Corrimal High School
  - Jervis Bay Public School
  - Nowra Public School
  - St Michaels Primary School
  - Bomaderry Public School
  - Nowra East Public School
  - Cedars Christian College
  - Figtree High School
  - Wollongong High School
  - Jerry Bailey Preschool (Shoalhaven)
  - Kids Uni Wollongong
  - Smith Street Children's Centre
  - Home School Groups (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Winthrop Primary School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Fremantle Primary School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Perth Waldorf School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Foundation Christian College (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Beaconsfield PS – Rottneest Island Campus (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - East Fremantle Primary School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Central Midlands SHS (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Kerry Street Community School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Richmond Primary School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Guildford Grammar (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Nedlands Primary School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - St Marks Anglican School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Churchlands Senior High School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Woodlands Primary School (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Our Lady Of Good Counsel (The Sound of Picture Books)
  - Emmanuel Christian Community College (The Sound of Picture Books)
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Poetry Workshops:

- Corrimal High School NAIDOC Poet Q+A
- [ETA Conference](#)
- [ETA Q Station Professional Development 2018](#)
- [Poetry in First Languages \(Dharawal\) - Kemblawarra Public School](#)
- [Poetry in First Languages \(Dharawal\) - Warrawong High School](#)
- [Poetry in First Languages \(Dharawal\) - Warrawong Public School](#)
- [Poetry in First Languages \(Gundungurra\) - Mittagong Public School](#)
- [Poetry in First Languages \(Gundungurra\) - Moss Vale High School](#)
- [Poetry in First Languages \(Gundungurra\) - Moss Vale Public School](#)
- Poetry in First Languages (Yuin) - Jervis Bay School
- Poetry in First Languages (Yuin) - Nowra East Public School
- Poetry in First Languages (Yuin) - North Nowra Public School
- NSW Reconciliation Council Schools Challenge Digital Workshops
- [Wingecarribee Shire Council, NSW](#)
- [Wollongong City Council Annual Reconciliation Conference](#)
- [Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts](#)
- [Wollongong Public School](#)
- [Wollongong West Public School](#)

**EXPERIENCE (2017)**

Poetry Commissions:

- 'Be Still' commissioned for installation by Royal Botanical Gardens, Victoria.
- 'Mother' commissioned by Lendlease & Red Room Poetry for Keep Cups

Writer in Residence:

- Poet in Residence - Bundanon Trust

Poetry Performances:

- Poetry Reading, Word In Hand
- Poetry Reading, Wombat Hollow Forum
- Poetry Reading and Panel, Indigenous Literacy Day MAQU
- Poetry Reading, Black Rhymes
- Poetry Reading, NAIDOC Week Celebrations, Bowral High School

Children's Picture Book Author:

- Accepted publication offer for 'Our Dreaming' with Scholastic

Poetry Workshops:

- [Berkeley West Public School, NSW](#)
  - [Cherrybrook Technology High School 2017](#)
  - [Cranbourne West Primary School x EEP](#)
  - [EPP x Kangaroo Valley Primary School](#)
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- [EEPP x Shoalhaven High School](#)
  - [EEPP x University of the Third Age \(U3A\)](#)
  - [AATE Conference](#) Professional Development
  - ETA NSW [Eucalyptus Eco-Poetry Project](#)
  - [Fountain Gate Primary School x EEPP](#)
  - [Indigenous Story Telling - Premier's Reading Challenge](#)
  - [Kangaroo Valley Primary School](#)
  - [KeepCup Poetry](#)
  - [New Shoots: Garden of Poems](#)
  - [Refugee Week 2017 - Exhibition 23/6](#)
  - [Refugee Week 2017 - Keira High School](#)
  - [Refugee Week 2017 Poetry Reading and Installation](#)
  - [Refugee Week 2017 - Wollongong High School](#)
  - [Refugee Week 2017 - Wollongong Public School](#)
  - [Refugee Week 2017 - Wollongong West Primary School](#)
  - [RUOK? Day 2017](#)
  - [Waniora Public School, NSW](#)
  - NSW Premiers Reading Challenge Digital workshops

#### **EXPERIENCE (2016)**

- 'A Posy of poems' commissioned by Red Room Poetry for Eden Unearthed  
Commissioned Writer
- 'Australia Day is Not the Day to Celebrate' - The Huffington Post

#### **EXPERIENCE (2015)**

Children's Picture Book Author:

- Accepted publication offer for 'The Incredible Freedom Machines' with Scholastic

