



## **‘Love Your Lagoons’ with UWS, WestWords and Red Room Poetry Education**

The ‘Love Your Lagoons’ program provided an opportunity for primary and secondary students to learn about water conservation and wetlands at UWS’ Campbelltown Campus. Red Room Poetry Education teamed up with WestWords to run a creative writing workshop that explored themes of conservation and sustainability.

WestWords engages children and young people in Greater Western Sydney by encouraging an appreciation of story and storymaking in a variety of forms and by promoting the understanding of the importance of books in the lives of young people.

Red Room Poetry Education inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry.

We enliven experiences with poetry by bringing contemporary poets into classrooms across Australia to run intensive writing workshops that awaken imaginations, support creative opportunities and curriculum outcomes.

[‘Love your Lagoons’, with UWS and WestWords, 2014](#)

[redroomcompany.org/education/](http://redroomcompany.org/education/)



## **Wetlands a group poem**

I see birds flying like planes,  
ants moving like cars.  
Birds diving like dolphins.  
The sound of wildlife buzzing  
in my ear. The birds singing  
to the animals.

Ducks diving like dolphins for food.  
The smell of poop fills the air like someone  
popped off.  
The grass makes me itchy like someone  
sticking a needle in my leg.  
The sounds of the birds chirping as they fly.

Ducks diving like dolphins in a muddy wet-  
land.  
When you feel the grass it feels itchy.  
The sound of cars sounds the rumble of an  
earthquake.  
The taste of the grass is like beans.

The water is calm and relaxed, you see.  
Ducks diving in for a feast, to feed.  
The touch of trees and grass, you feel.  
The sound and sight of it all to know.

I see the ducks diving like dolphins and birds  
flying sky high.  
I can hear the cicadas song and the trucks  
engines roaring.  
I can smell the mud the water.

Dead leaves lying everywhere, their dry  
cracked bodies breaking in the wind.

I can see the water hens playing in the water,  
feeling the flies crawling onto me, hear the  
insects buzzing by.

Listening to the cars drive past, as I watch  
the water move about.  
Smelling natural air and feeling the poking  
grass on my back.

Ants crawling underfoot.  
Smooth water as soft as silk,  
spoonbills diving looking for food,  
reeds swaying the breeze.

The smell of wildlife is like being at a zoo.  
The ducks diving like dolphins  
is like at Sea World but we're  
still only in a wetland.

The wetland smells like fresh salt water on a  
beach.  
The continuous noises from the wetland  
sounds like a rainforest.

The wetlands, a place of peace  
like the water in its lakes.  
Like the soft sounds of cicadas and birds on  
a quiet day.

A small breeze blowing softly against  
grass and trees.  
The clouds moving slowly like time itself  
has stopped.

Ducks diving like dolphins.  
Birds flying like planes.  
Ducks whistling your name.  
Crows with their silly call.  
Tractors rumbling on and on.

By: Zac, Luke, Christina, Jarrod, Trent,  
Abbey, Kaylah, Stephanie, Anton, Cindy,  
Brittney, Kiana and Cooper.

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## Poet Bio

Dr. Tamryn Bennett is The Red Room Company's Education Manager. She has a PhD in Literature from the University of New South Wales where she also teaches Creative Writing. Tamryn has designed and delivered poetry workshops for Artspace and El Centro de Cultura Digital, Mexico. Her artwork and visual poetry has been exhibited in Sydney, Melbourne, Miami and Mexico. Her poetry and essays been published in Five Bells, Nth Degree, Mascara Literary Review, Tabula Rasa, THEthe Poetry, English in Australia, ImageText and various academic publications.

## About Us

The Red Room Company creates unusual and useful poetry projects that transform expectations of, and experiences with, poetry. We aspire to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.

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