

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2018



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS



We are delighted to bring you the 9th year of the Schools Reconciliation Challenge (SRC). This year we expanded the SRC by welcoming schools in the ACT to the challenge. This year's theme, *Our Voices, Our Future* has inspired primary and high school students from across NSW and the ACT to create reconciliation-inspired art and writing for the SRC. We continue to be amazed by the talent and insight that these young people, from many different backgrounds, contribute to reconciliation.



We thank each and every school, teacher, principal, parent and student who have taken part, come up with the idea to enter, guided and supported students and each other. Without these dedicated people, we would not have the SRC each year. We are grateful for their hard work and commitment.

In 2018, we received 426 artworks and 97 writing entries from students across NSW and the ACT, each reflecting the theme and their perspectives on the broader story of reconciliation. These are themes that challenge many adults and as always for the SRC we have seen a high level of sensitivity, insight, empathy and maturity in the entries.

The quality of both art and writing entries we received made judging hard work. Many of the artworks were developed collaboratively, involving classes or groups of students under the guidance of local Aboriginal artists, parents and community members. We thank the panel of judges: Jody Broun, Fiona Petersen, Marcus Hughes, Kirli Saunders and Fiona Britton for their time and expertise in selecting this year's winning entries. Neither of us envy their job!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Reconciliation NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of Country throughout NSW and the ACT and recognises their continuing connections to land, waters and skies. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This year we initiated a new partnership with Red Room Poetry for the SRC writing workshops that are provided free of charge each year for all schools participating in the SRC. These workshops were facilitated by the inspiring poet Kirli Saunders, a proud Gunai woman with ties to the Yuin, Gundungurra, Gadigal and Birripi people. These workshops are provided via the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences' (MAAS) state of the art video conferencing facilities which enabled us to reach 16 schools and 680 students across NSW and the ACT. These workshops encouraged students to explore this year's theme and their own vision for a reconciled Australia through poetry, letter writing and a range of other writing activities. These workshops helped inspire and support students in developing their own skills as poets, writers and artists.

Our great thanks go to all our partners in this year's SRC: NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Reconciliation Australia, Lendlease, National Gallery of Australia, National Trust, Australian Red Cross, Red Room Poetry, MAAS, Sydney Story Factory, YMCA Canberra, YWCA Canberra, Wingaru Education, Woden Community Service and Catholic Education.

This year the SRC was managed by Reconciliation NSW's Danielle Cooper and Thea Butler. Thank you also to Executive Director Alison Faure-Brac.

We would also like to thank Nikki Fasolo, Stephen Buckland, Elizabeth Van Wyk, Matt Davies, Kristina McKinlay, Jenny Tanner and our volunteers who generously contributed their skills and enthusiasm to the SRC this year. Our thanks also to Reconciliation NSW supporters PwC

Indigenous Consulting and their staff for helping choose this year's SRC theme.

Congratulations to all those students and schools whose works have been selected to form this year's exhibition! The 2018 SRC exhibition will be touring across NSW and the ACT in 2018/2019. A special thanks to our exhibition tour partners National Trust for making this possible.

We are inspired and delighted by the quality of the art and the clarity with which our young people express their understanding of the important role of reconciliation in creating a better, more equal Australia for all of us.

We encourage you to join us in 2019 for the 10th anniversary SRC at schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au

The website provides teachers with resources, an easy way of registering for the SRC, lesson plans and many creative activities for students to learn about and engage with reconciliation and the chosen theme each year. It also gives students inspiration for their own creative expression through the galleries of past entries.

See you next year!

Lindon Coombes
Indigenous Co-Chair

Cecilia Anthony
Non-Indigenous Co-Chair



FOREWORD FOR THE 2018 SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

The 2018 Schools Reconciliation Challenge Exhibition Catalogue showcases the vision that school students have for reconciliation in Australia. The work of students represented in this catalogue explores our shared experience, the status of reconciliation in present-day Australia and visions for our future.

As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education, I was delighted to be asked to provide a foreword for this catalogue. I extend my warmest congratulations to all the students who took part in the Challenge. Initiatives such as this build relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, enabling us to move forward together.

The theme for this year, *Our Voices, Our Future*, acknowledges the special role that young people have in contributing to reconciliation processes and shaping our future. *Our Voices, Our Future* is also a celebration of the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledging the importance of self-determination to bring about a more just, harmonious and equitable society. The Challenge gives Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students the opportunity to actively engage with the voices and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in shaping their understanding of the next steps in our reconciliation journey now and into the future.

The Challenge is an outstanding way to highlight the talents and achievements of students in NSW and ACT schools. Students' art and writing demonstrate insightful and inspiring visions for Australia's future.

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and
Assistant Minister for Education

FOREWORD FOR THE 2018 SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

This year's Schools' Reconciliation Challenge has been a fantastic opportunity for students, schools and local communities to come together and learn more about our shared history and the reconciliation journey we are all on.

This is the first year the ACT has been invited to participate in this challenge. I would like to thank our partners for their organisation and support of this competition in the ACT.

The 2018 theme, *Our Voices, Our Future*, has presented students with an opportunity to not only engage in the reconciliation journey, but also work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, their teachers and the broader school community to share their experiences and hopes for the future.

I congratulate all participants of this year's challenge and can't wait to see where this journey takes us.

Yvette Berry MLA,
Minister for Education and Early
Childhood Development

PRIMARY SCHOOL ART



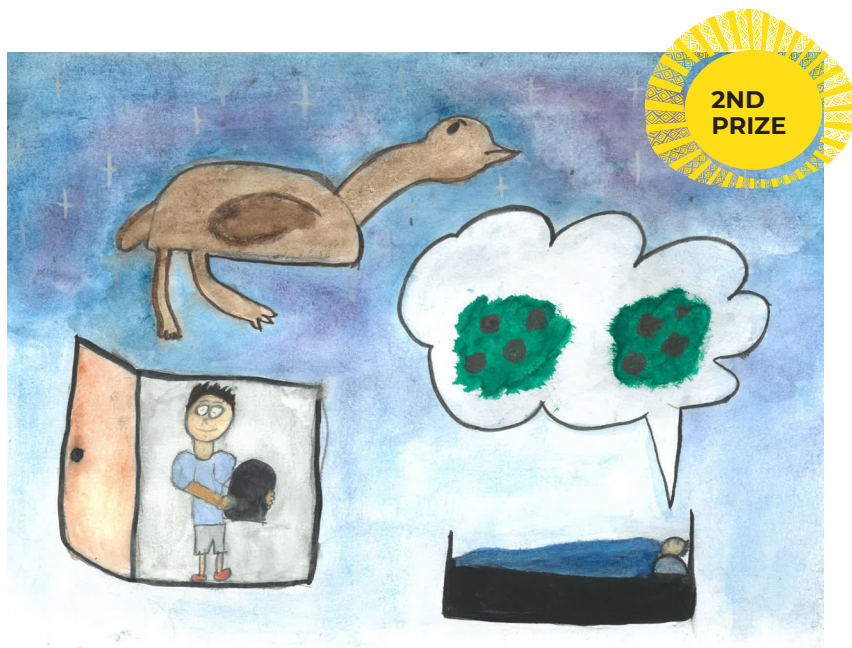
FIRST PRIZE PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

SCAR TREE

ROSALIA LUI
GILMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ACT

My artwork is about a big scar tree that has an oval shape in the middle which is called a scar. It is related to Reconciliation because the oval in the middle can be used as a shield. It can save you from dangerous things.

Reconciliation means... Safe, happy, family, culture, Aboriginal people, shield and home.



SECOND PRIZE PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

BUSH TUCKER MEDICINE

CALEB GEORGE

CAROLINE CHISHOLM SCHOOL, ACT

We had a workshop with an Aboriginal gardener who taught us how to use native plants to make tea to help a sore stomach. My artwork is of this Indigenous medicine being used for a little kid with the dreaming story of the Emu above. I think this knowledge is important to be shared because we are listening to Aboriginal voices to better our future.

Reconciliation means... Creating opportunities for knowledge sharing to bring it into our future.



THIRD PRIZE PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

A HANDFUL OF SAND

BRUNO DECKER-STEWART

INTERNATIONAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork is about the symbolic gesture of white Australia recognising Aboriginal land rights. This picture relates to *Our Voices, Our Future* because Vincent Lingiari said to his boss at Wave Hill Station that better conditions and pay were not enough and demanded their land back. 8 years later the Prime Minister gave the land back to them.

Reconciliation means... Being friends after a long discussion.



HIGHLY COMMENDED PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

GERRINGONG FRIENDS

TAJ PUCKERIDGE

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL (SSP), NSW

My artwork is about the place where I live and my school friends I see at school each day. We are the future and we hope by learning about our local cultural heritage and Indigenous communities past, present and the future that we will continue our respect for the land and the original people because there will never be anything like it again. Aboriginal culture respects the land and everything has a story to tell and we should listen. One of our school values is "We Matter", and young people do matter because we are the future. Each of my friends that are depicted in my art, work hard to improve their learning and knowledge about reconciliation. We hope to continue to learn about stories and reconciliation and continue to be guided by our community connection.

Reconciliation means... To continue to learn and pay our respects to the Elders of our land. The Elders past and present worked and continue to work tirelessly to make more positive changes and future Elders and community workers will continue to educate people about what matters.



HIGHLY COMMENDED PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

WIDYU-NDHU YUWIN NGULUNG?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HORATIO MONAHAN AND JACOB LEE CORNU

TRUSTCOTT STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW

Our artwork is about people coming together.

Reconciliation means... Peace between two cultures.



HIGHLY COMMENDED PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

GROWING VOICES

GRACE WREN

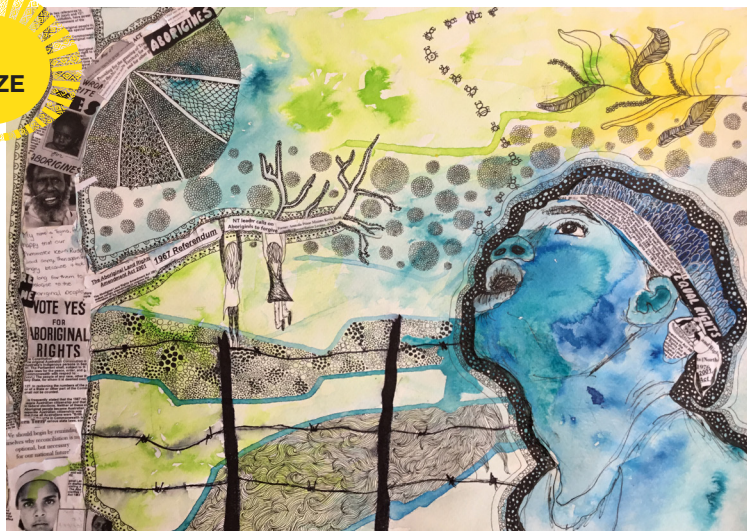
COOGEE PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork is my voice expressing how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are like a strong tree, joined together at the base then growing and branching out in many different ways over time. Their voices are spreading ideas and knowledge in many ways so we can all respect and appreciate their culture, history and contribution to Australia and the world. The tree in my picture is also like a hand, part of a person but also symbolising how we can all help one another to make a better future.

Reconciliation means... We all work together to understand one another better and to learn about and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their history and culture. Everyone has a voice and should be listened to because mistakes were made in the past and we want a future where everyone is respected, valued and treated as equal.

H I G H S C H O O L A R T

1ST
PRIZE



FIRST PLACE HIGH SCHOOL ART

A VOICE'S POWER

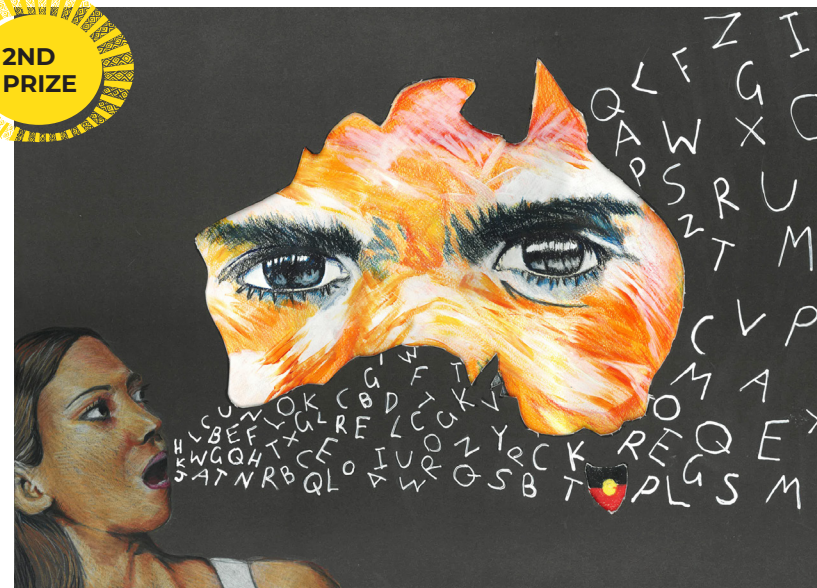
ALANA DUTTON
WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork *A Voice's Power* features an Aboriginal man, surrounded by colour, pattern and collage. Within the collage – documents and protests are found which relate to some positive changes we, as a nation, have made by using our voices.

This emphasises to me, the notion that a voice is the most powerful tool to create change, and by using it, anything is possible. Together people can impact change so greatly, and stand up for what we believe is right because these are our voices and this is our future.

Reconciliation means... I believe reconciliation is about unity and respect between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians. Although forgiveness plays a major part in reconciliation, it is important we do not forget and mask the past, but instead learn and build off these previous experiences. We must learn to accept everyone for who they are because everyone is beautiful in their own way and no one deserves to be degraded for being a different race, religion or sexuality.

2ND
PRIZE



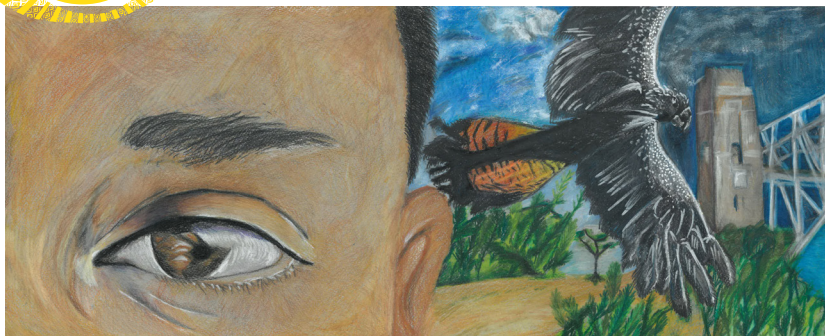
SECOND PLACE HIGH SCHOOL ART

AUSTRALIAN

CHARLOTTE BOWDEN
NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

Meanings are filtered by how we see the world, the country we live in, our values and beliefs. By not taking into account others people's words and views, our communication frequently leads to misunderstandings. No matter what language we speak we need to come together as one so that our voices are heard, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard and modern Australia can be a harmonious nation.

Reconciliation means... The restoration of friendly relations. Bringing together broken friendships, broken families and broken nations.



THIRD PLACE HIGH SCHOOL ART

THE WINGS OF CHANGE

POW CHUCHARAM

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

The young Aboriginal man stares and confronts us with his traditions and heritage. The black cockatoo representing the power of spirit that spreads his wings and flies from the past into the future. A future of a harmonious Australia where he announces his arrival as he squawks flying through the skies his spirit realising a voice for the future.

Reconciliation means... Getting together in a group and making the world a peaceful, happy, friendly and a better place.



HIGHLY COMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL ART

THE WIND OF UNITY

KATRINA TUCKEY

MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork expresses the need for change and unity. The title refers to the 'cloud' that people speak, their ideas and plans for the future. By having two people of different gender, age and heritage speaking these words, it expresses the fact that it doesn't matter if you're different, together we can bring change. This relates to both reconciliation and the theme *Our Voices, Our Future*. In the work I also included Aboriginal symbols, this represents meeting of ideas and collaboration. The border signifies a connection to the land, and our need to protect it.

Reconciliation means... Coming together or uniting for change. It can also mean reuniting or restoring something that was lost.



HIGHLY COMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL ART

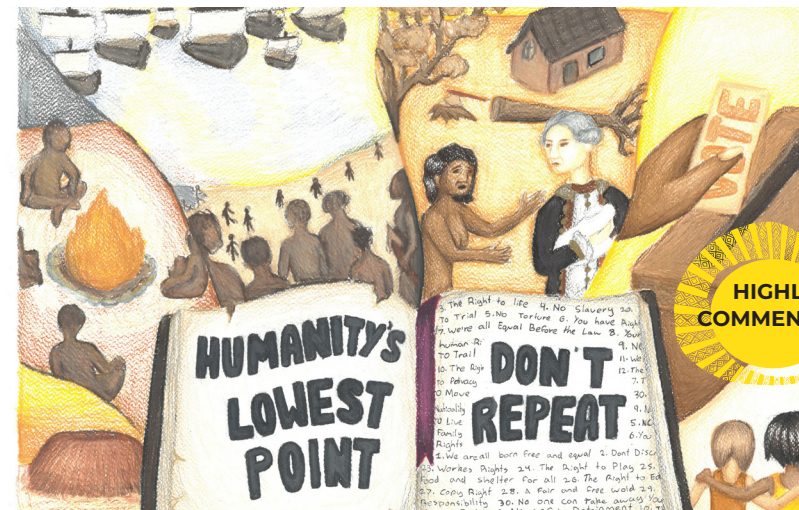
BEYOND THE WAVES

LILY VIGOUROUX

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork is about the people standing on the beach at sunset looking into the future yet reflecting on their past. We all stand on Aboriginal ground and this is represented through the Aboriginal motifs. The silhouettes moving through history. The sound of the waves represents the cleansing of the earth as we move forward into unified Australia.

Reconciliation means... People from different backgrounds living together in harmony.



HIGHLY COMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL ART

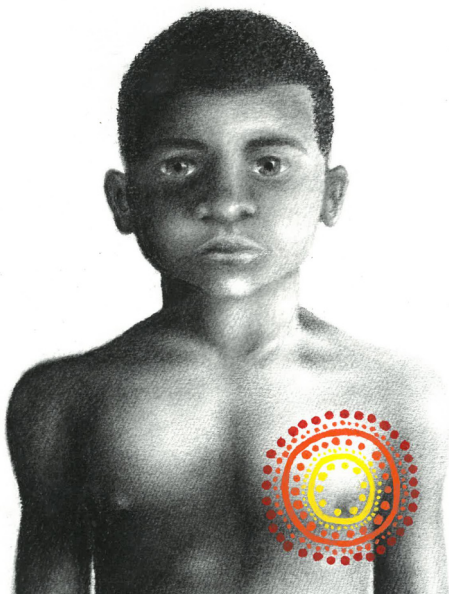
THE RIGHT TO SPEAK

REVA MEHROKE

KINGSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork is about the struggles Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have gone through prior to reconciliation. My artwork is a visual tour of Australian History leading to the recognition of the rights of Indigenous people, reconciliation and to peace and friendship amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. My artwork has used text and powerful words to describe the importance of human rights and the journey to reconciliation and the result. It relates to reconciliation because it is about how we have grown as a nation and will continue to grow together to achieve better relations between all Australians. It relates to the theme *Our Voices, Our Future* as it is about the importance of speaking up to ensure that the wrongs of the past are not repeated.

Reconciliation means... The coming together of Australia's first people with non-Indigenous Australia connecting the cultures to build understanding, acknowledgement and unity. If we do this together we will achieve peace and harmony in our nation.



HIGHLY COMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL ART

INDIGENOUS AT HEART

CASEY HAYDEN
WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

My artwork is about celebrating and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures. It is about embracing each other and about acceptance. It shows a young Aboriginal boy with a dot painting over his heart, highlighting the significance of his culture. It is meant to acknowledge how Indigenous Australians continue to celebrate their culture and encourage and highlight the importance of Australia's inclusion of Aboriginal people.

Reconciliation means... Indigenous Australians coming together with non-Indigenous Australians as a country and people, with the mutual recognition that we have done something wrong. It is an apology saying sorry we did this to you and sorry this happened. It is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and Australia moving forward as one, not forgetting the past but learning from it.

COLLABORATIONS



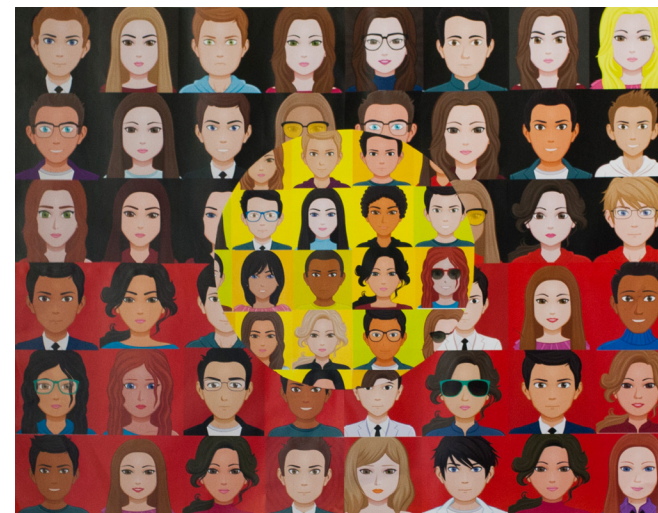
GIRALANG – OUR VOICES, OUR FUTURE!

GIRALANG PRIMARY SCHOOL, ACT
YEAR 5 & 6 ART COLLABORATION

Trusting each other as we move forward in this journey to reconciliation. Our year 5 and 6 collaboration artwork draws inspiration from Indigenous astronomy. As Giralang is named after a word in the language of the Wiradjuri people, meaning 'star', we thought it would be fitting to incorporate this into our design. The stars hold great importance to Indigenous Australians and is considered one of the principle branches of education. As Giralangers, we work, live and play in Giralang and we look to the stars for hope, reflection, knowledge and to see a future for a reconciled Australia.

We have included the stars, the night sky and the landscape of Giralang, including the rolling hills, primary school and Telstra tower. We have paper people cut-outs who represent all Australians and written inside each person is a word or words, which express the voices of Australians. The words from our students reflect their hopes for our future - words they believe to be powerful in the journey to reconciliation. It is important for all Australians to contribute to our reconciliation journey, supporting a just, equitable and unified future for our nation. Together we will inspire and strive to wear the Giralang star with pride to lead our community to continue to take meaningful steps to reconciliation.

Reconciliation means... That we can all be recognised as a person, reflecting on the past and having empathy, coming together as a nation by trusting each other as we move forward in this journey to reconciliation.



SIDE BY SIDE WE STAND

JANA BAYDOUN, NOUREDDINE DANDAN, KARINYA DENNIS
CHULLORA PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
YEAR 5 ART COLLABORATION

Every student in stage 3 at our school is represented in this artwork. We included everyone to show that we all care about each other and reconciliation. We used digital portraits because that is the way of the future. We focused on our individual characteristics but in the end we are all quite similar. We respect each other's individual cultural backgrounds but we also feel connected to each other and our country. We chose the colours of the Aboriginal flag to create the background to show that we support one another and stand together to share and learn from one another and to take a stand for what is right and fair.

We want every one of us to have a voice and be heard. We add our voices to the voices from the past and build a better future together to pass on to generations to come. A future where everyone can be respected cared for and can be themselves and proud of their cultural identity.

Reconciliation means... Learning to respect all cultures and recognise the importance of the traditional custodians of the lands and waters and the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples culture histories traditions and languages. We commit to working together to build a better future.



SHOUT IT LOUD

ORANGE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COLLABORATION

Our artwork highlights what students perceive as the most important pathways to reconciliation. Our artwork aims to start a conversation, by imagining future in which Indigenous Australians share an equal platform with the rest of the country, excelling in areas such as politics, law, education and entertainment. Students challenged currently accepted norms, such as imagery related to British colonisation.

Reconciliation means... Peace, love, harmony and respect amongst all Australians.



LEARNING COUNTRY

GILMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ACT
PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COLLABORATION

Our artworks show our learning journey with a local Wiradjuri man. He shared his knowledge of local Aboriginal Culture which inspired our pictures, colours and words. Reconciliation is about bringing together. We shared cultural knowledge about first People of our local area, bush foods and medicines. After our activities we had more understanding about why it is important to learn about traditional knowledge.

Reconciliation means... Me, sharing, talking, drinking tea.



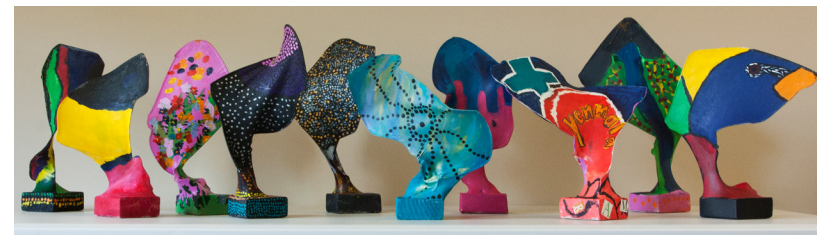
OUR RECONCILIATION STORIES

NORTH AINSLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ACT PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COLLABORATION

Our artwork tells stories about our homes, special places and other things we care for. It represents our voices and what we want to look after for the future. It is made up of many individual artworks. We live on Ngannawal land and pay our respects to the elders past, present and future. We respect how Ngannawal people are custodians of the land. Our artwork is about reconciliation and shows how we were inspired by artists from many different lands. Reconciliation includes acknowledging the diversity and richness of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Each square represents a different style we learnt about. We also learnt that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists have been telling stories through their art for more than 60 thousand years!

Reconciliation means... Many things: it means learning about horrible things like the stolen generations when children were taken from families and culture; it means learning about good things like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, rich and diverse cultures and people being custodians of the land; it also means finding out about how all of our lives can be better if we learn about how to care for country and for each other for now and for the future. We hope you like our artwork and can see our pride in our learning about Reconciliation and in how to tell stories!



ABOUT US

OXLEY PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COLLABORATION

Our ArTSl group were inspired by the magnificent Sculptures in the Scrub at Dandry Gorge in the Pilliga Forest. This special location of the Aboriginal Gamilaroi People is home to beautiful artworks that all can visit. One of the students in our ArTSl group has been there and told us about the sculptures. Our teacher showed us pictures she took there and we researched to learn more. Each of the sculptures is the result of an artist collaborating with local Aboriginal Elders and young people on a piece that tells a story of local Aboriginal history and culture. We particularly liked the organic forms of the *Winangaya Gunidjarr* artwork by Pamela Denise. This led to our freeform sculpture shapes. We worked together, collaborating and sharing our individual stories as we created our group artwork.

Reconciliation means... Coming together in our ArTSl group (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art group) at school. We discuss ideas, explore our culture and create artworks. We are able to share our thoughts and creations with others in the school, keeping our Indigenous culture alive.

Rylee Wilson – 'Raindrops' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

The pink stands for the land we are standing on right now and live on. The raindrops represent the tears of my ancestors. The future calls to all the people in our life.

Lacey Craig – 'Rainbow Lorikeet' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

This is an Australian native bird and the colours remind me of a Dreamtime book called *How The Birds Got Their Colours*.

Kerryleigh Gamble – 'Waterfall' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

My story relates to my family members who have passed. It represents grief and hope for the future through keeping their stories alive.

Shayla Tavola - 'Summer Nights' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

Inspired by a beach visit where elders were playing the didgeridoo while sitting on a rock. I am happy that I experienced that because now I can tell the story with joy.

Kallebb Jones – 'Past, Present, Future' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

My idea came to me when I visited my family's past mission. I saw the grave of one of my ancestors there. In my artwork I used the Dharug words yennmala on the grave (which means goodbye) and warami (which means hello) in the stones at the bottom. On the back it shows my voice saying *Our Voices, Our Future*.

Elyse Range-French – 'Daylight Dream' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

I see my future bright, colourful, happy life surrounded by nature.

L'Keyah Hemopo-Wilson – 'Mother Earth' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

She is the keeper of our ancestors' stories and the proud keeper of my generation's future.

Brodie Dewsbury - 'Shouting Stories' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

Through me, an Aboriginal elder is shouting stories into the future. This means that I can learn about my indigenous past and also tell the next generation.

Isabella Farrugia – 'Story Time' – Oxley Park Public School- Art

Artist Statement

My story is about sitting around a campfire, sharing stories, under the stars. My dad and I went camping every Christmas when I was younger. We used to do this so I put it as my past.

Bailey Palmer-Dryden – 'Colour Lines' – Oxley Park Public School - Art

Artist Statement

Lines of colour represent my indigenous past that I am learning about now and in the future.



MANY VOICES, MANY WAYS

COOGEE PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COLLABORATION

Our groups voices celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's voices. We started with everything building up from the same colours and symbols as the Aboriginal flag, the sun in the centre reaching out to the red of the land and black of the people. The kookaburra represents voices spreading across the land to everyone. We then made other examples of different ways voices can be represented - through art, music, writing and reading. It all connects with the people around the border listening, sharing and working together for reconciliation by understanding, respecting and appreciating our First Peoples.

Reconciliation means... We make a better future by listening to one another but especially the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who once were not listened to or understood. Now we learn about them and their history, culture and importance. If we share and work together we can make Australia a better place where we are all respected and equal.



COMING TOGETHER

CANBERRA HIGH SCHOOL, ACT
HIGH SCHOOL ART COLLABORATION

The dots represent the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community and the squares are the many different groups of our society. While there are many groups, different sizes & different colours, the people all have a voice, a place and an important role to play in shaping our future.

Reconciliation through this artwork is depicted by the many groups, different sizes & different colours, coming together forming respectful and equitable relationships.

It relates to Our Voices, Our Future through our joint effort of eight Indigenous students, boys & girls from different year groups, coming together and creating an artwork that celebrates their involvement, to actively speak up and encourage other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community to contribute to the future voices of reconciliation.

Reconciliation means... A journey of truth telling and acknowledging Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples Of this land and recognising that these peoples were dispossessed, persecuted & oppressed as a result of colonisation in Australia. Along with developing our understanding of how these histories continue to shape contemporary Australia society & ensuring that Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures are treated with dignity & respect at all times.

PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITING

LETTER FROM THE FUTURE

Amarre Sarili (10 years old)
Richardson Public School, ACT
YWCA Canberra Clubhouse
Primary School Writing

September 2028

To children from the past,

It's taken ten years for us to achieve reconciliation. We have been protesting for the last ten years and it has paid off. Children learn about bush medicine at school and we have an Aboriginal day now where we celebrate Aboriginal culture.

Bush tucker medicine is always taught to children. Daisy yam is good for blood sugar. The pods of the currajong are used in dance and ceremony. Native raspberry leaves are made into a tea and used for stomach ache and the cauliflower bush is used for smoking ceremony.

Our Prime Minister is an Aboriginal woman. Each term there is a special day where we learn about bush tucker. We always make tea out of our native raspberry leaves to serve to all the students of the school. Instead of learning inside of the classroom we take a bus to Tidbinbilla to learn all about Australia's native animals and plants. We also learn about Aboriginal culture and customs. Sometimes we put on a performance for our parents and teach them about the bush tucker and their uses. This is a great opportunity for us and our students. We all love this day and look forward to doing it next year.

Because of these changes towards reconciliation, we are very happy to know that future generations will learn these things at school and everyone will learn about bush medicine. We are also glad that we have equal rights and we are recognised as the first people of the land.

From Amarre, 20 Years Old

We had a workshop where I learnt from an Aboriginal man about the uses of plants. We also did a workshop where we wrote a postcard from our future self to our present self. I have written about what I want to see in our future once reconciliation has been achieved. I think it's important to learn about bush tucker and medicine because we need to learn from Aboriginal people's voices.

Reconciliation means... To connect and learn and listen to everyone about their cultures and customs and treat everyone equally.

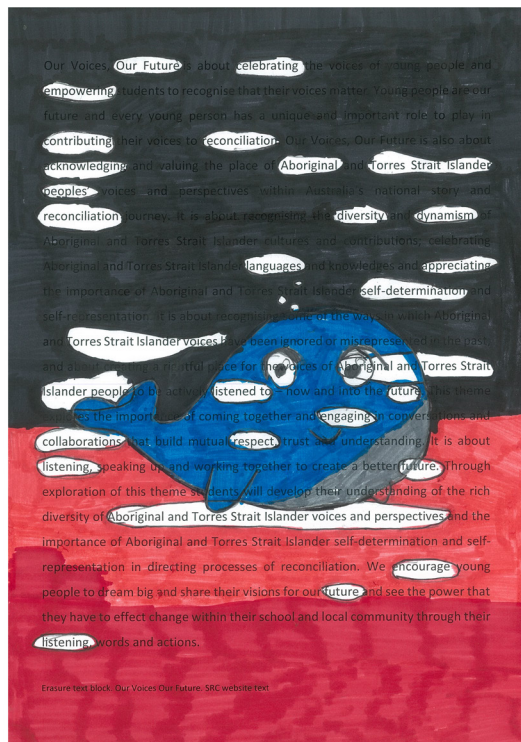


THE RECONCILIATION WARRIORS

BRAYDEN LEAN, JANE HOHOI, ELLA SENIOR, JAKE KING, SHALOM SIBA AND DANIEL CONTEH
MACQUARIE PRIMARY, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITING

Our Story relates to reconciliation through the messages it portrays around belonging, acceptance and pride. We linked our work on this project to this year's theme through year 6 inquiries into the history of rights for different groups of people in Australia. This was a collaborative project between our Indigenous Education Officer and a small group of year 6 students from a range of different cultural backgrounds.

Reconciliation means... Understanding all cultures and that everyone belongs. We all smile in the same language.



Erasure text block: Our Voices Our Future. SRC website text

THE BLUE WHALE

JORJA MORGAN

TUMBLEGUM PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITING

My story relates because they are words that you would say to each other and they matter. It relates to *Our voices, Our Future* because it has the words that we should be thinking and saying when we are discussing our future.

Reconciliation means... Is about coming together and respecting and respecting each other.

OUR VOICES, OUR FUTURE

CAITLYN TAYLOR

LAWSON PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITING

Verse 1

Why did you take away their land?
Was that really part of the plan?
I don't know why they're treated so differently
How's this for an epiphany?

Chorus

We are all the same
(We all have names)
We all have blood in our veins
This is their home
(it always has been)
Our voices, our future.

Verse 2

I am on your side
it's not OK or fine
Things will change
I don't want you to feel like you're
in a cage
I just want you to be free
So just listen to me

Bridge

We need to hear our Indigenous
leaders
When they say...

Chorus

We are all the same
(We all have names)
We all have blood in our veins
This is their home
(it always has been)
Our voices, our future.
Our voices, our future.

I wrote this song to attempt to explain how strongly I feel about Indigenous Australians right to an equal voice in our community and government. My song explores reasons why our Nation's First people should have a strong voice in Australia. The lyrics of my song have the words *Our Voices, Our Future*.

Reconciliation means... Creating good relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and opening a dialogue to discuss difficult issues that need to be addressed in our communities such as racism and discrimination. Open and honest conversations about what is wrong, what is right and how to learn from our mistakes and make our present better than our past.



POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

FRANO HIRST

ELLISON PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITING

Dear Frano,

I've decided to write to you to tell you all the good things that have happened in the past 2 years. Number one, we now completely accept that Aboriginal people were the first Australians and we treat them with utter respect.

We've also stopped cutting down so much of the land and only take what we need. We've also stopped greenhouse gases and are using sustainable fuel. The Great Barrier Reef is saved as well, and we have an Aboriginal woman as PM. All in all its so much better now.

From, Frano

My story/letter relates to reconciliation because in my Australia we've accepted that Aboriginal people are the First Australians and we respect them highly. It relates to *Our Voices, Our Future* because kids used their voices to get to my Australia. I was able to be my character because the Australia I created is what I would really like to happen, so I can relate to my character.

Reconciliation means... I can be accepted and an understanding of Indigenous people.

A collaborative work and a collaborative effort. The artworks are about showing how having a voice can change our future. Voicing our concerns will help with reconciliation. We hope to have a sparkling future and this is why we used glitter and sequins.

Reconciliation means... To work together to restore relationships between individuals and cultures.

WULGUL-ORA (ONE PEOPLE)

SUMMER LOCKWOOD

MANLY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW
PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITING

Dear Friend

Warami
Something soul-numbingly
bone-achingly
terrible
happened to me
this year
I have been trying to
make sense
of it
But
it
just
doesn't
It made me
think
that while this
Truly
Terrible
Thing
Happened
Otherwise
My life has been
Really
Very
Good

In the scheme of things
I'm pretty
Lucky
I have
My family
A
House
Ipad
Iphone
Friends
School
Opportunities

I know where I came from
and
mostly
where I'm going
and
even when I don't I can

talk
about it because
I have
My words
My voice
I can
Do
Whatever
I want to
And I will
One
Day
All that made me
Think
About
You
I don't know
What your
Life
Is like
But
I want you to know
That I know
Things have not
been easy
For you
You were
Displaced
Your land
Taken
Your family
Stolen
Your stories
Culture
Traditions
Lost
Your language
Forbidden
And forgotten
Your Voice
Silenced
I wonder
How I can help you
So I try
to learn

A few things
Tumbalong
Pirrara
Girra Girra
I have visited
Some of
Your
Special places
Where I felt
The spirit of your
Country
And
It
Moved
me

Dear Sister
Warami Djurumin
I'm sorry
About the
Terrible
Thing
That happened
Thank you
For trying to understand
We have been here
Sixty thousand years
But we have less
Now
Than we did
Then

Barani we had
Our families
Our land
Our voices
We used to
Walk in the footsteps of our ancestors
Speak our language
Have our dreaming
But now we
Are powerless
Voiceless
On paper
We
Do
Not
Even
Exist
Djurumin you can help us
We seek
Relief
From our
Powerlessness
Recognition

Of our existence
The ability to have
A say
In our own future
To be
Reunited
With what
We
have
Lost
It is time for
Makarrata
For us to reclaim
What we lost
And share it with you
Then
We will stand tall
In both worlds
You are welcome on our journey

Dear Friend
I will join you
On the
Road to Makarrata
We will stand
Side
By
Side
Together
Our voices
Will be heard
And you will tell
me
Why my local
Beach is
Called
Kay-Ye-My
You
Will show
Me
Where the walumil
Hide in
The harbour
And why the Burumerring
Circle over
North Head
We will go to school
Together
We will be Mittigar
And we will both
Learn
Your language
And your dreaming

You will tell me
Your stories
In your language
And we will
Both understand
There will be
Another
Vote
The most
Successful
Ever
And you will
Be
Recognised
In the constitution
Your names will
Be written
On our

Maps
And
Our Signs
For
Everyone
To See
Our
Daughters
Will
Be
Neighbours
Their voices
Will
Be
Heard
They will be
One people
Wugul-ora

Wugul-ora is a contemplation of reconciliation. It considers what our First People lost as a consequence of colonisation and how this can be addressed. It envisages a bold future where Makarrata is achieved.

The poem relates to the theme *Our Voices, Our Future* on several levels. Each character has their own voice and talks about their past, present and hopes for the future. The voices belong to young people and show a desire to create a future where Indigenous culture is recognised as something that can help us better understand our environment and society.

The use of free-form verse letters allowed me to explore the theme from different perspectives. I used my own recent experience as a starting point to share my thoughts on loss, reconciliation and hopes for the future. I then imagined how an Aboriginal girl might respond.

I took inspiration from the *Uluru Statement From the Heart* and *Bayala*, an Indigenous language workshop I attended.

The style lets the characters speak from the heart and allows key words to stand out. I have chosen a Gadigal title Wulgul-ora, meaning one people, to teach readers a word from my local Aboriginal language.

Reconciliation means... Recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have continuously inhabited Australia for over 60,000 years and have a special connection to the land. It also involves acknowledging that the rights of the First People have been violated and they have been treated unfairly and inhumanely. Reconciliation involves learning from the past as we move into the future so that we do not repeat our mistakes. We must treat the First people with the respect and dignity they deserve and do all we can to restore what was taken from them.



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