## SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2019 SPEAKING AND LISTENING FROM THE HEART

## **EXHIBITION CATALOGUE**





## MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS





#### 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. In 2019 we are celebrating 10 years of the Schools Reconciliation Challenge (SRC)! For 10 years Reconciliation NSW has been engaging young people and schools in reconciliation.

Our theme this year, *Speaking and Listening from the Heart* 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 inspired by the contribution these young people, from many different backgrounds, make to reconciliation with their talent and insight.

We thank each and every school, teacher, principal, parent and student who has taken part, guided and supported students and each other. It is thanks to their dedication that the SRC continues to grow each year. We are grateful for their hard work and commitment in ensuring that schools are key contributors to reconciliation processes.

In 2019 we received 415 art and writing entries from students across NSW and the ACT, each reflecting the theme and their perspectives on Australia's ongoing reconciliation journey. It is a privilege to see the depth of engagement, insight and commitment to reconciliation in action that students demonstrate through their art and writing entries.

The quality of the art and writing entries we received made the selection process for the exhibition 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, Kirli Saunders, Jane Waters, Annie Tennant, Yvette Poshoglian and Fiona Britton for their time and expertise in selecting this year's entries.

A big thank you to SRC partner Red Room Poetry for the provision of writing workshops available free to all schools participating in the SRC. This year 37 schools and 1204 students across NSW and the ACT participated in workshops facilitated by inspiring poet Kirli Saunders, a proud Gunai woman with ties to the Yuin, Gundungurra, Gadigal and Birripi people, and author/ educator Yvette Poshoglian. These workshops were supported by the NSW Department of Education Arts Unit and video conferencing via DART Connections. The workshops inspired and supported students to develop their own skills as poets, writers and artists.

In 2019 we are also delighted to have partnered with Wingaru Education to deliver a simultaneous online classroom experience for teachers and students with easy and accessible cultural content. This resource was accessed by 438 schools nationally throughout National Reconciliation Week.

Our thanks go to all our partners in this year's SRC: NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali, Lendlease, National Trust, Red Room Poetry, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, National Gallery of Australia, Education Directorate ACT Government, Wingaru Education, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, International Towers, Magabala Books, Hardie Grant and Scholastic.

This year the SRC was managed by Reconciliation NSW's Danielle Cooper and Thea Butler. Thank you also to Alison Faure-Brac, Executive Director and Reconciliation NSW's Management Committee: Jody Broun, Alison Whittaker, Carol Vale, Annie Tennant, Deborah Soler and Sophie Mouritsen.

We would also like to thank Summer May Finlay, Ashlee Kearney, Kristina McKinlay, Jenny Tanner, Cindy Fu and Beth Crawford who generously contributed their skills and enthusiasm to the SRC this year.

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 more just and equitable Australia for all of us.

Reconciliation in education is a key focus for Reconciliation NSW. We are proud of our partnership with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program to support all schools and early learning services in NSW to foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. Narragunnawali's online platform is free to access and provides practical ways to introduce meaningful reconciliation initiatives in the classroom, around the school and with the community. Through the Narragunnawali platform, schools and early learning services can develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and teachers and educators can access professional learning and curriculum resources to support the implementation of reconciliation initiatives.

We encourage you to join us for the 2020 SRC at <u>www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge</u>. 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 is also gives students inspiration for their own art and writing expression through the galleries of past entries.

Congratulations to all those students and schools whose works have been selected for this year's exhibition!

Manker,

**Lindon Coombes** Indigenous Co-Chair

Cecilia Anthony // Non-Indigenous Co-Chair



#### FOREWORD FROM MINISTER MITCHELL

The 2019 Schools Reconciliation Challenge Exhibition Catalogue showcases school students' vision 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 Education and Early Childhood Learning, I was delighted to be asked to provide a foreword for this catalogue. 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, *Speaking and Listening from the Heart*, encourages students to be inspired about learning, sharing and growing together. To listen from the heart is to pay respect for the guidance of the voices of others - family, Elders, peers, teachers and communities. Listening from the heart asks us to hear the words, feel the feelings and see through the eyes of others.

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

#### The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning



#### FOREWORD FROM MINISTER BERRY

The annual Schools Reconciliation Challenge is an important event for bringing together students, schools and local communities to learn more about our shared history and the reconciliation journey we are all on.

This year more than 1500 students from across NSW and the ACT engaged with the theme *Speaking and Listening from the Heart* to create a range of inspiring and thoughtprovoking art and writing works including paintings, mixed media works, metal works, stories, poetry and more.

I am happy that students had the opportunity to foster their appreciation for the diversity and richness of Indigenous culture through special workshops offered by the National Gallery of Australia. Students worked with Luritja artist Kayannie Denigan and National Gallery of Australia Educators to create visual and written responses to the theme *Speaking and Listening from the Heart*. This catalogue showcases that work and much more.

I congratulate all participants in this year's challenge and look forward to continuing our reconciliation journey together.

#### Yvette Berry MLA

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

# P R I M A R Y S C H O O L

A R T



#### SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AND EXEMPLARY ARTWORK OVERALL

LEICHHARDT PUBLIC SCHOOL



## ROAD TO ULURU

## KEELA CALLAN

Reconciliation means...

To say sorry for what sadness we have done. It also means to take action on what we have done wrong and fix it. In summary, to say sorry for we have done in history and take a stand.

LANDSCAPE OF LOVE AND ART

#### RUBY CALOV Reconciliation means...

Acknowledge what has happened in the past and that we will move together as one in trust, justice, freedom and equality.



## LET US GROW

#### RUBY-ROSE THOMSON-TAPP

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation means to acknowledge the past and Australia's wrong doings. To turn over a new chapter in Australia's history and make amends. To learn, educate and grow together.



## THE RIVER OF A NEW START

#### ADDISON JENKINS

#### Reconciliation means...

To me reconciliation means respecting and acknowledging that Aboriginal people were originally here and recognising the pain that was caused.



## THE MIDDLE

FLYNN CARLE

**Reconciliation means...** To be equal and treat people

of all races equally.



## YOUR COUNTRY

#### OLIVER CARLE

#### Reconciliation means...

To acknowledge the past and to move forward and celebrate this moment.

#### LEICHHARDT PUBLIC SCHOOL - ARTIST STATEMENTS

#### ROAD TO ULURU KEELA CALLAN

My artwork is about going and experiencing the amazing views of Uluru. It is also about realising how beautiful Uluru is. My artwork relates to reconciliation because Uluru represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land. I also added some trees to represent how wonderful the land is. The artwork relates to Speaking and Listening from the Heart because Uluru stands as the heart. How? Because Uluru is the heart of Australia and listens to the trees and the earth. How Uluru speaks is another question, it speaks by letting everyone know that it is there.

#### LANDSCAPE OF LOVE AND ART RUBY CALOV

My artwork is about acknowledging Indigenous Australian ways to live off the environment, and the happiness, culture and history they bring for all Australians. It also displays the Aboriginal Flag which represent 3 significant parts and colours of their culture as well as displaying the beauty of an Australian landscape, cared for by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. My artwork relates to reconciliation because it shows an Aboriginal family living around some of Australia's environment and that they are still enjoying and using Indigenous ways of living. I believe that my artwork speaks deeply from the heart because I have always been passionate about justice and freedom for the Aboriginal people. Therefore, my artwork is speaking and displaying from my heart.

#### LET US GROW

#### RUBY-ROSE THOMSON-TAPP

I made "Let Us Grow" based off of the land the Indigenous people took care of. I drew the river to resemble Australia washing off the negativity, severe cruelty and ignorance we carried for too long. I drew the plants to shelter us and the animals from any hatred and to show that together, like the plants we can grow. We can grow, learn and educate others. I hope my artwork can raise awareness and contribute to reconciliation.

#### THE RIVER OF A NEW START ADDISON JENKINS

My artwork is about how Country is was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land. I included the traditional Aboriginal dots to recognise the pain they went through and how brave they were. The land we live, breath and stand on today will always be Aboriginal peoples' land. The sun represents the life that it's giving to all the plants and other living creatures. We should respect living on the land of the Wongal, Gadigal and Birrabirragal people of the Eora nation.

#### THE MIDDLE Flynn carle

We speak, listen, touch and feel from the heart, the Aboriginal spirits run through the trees and their legacies run through the bushes the English run through the paths and destroy the land, but instead of fighting let's reconcile and meet in the middle.

#### YOUR COUNTRY OLIVER CARLE

My artwork represents a few hours before the white people came and destroyed your country so it's cherishing your last couple of hours with your beautiful land. It relates to reconciliation by looking at the past and a way to move forward.

#### IN THE NIGHT SKY AILEE SPENCE

My artwork is at night and some people are asleep and the river is rushing down. All creatures are asleep in the bushes and the stars are out. Everyone is sharing and telling stories.

#### WHEN THE RIVER FLOWS AWAY

#### IVY OMODEI

My artwork is called "When the River Flows Away". It shows the Aboriginal land and that the Aboriginal people were here before us. My artwork relates to reconciliation because it shows how beautiful the land was before it was taken over. My title represents how the Aboriginal people were washed away when their land was taken over. Let's all come together as one.

### SPRING HAS ARRIVED

#### SOPHIE GAN

My artwork is about spring. Spring has arrived. My artwork is talking about how spring has arrived, and everybody is respecting nature and building around the forest, and not destroying nature to build. My artwork relates to reconciliation because everyone is respecting each other.

#### IN THE NIGHT SKY ELIZA KIM-RUC

My artwork represents Water, Sky and Land because together we are one, one amazing world and community.

## THE AFTERLIFE OF THE SERPENT ALICE CALOV

My artwork is about after the death of the serpent. When the serpent passed away the colours on it exploded which created life. It relates to the theme of speaking and listening from the heart by showing where you come from and who you truly are.

## SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

#### MILLA HENDRY

My artwork is about Aboriginal land being untouched by white people thousands of years ago and how lush the land was before it was invaded. My artwork relates to reconciliation because it shows the spirits of the land being thankful of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people caring for the land. We should be thankful and together we must heal these historical wounds to form a unified future. My artwork relates to the theme speaking and listening from the heart by the land speaking to the sky and being happy and grateful of the Aboriginal people.



## IN THE NIGHT SKY

#### AILEE SPENCE

**Reconciliation means...** To forgive and to move forward together.



## WHEN THE RIVER FLOWS AWAY

#### IVY OMODEI

#### Reconciliation means...

Coming together as one, not separating into two. Equal is all we need.



## SPRING HAS ARRIVED

#### SOPHIE GAN

Reconciliation means... Caring for everyone, forgiving others, respecting different people and saying sorry to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



## IN THE NIGHT SKY

#### ELIZA KIM-RUC

**Reconciliation means...** Forgiving, caring and appreciating everybody.



## THE AFTERLIFE OF THE SERPENT

ALICE CALOV

**Reconciliation means...** We come together as a community and do it together.



## SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

#### MILLA HENDRY

#### Reconciliation means...

Being able to acknowledge the past and make Australia a welcoming and beautiful country step by step.



## YELLAMUNDI THE STORYTELLOR

#### JASMINE TRUSKETT-JONES WIDEVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL OOSHC

My artwork tells the story of the shared, and not always good, history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. I wanted to acknowledge the bad bits of our past, but also look with hope towards a better shared future. To me, this is what Reconciliation is all about.

I included a silhouette of myself in the artwork and left it white to represent my own non-Indigenous background. Against the Aboriginal flag in the background I think the colour is really symbolic. I then filled the silhouette with words and phrases which showed how I felt and why I thought it was important. I also gave myself a heart and a brain, because without love, dreams and thoughts, words don't really mean anything.

I think you have to speak and listen with your heart and your mind for your dreams to come true.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation means acknowledging the past and looking towards a fantastic shared future.



## THE NATURE OF LOVE

#### TARA DEVROOME OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

My artwork is about love. My artwork relates to reconciliation as the doves symbolise love and peace. It relates to '*Speaking and Listening from the Heart*' because love is an emotion that comes from the heart.

#### Reconciliation means...

Forgiving each other and loving each other for who we are.



## WARMTH OF THE LAND

#### EMMA PENG LINDFIELD EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Red represents the warmth of the people; blue represents how people are not caring about the lives of Aboriginal people. The words *"Speaking and Listening from the Heart"* formed a large heart around the painting that is in the style of Hermannsburg art, a kind of Aboriginal art, a bit like water colour painting.

The red heart at the top right-hand corner represents that there are people in the cold-hearted crowd that care about the lives of the Aboriginal people. Blue not only can represent the coldness of the crowd, it can also be a colour of peace. So the blue bird on the letter 'R' and the letter 'F' represents peace between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people.

#### Reconciliation means...

To me, reconciliation means to be friendly to someone again. It sounds easy to do, but it is one of the hardest things for humans. We need to work on being friendly to other people, because they will pay the same respect to us if we respect them.



## UNTITLED

#### ISAAC ENGLAND

#### RICHARDSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

My artwork is of my hand with the things that are important to me. I value them. These are home, together, family, peace, and love. I also have these here because these are the values that are important when working towards reconciliation. I also chose these colours because they are Aboriginal colours.



## ABORIGINAL ACCEPTANCE

#### ZOE BERTRAM

ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The artwork is about acceptance of Aboriginal people as equals.

Aboriginal people would protest and then get a fine and then keep protesting because they thought it was important to keep going. That's a strong feeling and that feeling must come from the heart.

After all the paperwork was done and laws were changed the government reconciled and said "sorry, forgive me".

#### Reconciliation means...

To ask for forgiveness.

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



## MANDAWUY YUNUPINGU

#### MIA VON SCHULENBURG BLAXLAND HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about a significant Aboriginal pop singer and songwriter, Mandawuy Yunupingu. Mandawuy sung about Aboriginal rights and "building bridges of understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people." His music was inspiring to many and he became a voice for people to listen to. He represents someone who truly spoke from the heart.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation means to me speaking nothing but the truth, love and forgiveness, coming together.



## ULURU

#### AMBER CARTER

BLAXLAND HIGH SCHOOL

This artwork is about preserving the natural state of Uluru. It is about the significance of this part of Aboriginal history in people's lives. Uluru is such a significant site in terms of cultural history and storytelling. I wanted to reflect and represent this as a symbol for reconciliation. As we change the name of this sacred site to reflect and move forward, listening to Aboriginal perspectives and our respect for their voice.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation is the action of making one belief or view compatible with another.



## A DIFFERENT VOICE

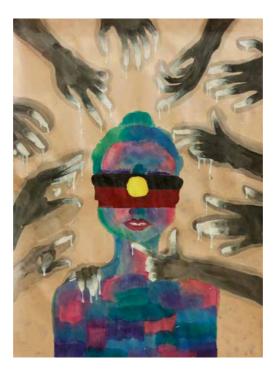
#### ANGELIQUE DHARMA

MACQUARIE FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about how many hearts beat a different song, a different tune, different voices. It relates to reconciliation as everything represents a different bit. My artwork relates to speaking and listening from the heart because it contains a heartbeat and represents a voice, treaty and truth.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation is to build a unified trust and an important link of respect between the communities of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



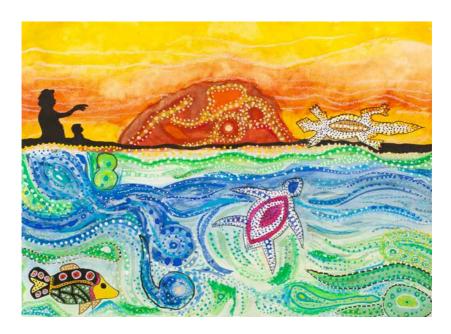
## WHITE WASHED

## ASHLEY BULSARA

My artwork addresses how the Europeans tried to change Aboriginal peoples' culture and lives and how they tried to take away their freedom and beliefs. I believe a very important part of reconciliation is recognising what Aboriginal people have been put through. I want my artwork to make sure that people do not ignore or push aside what has previously happened. To me, '*Speaking and Listening from the Heart*' is all about listening to the stories being told by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation is about connecting and strengthening the bond between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people, and recognising and addressing what has happened in the past and trying to rebuild relationships between everyone.



## ALWAYS IN MY HEART

#### EVEY MCLAREN WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about Elders sharing stories with the younger generation. Stories of the past and a hope for the future. My artwork is connected to my personal story of my family and how the time has broken the stories but my culture has always been in my heart. Learning about my culture means my ancestors are telling truths and and my responsibility to listen from the heart. This brings hope for me and my future.

#### Reconciliation means...

Bringing peace while acknowledging the hurt and wrong doings from the past. Reconciliation means hope for the future.



## CRACKED BUT NOT BROKEN

## MAX HARRIS

WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

It's about how everyone could connect but that connection was cracked but not broken completely. The handprint represents that there was much more to Australian than just a few people. Reconciliation is about connection to nature, culture and each other. The pathways show that different cultures coming together and that's what should happen between white people and Aboriginal peoples. This is what I feel: WHITE MAN RUINED EVERYTHING, and in order for Australia to grow, Australia needs to listen as a country to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

#### Reconciliation means...

To me reconciliation means we can connect to everything in the past and to culture, which helps us to understand more moving forward.



## MEETING PLACE

#### CHAD FISHER BATHURST HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork has some Aboriginal symbols which mean meeting place, as well as animal tracks. Including the Aboriginal flag which is important to me as I am Aboriginal. I learnt these symbols at school. It's important for students to learn about these symbols because I feel proud to be Aboriginal and Aboriginal culture gains importance when we learn about it. Understanding helps the reconciliation process.

#### Reconciliation means...

Admitting past mistakes and saying sorry.



## PERSONAL GROWTH

#### LAUREN CHALKER WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about how our lives influence what we see and feel and how that represents us as individuals. My artwork is Australian flora sprouting out of a human heart. It represents how Australia's natural landscape is cherished by the ones that live on the land, including Aboriginal peoples. This is how it relates to reconciliation. Everyone has the right to love what they wish to, no matter your race, gender or upbringing. Anyone can appreciate the land they live on and truly feel proud of who they are and where they live. It relates to the theme as it represents how our senses help us create love by communicating about cultures and taking in that information to overall really know what you represent as a valuable human being on this Earth.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation is bringing Aboriginal peoples and other Australians together. It means being kind and caring for each other and treating everyone equally. Its working together to overcome division.



## PEACE BETWEEN

#### REMMY THORNE

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about Indigenous people and white people coming together to create peace and harmony. The white people are reaching out for the Indigenous man to reconnect and say sorry. It relates to the theme because the people are changing their ways and finally listening. It also relates to reconciliation by being about the races becoming one.

#### Reconciliation means...

Everyone coming together, and peace between all people, no matter their race, colour etc.



## FUTURE HOLDS OUR NATION

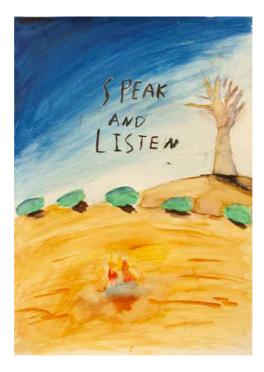
#### AMELIE DAVIDSON

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about coming together as a community to build our relationships with one another. This relates to reconciliation because we are working together as a team to support each other as friends. My artwork relates to speaking and listening from the heart because I have expressed my ideas with Australia in the middle with the Aboriginal flag which supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. With the hands surrounding Australia building up friendships with one another and respecting each other.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation is about building relationships, respect, and trust between one another for our future and for our nation.



## SPEAK AND LISTEN

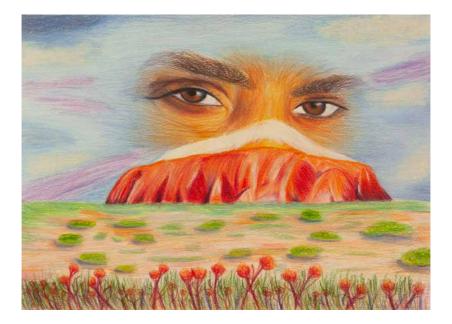
#### FRANCESCO ROBINS

NEWTOWN PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork is about Australia before colonisation. This artwork shows what the land was like for Aboriginal people and how beautiful it was. Through this artwork, I hope you can imagine sitting next to the warm campfire and looking out to the clear sky, not a plane or skyscraper to be seen. Through this artwork I hope that we are inspired to learn about the culture and nature of Aboriginal Australia as I believe it is important to not only look to the future but examine the past as well, because without the past there would be no future.

#### Reconciliation means...

Understanding



## KATA TJUTA - SPIRIT OF OUR EARTH

#### MAYA BARROS

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

Uluru is the heart of Australia and the heart of Aboriginal culture. Uluru is an important part of Aboriginal tradition. They are the rightful owners of the landmark and Aboriginal cultures, the people and Uluru deserve respect. My artwork represents the Aboriginal elders watching over Uluru and keeping the landmark safe. Over many years of speaking and listening the Aboriginal people finally regained the rights of Uluru. Uluru is the heart of Australia and brings us all, no matter what nationality, closer together.

#### Reconciliation means...

To bring together two or more different views or beliefs to live in harmony and peace.



## HARMONISATION

#### LILI BARAN

WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork reflects on an Aboriginal Elder, sharing their wisdom with a younger person. The Elder is sharing his past experiences, knowledge and thoughts, and not speaking from other people's words. This is how my artwork relates to the theme: *"Speaking and Listening from the Heart"*. The girl is listening closely to every word, applying it to her own individual life, eventually passing it down for generations to come. My artwork; "Harmonisation" relates to reconciliation because the Elder is restoring friendly relations with the young person.

#### Reconciliation means...

Harmonisation. Acknowledging the things that have happened in the past, and moving forward together.

## COLLABORATIONS



## SOMETHING TO SHARE

EMILY HEWITT, ELOISE JONES, MILES SOUTHBY, ALGHY ALGHYFARI, HARRY BACON, KATO BARR, AALEYAH CROSS, TYLER GASKILL, EMIR KALKAN, XAVIER MALLETT, VALERIE MILNE, TOBIAS MUDALIAR, AKIRAH ROGERS, SHYLAH ROGERS MCBRIDE, ALEXANDER THOMSON, GABRIEL TONGA DENIS, ASHER CASTRO, LA'AULI HAMILTON, JAYDEN ROGERS

#### NORTH AINSLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our artwork is about making connections with nature, culture and each other. It is also about connecting beyond ourselves and sharing our experience as part of our reconciliation journey. As a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous friends we were invited to come with our families and our teacher to the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) to make artworks with Luritja artist Kayannie Denigan. At the NGA, Shane Nelson, a proud Wiradjuri & Walgalu man welcomed us and gave an acknowledgement of country. He asked us to look and to feel what touched our hearts. We shared with each other what moved us. Kayannie showed us how to make beautiful art leaves like she does out of copper and aluminium. She asked us to look closely at the real leaves we had collected for inspiration. As we started to make leaves we decided to make enough to give to people who are family to us. We realised that sharing what we made together was exciting. We hope these photos from this special day will help grow conversations from your heart about action for reconciliation.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation means many things. It is learning about culture and recognising the traditional custodians of the land. It is knowing the truth about past events; some that are terrible and painful, and some that are inspiring. It is listening to our hearts and working together to build a positive future.



## OUR PLACE OUR DESTINY

MIA BYRNE, CHARLIE CALLAGHAN, ISABELLA CARLSON, WILL CHARLES, ISHBEL COLLINS, HAMISH FORBES, ISABELLA GONZALEZ, JASMINE KAMERMAN, YEDAM LEE, BEN LOZEVSKI, KAITLYN MCMAHON, SERAPHINE MCNAMARA, SERENA MORETTI, DANIEL MUMFORD, JONATHAN OLEY, BADEN PEARSE, LUCINDA RAEBURN, MARINA RAGHEB, LEO SARANTZOUKLIS, HAWA SAVAGE, MATEJA SCEKIC, LINCOLN SCHOLES, LEILA SCULLY, HUGH SINCLAIR, COOPER TANNOCK, ZOE THURSTON, OLIVIA VINCENT DELGADO, JESSICA WALLIS, PHILLIP WEATHERALL

#### ORANGE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The artwork we created depicts a central figure who has been 'crowned' with the mighty and ancient structure that is Uluru. He/She is flanked by dates and words which we considered integral to the 'Uluru Statement from The Heart'. This figure is shouting to be heard and their powerful message radiates forth from them. But this is a message of hope, of peace and love for all Australians, as shown by the heart symbols in their eyes. The stripes on the face symbolises the strength of these cultural warriors, who have never surrendered in their attempts to create a true and lasting voice for generations of their people.

#### Reconciliation means...

Being honest about Australian history post-1788 and owning up to the injustices of the past. 'Closing the gap' once and for all and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be the creators of their own destiny. Creating a more united and powerful Australian nation through a shared vision and pathway.



## SPEAK YOUR TRUTH AND LISTEN CAREFULLY

#### RAMI ABD AL RAHMAN, YAHYA EL-CHAMI, SABRINA HEQEL, JANA ZAATITI, JOURI OUDTALLAH, MUHANAD ALTAQ, KARINYA DENNIS, YASMIN NAJJAR, NICHOLAS RANIGA

#### CHULLORA PUBLIC SCHOOL

We better understand the kind of positive future we want for everyone when we listen to others and learn about our history. We don't want to ever repeat the mistakes made in the past that caused so much hurt and damage. We spoke from our hearts and have been listening carefully to others to try to understand what is important to everyone. We created a word bank of feelings, ideas and hopes for a reconciled Australia that is fair for everybody. We used these words to create our portraits to represent inclusiveness, diversity, harmony, peace, caring and equality.

#### Reconciliation means...

Working together to make a better and fairer future for everybody. Making up for past mistakes, saying sorry and making positive change happen. Understanding each other and acting and speaking respectively.





# THE PAST INFORMING THE FUTURE MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL

#### TENT EMBASSY

ARTISTS:

- 1. RICKY HOLMES, REEF QUINTON, MARLY PRESTON, JAKE PRATT
- 2. WILLIAM REID, JAKE BELL, OSHA BAXTER, MARLIN BAYLEY, ETHAN WILSON-MITCHELL, ASHLEY WU-EDWARDS
- 3. RHIARNA HARDMAN, JADE PADMAN, SKY LEWIS, LA'AKEA HENSLER
- 4. JEMMAH SALTER, LILY WEISSEL
- 5. NIRUSHA DURWARD, CAMERON HIGHAM

Our artworks are about the Aboriginal Tent Embassy that was erected in 1972 on the lawns of Old Parliament House in Canberra, initially to protest against the government's refusal to recognise Aboriginal Land Rights. Forty seven years later Indigenous people still have no embassy, no treaty and few land rights. The tent embassy is considered an icon to the struggle, a tent to house refugees in their own country. "The fact that the embassy has been standing continually since 1992 is a testament to our determination to fight against all odds and the tyranny of the majority to gain that which is ours" - Michael Anderson.

#### Reconciliation means...

Building a bridge between different people from different cultures so they can live with peace and equality.

#### VINCENT LINGIARI

ARTISTS:

- 1. ALEX MORRISON, BRADLEY HOLMES-DAVIS
- 2. PIA BAIN, JAKE BELL, HARRISON CONNOLLY, ALEX COOK, OLIVIA STAFFORD, JARED STATHERS, FLEUR TAYLOR
- 3. KOUPER MILES, JORDON MCDONALD, HAYLEY GEORGE, MAX GARDNER, AIDEN JAY
- 4. SKYLA RYAN, NINA ROMALIS, ABIGAIL NORRIS, SOPHIE NORRIS
- 5. TYLER JONES, ZACHARY WATTAM

Our artworks are about Vincent Lingiari, the Gurindgji stockman who walked off "Wave Hill" station in protest against Lord Vestey's and the government's employment practices.

Vincent Lingiari was listening and speaking from the heart.

"We want to live on our land, our way"

The strike lasted eight years and paved the way for the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976. His victory over vast economic and political forces is one of the most outstanding achievements in the history of the struggle for recognition of Indigenous peoples of Australia.

#### FREEDOM RIDES

ARTISTS:

- 1. BEN TURNER-COLLINS, JESSE BUBEAR
- 2. LENA HENNEQUIN, CHARLOTTE WOOD
- 3. LEROY BEER, DUKE KOVACS, TAMARNI PARSONS-TERARE, BRAY THURLOW
- 4. AMELIA GRANT, LILLY-GRACE KEMP, TASHINDA KENNY, STEVIE MILLIKIN
- 5. FREYA STAFFORD, EMILY CABBAN, GOLDIE MCCARTHY, LAYLA DEGRAAF

Our artwork is about the 1965 Freedom Ride, how a group of Sydney university students went on tour of country towns in New South Wales to draw attention to the poor living conditions of Indigenous people and racial segregation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in contemporary Australia.

The Freedom Ride brought national and international attention to the issue of racial discrimination and disadvantage suffered by Indigenous people. The Freedom Ride raised the public's consciousness about racism and the greater need for equality.



### SPEAKING AND LISTENING FROM THE HEART

CASPIAN BEECHING, AVA CASTLE, TOBIAS CORLETT, RUBY DEREN, JASON DOULIS, OLIVER GOLD, RUBY KERIN, LUKE KUZMANOSKI, MANIHA MAHMOOD, MITCHELL PERKINS, SIENNA REEVES, JAY TYLER, LOWAN WALKER, NEVAEH CHAPELLI, FLYNN GARVIN, KARLO SAFARIC, JAMYANG SHERAP, BETSY SLINGER, BAILEIGH SMITH, MATTIS TSCHIERSCHKE, JONAH WILSON, MOHAMED ABBAS, SAMMY BARBARO, LUCAS CARRICK, HARRISON CASTLE, LILY COUTER, LOGAN FITZPATRICK, ELSIE GEORGIEVSKI, DEAN HELMERS, CHARLOTTE HOLGATE, CHARLIE HOWARD, BAILEY JONES, EVAN KOSTESIC, SHANTELLE MALONEY, JOSEPH PATERSON, SOPHIE PRICE, KEELIA WATSON, HUON WHITE

#### GIRALANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our 3/4/5 collaborative artwork is inspired by the 2019 NAIDOC theme 'Voice, Treaty, Truth'. For voice, we included William Cooper who inspired generations of activists working for justice for Indigenous Australians. His voice, along with many others are the key to creating meaningful change. We used eucalyptus leaves to write powerful words in English and Ngunnawal language that promotes reconciliation. Treaty is represented through the shaking of hands in friendship, respect and understanding. The last panel is grounded in the Truth. The truths of our history and how this make meaningful steps on our ongoing journey to reconciled Australia.

#### Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation means respecting one another and finding a way to grow and learn together for a better future.



## HEART SUN

## YANNA ANDERSON-HUGHES, POPPY NEWMAN, JAMES CAYZER

#### KATOOMBA NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Our artwork represents our collaboration as artists to celebrate reconciliation. The three figures represent all of humankind. Their hands are raised to form heart shapes. We speak and listen from our hearts. The sun shines brightly as we come together at this special and respectful time.

#### Reconciliation means...

A time to come together as Australians to learn about our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. A time to come together to understand, value and respect each other.

#### Ρ R Μ A R S Η 0 0 L C ТІ Ν R G

## OUR STORY

#### TEARIA TEAIWA-MORTIMER

ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Our Story

My mother was screaming, my father was shouting and I was crying in fear.

You took me away and raised me your way, you didn't even care that my soul hurt, or that everyday I had tears.

You taught me your language and religion and didn't let me be myself.

And do you know why you did this? Because all you were about was title, money and wealth.

You thought you were doing the right thing, thinking my people weren't raising us right.

Well you weren't, and for years you didn't let us live upon our land and killed everybody, who put up a fight.

You killed everyone who stood in your way, and didn't stop until the war was won.

You lived to conquer everything the opposite of our symbol, red, black and the sun.

You took me away from my family and killed all of my friends.

And to people who stood up to you, your cruelty didn't end.

You brought animals that killed the ones that were here first.

You introduced sickness that weren't used to, like chicken pox, small pox and all the worst.

You destroyed the land, polluted the earth, cut down the trees and didn't care that we were hurt.

When we were taken captive, you made us your slaves and treated us like dirt.

One day I decided to run from camp for I was sure I would die of hunger soon.

I ran and ran for days and days with my only source of light, the moon. No one to comfort me, my friends and parents all dead.

How I wish to have my mother's warmth while she tucks me into bed.

I cried myself to sleep each night that week.

I was all alone but then I get the courage to speak.

Finally after 70 years you said sorry and admitted what you had done.

You let us be ourselves again as equals, and as one.

My strong connection to the land is what kept me alive.

We are grateful that you apologised to us and now our culture thrives.

My mother was screamin, my father was shouting, I never saw my friends again.

Finally you notice, finally you care. Still, everyone remembers what you did when I was ten.

#### Reconciliation means...

We are one. We need to acknowledge what has happened and say sorry. In order to be happy we need to love and support each other always.



## DEPTH

#### ANNA SULAN

LEICHHARDT PUBLIC SCHOOL

Stillness, in the cool deep water. Colour, in the burning sky. Plants full of life, the earths only daughter. Tragedy has struck this land. Their loss, their families are broken beyond repair. We have broken the band of friendship, as the boat leaves the bay. Please, just accept our apologies.

#### Reconciliation means...

To be one, together. To make amends for the mistakes we have made. To say sorry.

# HIGH SCHOOL WRITING

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM THE HEART

#### SUMMER LOCKWOOD

MACKELLAR GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

#### Acknowledgment from the Heart

From my heart, I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional owners of this land upon which we are privileged to live, learn and thrive.

I recognise that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have an ancient and sacred culture and connection to this land that goes back many tens of thousands of years and will continue for many millennia to come.

I pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and to the ancestors, whose spirits flow through this country and live on in the hearts and souls of their descendants.

For an eternity, this vast and abundant land has been home to the Gadigal people. Their stories are carved into the craggy headlands, they echo through the salty air and flood the shores with the crash of every wave and the sweep of each tide. Their history is in every grain of sand on the multitude of beaches and gazes out of the glassy rock pools that line the coast.

Much of your culture was lost, forgotten, destroyed when your language was banned and your connection to country severed by our actions. The stories that remain are filled with violence, blood, terror and heartbreak. Your people, Bennelong, Colebee, Arabanoo and Pemulwuy, were taken. Your children were stolen.

I feel your isolation, descrimination and alienation. Your experiences fill my soul with sorrow and grief. Your story speaks to me and I listen with an open heart because we share an unassailable connection to this land.

I believe that your hearts will hear my story and understand my connection to this land. With my family, I spent many days exploring your middens, beaches, creeks, secret watrerholes and mudflats of the Hawksbury River, the mighty Deerubin that borders the Eora Nation in the north. Four of us: Biyanga, Wiyanga, Babana and me. We made our memories and traditions. Carefree and curious I enjoyed the freedom of childhood, until Biyanga, my father, was taken from me.

Now, my stories and memories live in the seashells that appear on the sandy shores as the tide recedes, they sway in the leaves of the gurrun Durung and they flail about with tiny schools of flashing silverfish beyond the shore. My father was happiest when he was outside, immersed in nature and enjoying the abundances of the land and waterways. That is how and where I remember him.

Like you, my country connects me to the one I have lost and I feel his spirit flowing through the land and water. I feel your pain and know your devastation. Like you, I cherish the land and the connection it provides with our past and our future.

With my heart I hear you and with your words I acknowledge and greet you Mittigar, Budjari Gamarruwa.

#### Reconciliation means....

Reconciliation means formally acknowledging the role and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian history and society both before and after colonisation so that Australia can move into the future as one nation.

JUDGES Choice

## VANISHED KINDNESS

#### KIERA LOVELOCK Korowal school

In silent solitude,	Ran amok.
The Primeval One stands, In a forest,	Trampling any young plants who got in their way, The time when it wasn't lonely.
Of shifting sands.	Years have passed since then,
It's only friend is the Man in the Moon,	Those joyous days,
Who sits in the skies of ink,	When seedlings grew strong and stood
In the darkest hour of the night,	proud, Beside their elders, Jostling for light. The Primeval One has grown old,
The time when shadows,	
Hold their wild parties.	
The Primeval One winds its roots.	Its roots long and its branches wide.
Deep into the dusty earth.	For thousands of years,
	It has watched the world change,
An unheard sigh,	Sea turning to sand. It stood by the sea once and the waves, Would tell stories of faraway lands,
Unfolds from deep within,	
As the Primeval One,	
Stretches its once-glossy leaves,	<b>v</b> .
To the sun.	In their gentle wishy-washy voices. All was right with the world, Until the coming of man.
In the day,	
It dreams,	
Of its seedling-hood,	

#### Reconciliation means....

When the big, scaly creatures,

Reconciliation is everyone understanding each other and what they have come from.

## SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IN 2019

Over 340 schools registered to participate in this year's Schools Reconciliation Challenge and we know they engaged with reconciliation in a range of ways, including online workshops, our online learning platform created with Wingaru for National Reconciliation Week, *All Together Now for Reconciliation*. Teachers and students utilised the Reconciliation timeline and accessed classroom lesson plans, activities and resources on the Schools Reconciliation Challenge website.

Many schools and students also took part in regional workshops and exhibition launches which incorporated art practice, singing, dancing, smoking ceremonies and Welcome to Country in Languages including Wiradjuri, Ngunnawal and Dhurug.

20 schools and 185 students are represented in this catalogue.

#### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Bathurst High School Blaxland High School Chullora Public School Giralang Primary School ACT Katoomba North Public School Korowal School Leichhardt Public School Lindfield East Public School Mackellar Girls High School Macquarie Fields High School Moruya High School Nepean Capa High School Newtown High School of Performing Arts North Ainslie Primary School ACT Orange Grove Public School Our Lady of the Nativity Primary School **Richardson Primary School ACT** YWCA Clubhouse ACT Rosary Primary School ACT Wideview Public School Winmalee High School

## OUR PARTNERS







NGA National Gallery of Australia



.....













16 Eveleigh Street Redfern NSW 2016

# schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au reconciliationnsw.org.au



© Reconciliation NSW Inc 2019

ABN 583759 527 94



In support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice