

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2021



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS



In 2021 we are celebrating our 12th Schools Reconciliation Challenge and our 24th year of Reconciliation NSW.

This year's theme, *Under One Sky: Yesterday, Today and Forever* has inspired primary and high school students from across NSW and the ACT, to look up at the sky and observe what they see, hear and feel around them. Using this inspiration they have created artwork, poetry and stories that showcase their understanding of reconciliation and engaging with First Nations astronomy.

For more than 65,000 years First Nations People have looked to the sky, stars, planets, Sun and Moon, to predict weather changes and tides, to navigate on land & water as well as to plan food gathering, hunting, trading and ceremony.

Looking up and reading the skies was, and still is, an important way to understand, interact with and develop connection to Country and know our place in the universe. The skies are also a source of magic, mystery and meaning told through dreaming stories of creation. Sharing stories under the stars is also a way of passing on Aboriginal lore and law to children, about family, traditions, culture and history.

We thank each and every school, teacher, principal, parent and student who has participated in the Schools Reconciliation Challenge for helping to guide and support students and each other. It is thanks to their dedication that the Schools Reconciliation Challenge continues to grow each year.

We are grateful for their hard work and commitment in ensuring that schools are key contributors to advancing reconciliation in our communities.

This year we received 495 art and writing entries from 697 students across NSW and the ACT. Over 15,200 students engaged with the Schools Reconciliation Challenge material, online, in classrooms and via live webinars, however, sadly due to COVID restrictions many schools were unable to access and submit their entries. Despite the limitations COVID placed on this year's event, it was incredible to see the creativity in all artworks and writings inspired by reconciliation and First Nations astronomy.

Participating as a judge this year was exciting. We were amazed by the talent and insight that went into each artwork and creative writing piece. Together with Aunty Joanne Selfe, Leslie Woodhouse (Darug), Jane Watters, Barb Dowse, Nicole Smede (Worimi) and Alison Whittaker (Gomeri), we made the difficult decision of selecting the 43 finalists. We found the quality of these works exceptional and we hope you agree. Congratulations to the 157 students who contributed to these artworks.

A big thank you to the team at MAAS & Sydney Observatory for hosting our Digital Campfire Webinar exploring First Nations astronomy. This webinar was facilitated by the inspiring Aunty Joanne Selfe and astrophysicist Luella Moore, enabled us to reach 94 classrooms and 2741 students across NSW and the ACT. The workshop highlighted *the age old classroom practice: Gathering around the campfire at night, to share stories.*

Our thanks go to all our partners and collaborators in this year's Schools Reconciliation Challenge: NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Reconciliation Australia,

Narragunnawali, Wingaru Education, National Trust NSW, International Towers, Magabala Books, Hardie Grant Books, Professor Ray Norris and Questacon.

This year the Schools Reconciliation Challenge was managed by Reconciliation NSW's Thea Butler and included the support of volunteers Madeleine Gerber, Clea Parker, Mary Carolan, Martin Johnston and Sharni Watson. Thank you also to Tristan Tipps-Webster, CEO Reconciliation NSW and the Board of Reconciliation NSW, Joshua Staines, Alison Whittaker, Nattalie Smith, Deborah Soler, Rowena Falzon and Dan Creasey.

Congratulations to all those students and schools whose works have been selected to form this year's exhibition! Look out for the exhibition at International Towers Barangaroo in 2022, in the foyers of Questacon and the regional tour coordinated by the National Trust NSW.

We encourage you to join us for the 2022 Schools Reconciliation Challenge, the theme will be announced in term 1.

Register at:
www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au.

Joshua Gilbert (Worimi)
Indigenous Co-Chair

Annie Tennant
Non-Indigenous Co-Chair

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Reconciliation NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of Country throughout NSW and the ACT and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and skies. We pay our respect to them and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.



FOREWORD FROM MINISTER DON HARWIN

For 12 years, through the Schools Reconciliation Challenge, NSW and ACT students have been creating art and writing that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's cultures, histories, languages, stories and the call for all Australians to participate in reconciliation.

The Challenge is an annual opportunity for teachers and students in stages 2-5 to learn and create in a culturally inclusive classroom.

The theme for this year's Schools Reconciliation Challenge is *Under One Sky: Yesterday, Today and Forever*.

This theme explores Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Astronomy. Looking up and reading the skies was, and still is, an important way to understand, interact with and develop connection to Country.

This year's 495 entries clearly demonstrate that the theme resonated with NSW students. I'd like to thank and congratulate all the students, teachers and schools who have participated.

The Challenge has also engaged more than 15,000 students through participation in online webinars and accessing the Schools Reconciliation Challenge website.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and reconciliation themes are important for creating a more just and equitable NSW, and the Challenge plays an important role in helping students connect with this personally. Congratulations to all entrants and their teachers.

The Hon. Don Harwin MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



FOREWORD FROM MINISTER SARAH MITCHELL

The 2021 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.

Warmest congratulations to all the students who took part in the Challenge.

The theme for this year, *Under One Sky: Yesterday, Today and Forever*, explores Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander astronomy and the transfer of knowledge through sharing stories. This is particularly pertinent to me as Education Minister, because the sharing of stories is a timeless tradition of education.

Under One Sky should resonate for all our schools as places to learn, play and grow. Together, students learn about the past, the present and acquire the skills to navigate their future.

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

COLLABORATIVE ART

Be proud of your connections to Country through your knowledge of the land, sea and sky, remember it is all our job to protect and Heal Country.

Aunty Joanne Selfe Gadigal



ONE SKY FOREVER AND ALWAYS

CLASS 5/6S

KINGS LANGLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Our artwork represents the many different skies in Australia. The lorikeets represent our school community as we have many rainbow lorikeets in our area. The dotted leaves on the outside represent the Sun. The different quadrants represent the different skies in Australia demonstrating that no matter where we live in Australia that we can all live under one sky, yesterday, today and forever as long as we work hard together. Our artwork also represents our unique Acknowledgement of Country. In the current climate that we live in, in NSW our artwork shows that we can still work together no matter where we are in Australia.

Reconciliation means...

That we should be working together to build respect and trust between First Nations people and the broader Australian community. We should be standing strong to build a better, stronger, happier nation!





EMU IN THE SKY

PHOEBE, ZOE, EMILY, LUCY, SOPHIA, LOUISE, ESSIE, POPPY, ALEXANDER, ARATO, AYANO, SIENNA, AIDAN, MATTHE, MAHLI, DUNCAN, DAISY, CHARLOTTE, KOKOHA, JACK, ROSS, XAVIER, LUKE, AURORA, JOSHUA, CECELIA, OLIVIA, LENNON
CAMMERAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Our artwork narrates the Emu in the Sky story. It reminds us to look to nature for guidance on how to care for Country. It also helps us to develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal astronomy and the Dreaming story of Dhinawan (Emu) in the Sky. Our artwork reflects reconciliation as it showcases learning about Aboriginal culture and the strong connection Aboriginal people have with nature. We have connected with this year's theme, Under One Sky: Yesterday, Today and Forever by creating individual artworks to narrate the Emu in the Sky Dreaming story. We created interactive artworks to share this story. We had lots of fun while making connections, working as a team and creating beautiful artworks.

Reconciliation means...

Connecting with Aboriginal people and respecting their identity. We want to learn about their culture and the languages of Aboriginal people to ensure a future that is inclusive of all.





A RECORD OF US

ANGUS DOWELL, STELLA DOWELL, RILEY HOURN, ALEXIS HULKS, AMELIA WALSH, JOSHUA WILLETTS, DUSTY BLUNDELL, JAYLEE COULCHER, TRISTAN GOULD, MADDISON POLSEN, KJAY ROMA-WAHARI, AVA WALSH, KYLA WARREN, CHASE ANDERSON, HAYDEN CROSSLEY, FOSTER, MAKENA HOURN, MAIA JONES

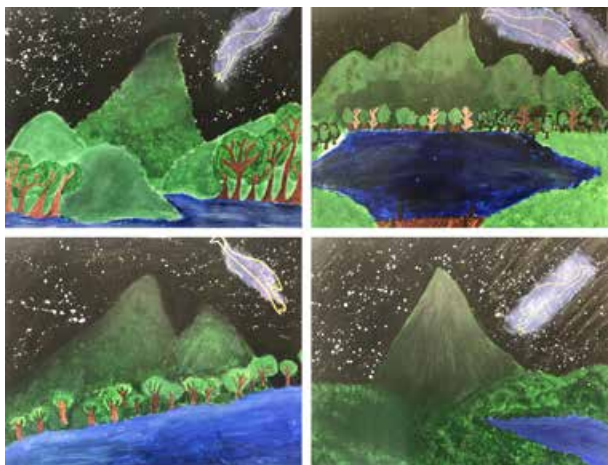
GUNDAGAI SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL



After observing lots of Indigenous artworks (especially those that were part of the Songlines-tracking the Seven Sisters exhibition), we discussed how stories show the deep connection that Aboriginal people have with the land, sea and sky. Lockdown kept us physically apart at times over this past year but our artwork represents things that are special or significant in our lives. It unifies, it brings us closer together in a way that gives us something to smile about. These artworks were painted on vinyl records and each one tells its own story. We chose to group them together to express our view that although we are unique and have our very own stories to tell, we all exist and support each other under one sky. The joy of the changing seasons, farm life, amazing views, animals, home, trees, nature, the balance of Yin and Yang, campfires beneath the stars and simply representing our beautiful world are some of the ideas depicted here. We hope you enjoy our group artwork.

Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation and acknowledgement of how our traditional landowners were treated is important so that we remember and learn from our past mistakes, so that these terrible things never happen again in the future. It is also important to learn and protect Aboriginal history such as sacred sites, Dreamtime stories and the connection and meaning they hold to the land and their spirits. Aboriginal peoples were here first and we need to respect them and honour the whole of Australia's history.



UNDER ONE SKY - MOUNT WOLLUMBIN

YEAR 5 AND 6

MAIN ARM UPPER PUBLIC SCHOOL

This unit of work was undertaken by our stage 3 class. All 22 students participated in this process and in the art work. Throughout Term 2 and 3 our class has been learning about the history of colonisation and in particular the impacts that has had on Indigenous people and places. Our school sits under a mountain called Mount Warning which has a rich Indigenous history. We researched the history of the mountain and discovered its Aboriginal name of Mount Wollumbin. We also researched the local Dreamtime story related to the mountain about the Warrior and the Turkey. As this mountain sits so high it is a popular place for hikers and climbers to climb and in recent times there has been a push to stop allowing that to happen in this sacred place. We also researched the Emu in the Sky dreamtime story and how to find that within what we know as the Milky Way. Our art process was multi stepped. Initially we went and observed the mountain and its shape. We then drew this in lead and the surrounds of the mountain. Next we painted in the detail of the mountain and all its colours. Our mountain had to be in the night sky as we wanted to incorporate the Emu in the sky. Once the mountain was painted the next step was to add in the night sky through a process of brush spinning - lots of fun. Finally we made a stencil of the Emu and selected a place in the night sky over Mount Wollumbin to paint it in gold.

Reconciliation means...

To come together as a nation and work towards a common goal of healing and respect. We learnt through this process that we are all under the same sky and that reconciliation means coming together to learn about each other's culture and to respect each other's culture. We especially took note of the fact that Mount Wollumbin is an ancient sacred site that surrounds our school and that the Elders of the area have requested people stop climbing it.



HIGHEST SKY TO DEEPEST OCEAN AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

TASNEEM CHOUCAIRI, HILAL EL BODON, GABRIEL
TAZLOK, HAFSA ZEESHAN

CHULLORA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Since ancient times, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have understood that everything in the natural world is connected. Our artwork represents this special relationship of our First Nations people to Country, from the highest point of the skies to the deepest part in the oceans and everything in between. They developed an incredible knowledge of how to use the skies to understand the seasons, weather and tides and to use this science to navigate, find food and protect themselves and the environment. This has been passed on to generations through culture and traditions of art, song, dance and dreaming stories. There is so much to learn if you take the time to connect to the environment and to each other.

Reconciliation means...

Understanding each other so that we can build a better future together. It is important to give everyone a voice and to take time to listen carefully to what they know, what they feel, what they need and what they want. To make improvements you have to understand what has already happened, from everyone's point of view, and work out where and how things can be done better and then do it. You should keep trying together, to improve all the time. Even when you think everything is okay, there is more that can make it even better.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ART

"Here in Australia we're fortunate enough to have one of the richest and oldest continuing cultures in the world. This is something we should all be proud of and celebrate."

Dr Tom Calma AO
Co-Chair Reconciliation Australia



MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE ON TOP OF THE WORLD SUMMER SHAW

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL (SSP)

I love to sit around a fire and talk and listen to stories read to me. I can sit around with my good friends and my family and feel as one underneath the stars. I feel like I am on top of the world on a clear night and try to count the stars. I try and find the emu in amongst the milky way and listen to how the emu used to fly around and look after the land. Space made it easy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to hunt and gather, tell time and know how to travel. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe that the land is for everybody, the Moon is male and it helps keep Earth on its axis and creates the tides. The Sun is female and helps life to grow, gives us energy and gives us light. I am sitting under the stars, on top of the world with all the planets being juggled and talked about in stories. My painting is like space, it can keep evolving with my friends and family talking and making stories.

Reconciliation means...

Like we all have a relationship with the sky, we also need to develop positive relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to understand their way of life, beliefs and knowledge of space and our universe. In this way, we can then all feel we are on top of the world.





**JUDGES
CHOICE**



THE ONLY ONES HOLDING ON AYDA HAURELIUK

MARIBYRNONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

My artwork is about the only people holding on are the Aboriginal People and how they hold on forever and they always will. It relates to reconciliation because it is about how the Aboriginal people forgive us for taking their land and even when we forget about the Aboriginal people they are always holding on and we are all under one sky and they are no different to us. My artwork relates to Under One Sky because it is about sharing the Sun, Moon, Earth, and the sky and how the Aboriginal People share with us.

Reconciliation means...

That we recognise that we have made many mistakes and say sorry for them.



**JUDGES
CHOICE**

A ROAD MAP THROUGH SPACE CHEV HITCHENS

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL (SSP)

On Earth, we are surrounded by many mysterious planets and stars. Some we know and some we don't know about. There are many different stories about space and our universe. Just like traditional European astrology, songs, fairy tales, stories and myths, the universe played a big part in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's culture and their Dreaming. Just like our roads on Earth, our stars and the universe are like a road map which holds valuable information about food sources, time and travel. We can follow the Sun for direction as it gives us the time, keeps us warm, helps us grow, gives us light and is female. The Moon is male and tells us when to rest, creates the tides and helps balance Earth. My painting is about the universe represented by a road looking down on Earth. Our universe gives us life. I have tried to show our universe giving life to our living beings on Earth, animals, humans, fresh and sea water and trees. We are all part of the universe and space, its stories, myths, legends and energy.

Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation is important so everyone learns, grows and understands the diversity, spirituality and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's culture and heritage. Acceptance, respect and trust are important factors that will help achieve and nurture knowledge and changing behaviours.



UNDER ONE SKY

CHIARA CHIA

ERINA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

My artwork represents the sky and the land underneath. The sky on the right represents the Dreamtime, with the emu in the sky and how Aboriginal people see the stars as stories and pictures. The sky on the left represents the Southern Cross constellation and dots of light scattered around, which are the stars who dance around all night. I chose to do this artwork because I wanted to show that no matter where we are, we are all under one sky. Even if we are at different places, the sky will always be looking down on us.

Reconciliation means...

To reflect on what happened in the past, learn from it and make sure that it never happens again. Repair the broken relationships between Indigenous and non Indigenous people, educate our communities and celebrate our beautiful First Nations cultures.



SKY GAZER

LUKE VIVIERS

KNOX GRAMMAR PREPARATORY OSHCLUB

My artwork is a combination of colours and ways of painting which represent Indigenous art and also non-Indigenous art. I used acrylic pour to make the nighttime sky, and used shiny, silver paint to make the Emu constellation - it's interesting we have constellations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have them too. I liked combining traditional and other colours, because I think it shows how Reconciliation should work - combining and living happily together to make something beautiful. I also did a scene with people and animals together under the sky, living happily together to represent this. They're living under one sky, and showing that not only should people live happily together, but that it is important to remember the animals - they're important to Indigenous people, and they should be important to us too. I'd like them to be part of our vision for Reconciliation too.

Reconciliation means...

Living in harmony, and working towards a good future together.



GAMARADA
ISABELLA JOHNSTON
ELLISON PUBLIC SCHOOL

2019 was a tough summer for the people in my community. I live in Darug country in The Blue Mountains. We suffered through months of catastrophic bushfire which harmed a lot of animals, houses and properties. My painting is a self portrait of me and 2 of my best friends standing on burnt ground, looking towards the Blue Mountains landmark 'The Three Sisters', a dreamtime story of magic, protection and survival of three young girls, living in an unsafe, dysfunctional landscape. My painting is the aftermath of a bushfire, with 3 young girls standing and watching over the bushland as it tries to regrow and survive. Although I am non Indigenous, I feel a connection to land through the strong representation of Indigenous culture and storytelling, like the story of The Three Sisters. I have chosen to paint the sky red, because I have come to understand that in Indigenous culture, a red sky signifies a change to cooler weather temperatures, the red sky in my painting symbolises hope that the fire has passed and a cool change will soon come to help put the fires out. This symbolism is layered with the theme of reconciliation. The friends I am linking arms with are Indigenous, in real life and in my painting. My use of water colours signifies the use of water to put out a bushfire but also to show nurturing and regrowth.

Reconciliation means...

To me it's about recognising the catastrophe of our past, like recognising the catastrophe of the bushfire, but also being able to see growth, moving into Australia's future, watching it regrow as a country that is proud to link the past to the present and enjoy our First Nation's cultures together.



A BETTER TOMORROW
HANNAH SMITH
ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

My artwork shows an Aboriginal boy and a newcomer Australian girl, that are holding the sky, Earth and water to gather for carrying it to the future under one sky, for yesterday, today and tomorrow. There are kangaroo tracks that symbolises moving on but not forgetting the past. The night sky has Aboriginal symbols meaning man and woman. The artwork that I made is trying to show that we can bring Australia to a way better tomorrow, together under one sky.

Reconciliation means...

To come together to recognise the past and to help connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with non-Aboriginal people to make Australia a more positive place.



THE BIG PICTURE

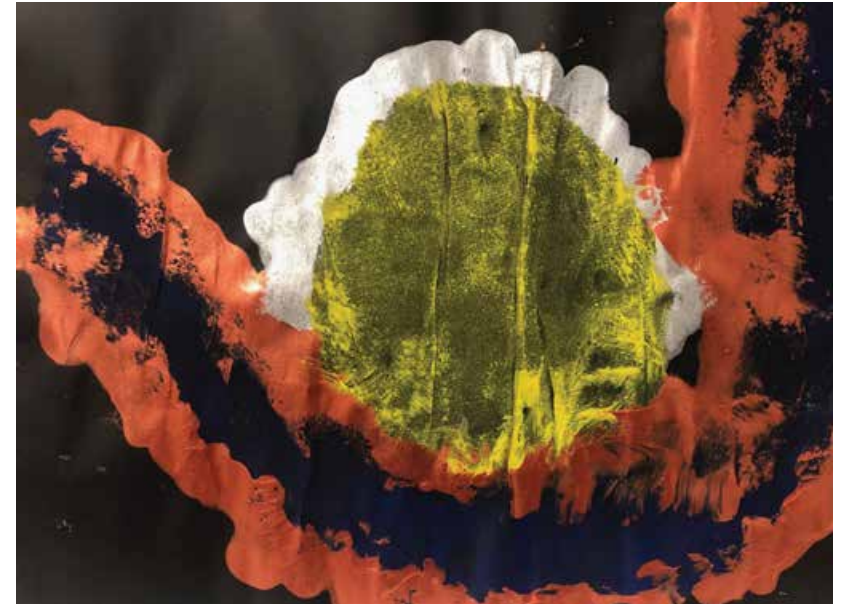
ARABELLA TOMS

ORANA STEINER SCHOOL

When I thought of the theme Under one sky: Yesterday, Today and Forever I immediately thought of the Australian outback. A beautiful night time sky and the famous Blue Mountains. My artwork reflects the big picture: how we share the same sky, sometimes we need to look at the bigger picture and focus on the things that bring us together.

Reconciliation means...

Showing respect and authenticity, sharing culture and recognising all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. And most importantly paying respect to this rich and diverse country.



YELLOW SUN LAKE

JACK MORAN

ORANGE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

As an Aboriginal person my life has been hard, and so I express it in my art, especially this one. The Sun is a circle and represents all the people around me like a spiral of protection. The lake surrounding the Sun is the travels and the road or path ahead.

Reconciliation means...

Focussing on moving out of hurt and pain instead of being stuck in it.





UNDER MY SKY

ALISON FRENCH

BOLWARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

My painting is about living on Wonnarua land. I have used the totem of the Wedge-tail Eagle flying through the sky over the land. The dots are symbolic of the people living on the land. It shows each dot colour next to each other getting along the way everyone in Australia should. This is how it relates to the theme of under one sky.

Reconciliation means...

Getting along together.



HANDS & UNDER ONE SKY - WE ARE ONE

KYE TURLEY & DAMON GOLLAGHER

MORGAN STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

Kye: My artwork is about the hands of the Aboriginal people that lived on Australian land before the British 'discovered' it. It relates to reconciliation by showing the hands of the Traditional Owners of the land. The Aboriginal sky represents that it always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Damon: My artwork is about all of us coming together. It doesn't matter where you come from or what colour you are, we are all one. My artwork relates to reconciliation because the two hands are bringing together black and white people on Aboriginal Land. My artwork relates to this year's theme by the colours of everyone coming together in between the hands.

Reconciliation means...

Everyone coming together on Aboriginal Land.



DINAWAN NIGHT SKY

NEVAEH ROSMULDER

MULWALA PUBLIC SCHOOL

I chose to do a painting that showed the Dinawan shape in the night sky. As the theme was "Under One Sky" this year I wanted to show both the daytime sky and the nighttime sky in my painting.

Reconciliation means...

Not only learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, beliefs and culture but also for a chance to build stronger relationships and appreciation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of today, yesterday and forever.



UNITING

SAVANNAH LANCASTER

ORANA STEINER SCHOOL

The three people, one white, one brown and one black, represent the people of this land and the whole world, coming together. The fire represents the bushfires. When the bushfires came we joined hands to overcome the threat. If you look below the fire, you'll see an old shack; this is a reference to the song "Along the Road to Gundagai". In the bottom right corner, you'll see a red mountain. It symbolises the Aboriginal massacres and that the blood of their people stains this land. It is time for us all to wash it clean. The big, green patch beneath the mountain is a forest that workers are chopping down. We must stop this; we must stop taking what's not ours, stop taking the home of all our lovely native birds, mammals, reptiles, and monotremes. The river symbolises life, for you need water to survive. We all need water. On the right, above the river, is a birds-eye-view drawing of Uluru. Above that the Three Sisters, are three mountains in the Brindabellas, near my home. Above everything, there's a large night sky. It represents that we are all under one sky, no matter which country, continent or island, whether you're in America, Europe, Asia, Australia, or anywhere, the sky will always be the same. There is a light spot in the sky, it is the emu which roams the stars. There is also the Southern Cross constellation; it rests upon the Australian flag for all to see.

Reconciliation means...

Everyone uniting and standing together against the hardships of life.



I FELT DIFFERENT.

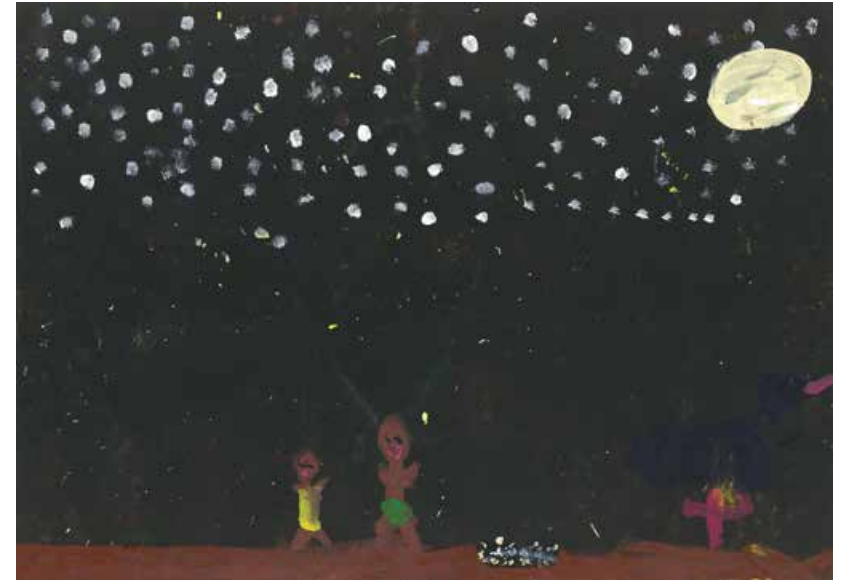
SOMER ZAPATERO

NORTHMEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

In my artwork the fire and smoke are the spirits, ancestors and the watchers in the night. Here I felt I was in a different place with no boss, a place where we take what we need and we help others. Where we understand words like Yindyimarra which means respect in the Wiradjuri language.

Reconciliation means...

Coming together and taking care of our land.



EMU ART

SAVANNAH SHIPLEY

GARDENERS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

This art represents a father and a daughter retrieving emu eggs late at night so they could take them back and eat them. I loved that I was able to spend so much time with my friend Amaali. The painting was my favourite part because I don't usually get to paint at home. I was able to create in a fun space.

Reconciliation means...

Being respectful to other cultures in general but also being respectful to the Aboriginal cultures.



BROTHER MOON

CHLOE CAMPBELL

SURVEYORS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

This artwork is inspired by the storybook Brother Moon by Maree McCarthy Yoelu. The artwork is about the Moon guiding us through life. This artwork relates to reconciliation as we can all learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories as we live together, under one sky.

Reconciliation means...

Accepting and appreciating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and coming together to celebrate our differences. Everyone should be equal and have the same freedoms in life.



EMU IN THE SKY

COOPER SMITH, HARPER SHEPHERD, KOBY WILSON

SURVEYORS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

This artwork is inspired by the Dreaming story Emu in the Sky. The significance of the Emu for Aboriginal peoples is that they were creator spirits that soared through the skies above looking over the land and were incredibly helpful. For us, it is a reminder to always look out for one another and help each other whenever we can. This artwork relates to reconciliation as we can all learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and histories as we live together, under one sky.

Reconciliation means...

All Australians celebrate and learn more about our Indigenous history and culture. It's an opportunity to think about what we can change and do better in the future.

Reconciliation is about learning about our shared history and culture. It is important to me because everyone should be treated with respect and equally.

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

*"Each of us is unique.
We are different. We are all
Australians and call this home.
Let us rejoice in our diversity
and difference because it is
they that will enrich us."*

Patrick Dodson
Yawuru man and National Aboriginal Leader



PRIDE CHLOE GREEN

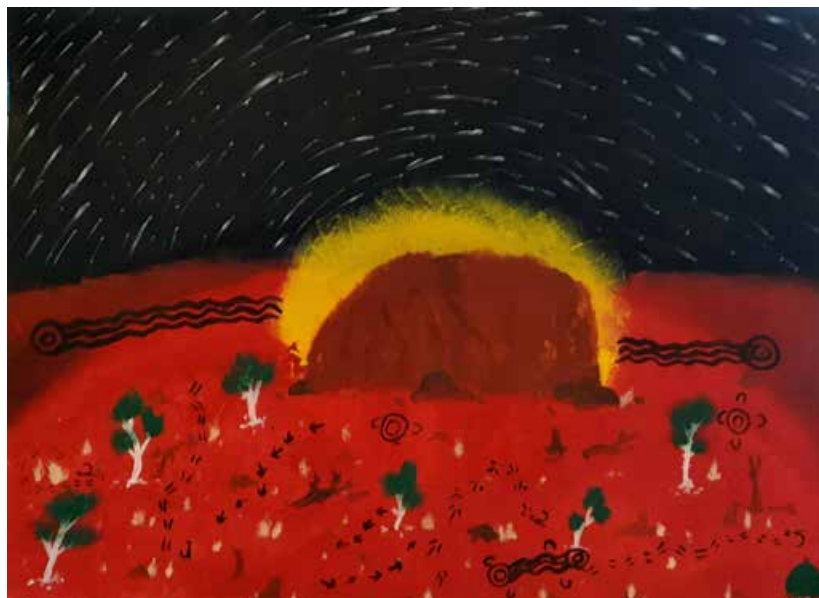
HASTINGS SECONDARY COLLEGE PORT
MACQUARIE CAMPUS

My artwork is about self awareness of whose land I am on and being a runner I have a lot of people to look up to. I've included Rob de Castella, Cathy Freeman and Mabo because they have all impacted my life greatly and shows the connection of Australians and Indigenous Australians. I have put the Southern Cross and the Milky Way as the sky because it's always been there and it represents Australia as a whole. We are all under the same sky and can see those features in the sky.

Reconciliation means...

A strong connection between Indigenous and non Indigenous people, being able to have our First Nations peoples recognised and being proud to be on Indigenous land.





**JUDGES
CHOICE**

ANCIENT LAND RAWDON LEON MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL

We all live under one sky. My land is ancient and has always cared for all life. We all need to come together to help heal the wounds created by colonial power, so the land can stay and the people can stay here. Always was Always will be!

Reconciliation means...

Coming together, learning from one another to help build a better world.



**JUDGES
CHOICE**

HARMONY BETWEEN OUR DIFFERENCES XIAQITA PENAFLOR

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork demonstrates reconciliation amongst our community. The two contrasting hands illustrated represent harmony between our differences as individuals. I took further consideration when researching about reconciliation among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples and wanted to discuss the importance of the sky to Indigenous people. The objects and the natural phenomena in the sky serve as a blueprint for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to safely navigate long journeys across the seas, lands and waterways. The hands represent growth between communities and how we as individuals are advancing, accepting and uniting cultures and beliefs. It serves as a depiction of our advancing future with equity and healing. The hand's contrast represents uniting diversity among communities. This represents our respect for the First Nations knowledge on ways to observe the sky, through understanding the importance to culture and how this knowledge aids survival. My artwork explores the diversity and growth to be more culturally accepting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' worldviews. My artwork is a statement for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to come together and progress together in society. It shows that we need to acknowledge Indigenous communities and their beliefs and reconcile our faults. My artwork relates to "under one sky" through the inclusion of contrasting nations together under the same sky..

Reconciliation means...

The acknowledgement of the past, present and future. Where we are working together to achieve respect, trust and equality among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. To inspire healing within our community and make restitution for past injustices to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Where this land is strengthened we heal together as a community our past faults, with shared views and equity amongst our civilisations.



CONSTELLATION

GEORGIA CLARK

BLAXLAND HIGH SCHOOL

"Constellation" is the name of my artwork. Constellation is about how the stories about constellations have connected people throughout all time and wherever in the world. An Aboriginal woman is portrayed as mother nature with blue sky hair and a night sky background which represents the different skies humanity sees. "Constellation" relates to reconciliation because the emu constellation has many different stories attached to it that were passed down through generations which is shown and celebrated in the artwork. The artwork relates to the theme because it portrays the day and night sky with the Earth under it because Earth is under one sky which connects us all together.

Reconciliation means...

Restoring relationships between Non-Indigenous Australians and Indigenous communities. It means that we have to acknowledge the colonisation of Australia and also to celebrate and learn about Indigenous culture, history and traditions.



ENDLESS UNIVERSE

REGAN NEWBERRY

MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL

We all live under one sky, the sky is filled with lots of stories from all different cultures. The stars are there to guide us and give us direction on our journey together.

Reconciliation means...

Coming together to try and understand each other to make the world a better place.



A FLAME UNDER STARS

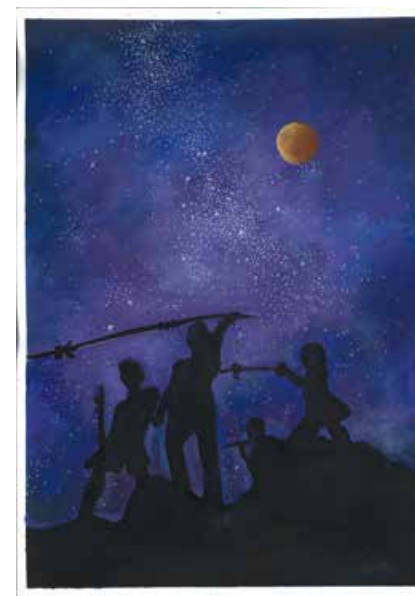
MIKAYLA KERESTESI

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING
ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

"A Flame Under Stars" reflects the Dreamtime story of how the Sun was made and uses the elements of fire and darkness as symbols to be able to relate to the theme "under one sky." I have used the campfire as a symbol to represent the gathering of traditions that would be shared. My artwork relates to reconciliation as it allows for newer generations to show respect to and appreciate the elder generations and the stories passed down throughout time.

Reconciliation means...

The acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Peoples as well as the unity and respect held between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians allowing for all Australians to have a deeper understanding of history and culture.



BLOOD MOON

HARINI PANCHOLI

NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING
ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork shows that we are all equal and connected with each other. No matter what ethnicity we are all under one sky. The artwork's meaning is to recognise the cultures that exist in Australia, hence the same sky we live under. We need to appreciate this and it is a way of saying thank you. We are also fighting for equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This artwork relates to this year's theme by taking the theme literally and creating a beautiful meaning of the sky which connects to each other.

Reconciliation means...

To appreciate and acknowledge the past, present and future. To gain trust and strengthen our relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Non-Indigenous people. We need to learn from them and their fascinating cultures respectfully.



UNITED WE STAND

MILEY MCDONALD

SINGLETON HIGH SCHOOL

The image of Australia becomes a central meeting place in my composition surrounded by traditional Aboriginal symbols and patterns. The hands are symbolic of Australia showing how all of its people can come together to celebrate the oldest culture in the world.

Reconciliation means...

Recognising the past and making changes in the future to ensure everyone is valued and gets along. It makes me feel like my culture is important and valued by non-Indigenous Australians as it forms a very important part of my life.



REFLECTIONS

ZARA MARULANDA

BLAXLAND HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork 'Reflections' represents the connection between the sky that we walk under every day and us. The way it changes and is still beautiful despite us taking it for granted. It relates to reconciliation as it connects the star signs that Aboriginal people have looked at and used to live. Both night and day sky have a deep meaning and connection to Aboriginal people and we should embrace it more often. It relates to the theme as it shows both skies, in the format of the Aboriginal flag.

Reconciliation means...

The appreciation, relationship and connection between people or things. 'Under one sky: Yesterday, Today and Forever' is an example of the strong bond between the sky and the people below it, that will live on forever.



THE WORLD IS OUR OYSTER

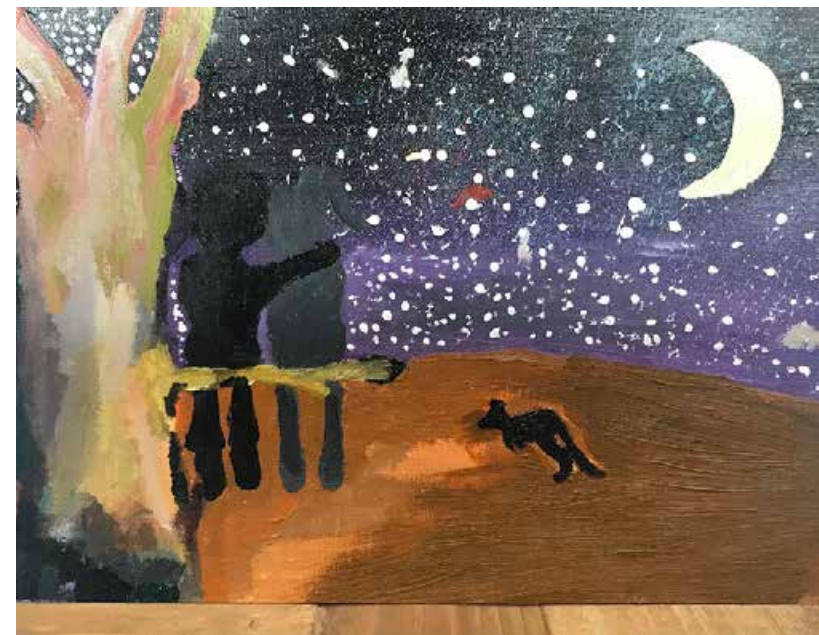
TAJ PUCKERIDGE

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL (SSP)

It must be amazing to look down on Earth from above and see where we live, whether Australia, Europe, the Americas or an Asian country. How little we all are compared to how big the universe is. There is only one Earth and we all live on Earth and have different stories to tell. I wanted to portray Earth and all our well-known planets like a whirlpool, like they are busy telling a story, just like the many learning stories represented in folk tales, the Dreaming and nursery rhymes. Space brings curiosity, stories, myths, legends, energy and daily changes that help us to live and survive in an ever-changing world. The world is our oyster but space continues to feed our desire to travel, explore and conquer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have conquered space by writing stories, painting and using space as a guide to plant, hunt and to tell time.

Reconciliation means...

Respecting space and our vast and continuing universe, we need to be thoughtful towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. We should learn about our mistakes and be guided to show our respect so we learn from them. We should never dismiss Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their beliefs and culture. We have so much to learn from their rich heritage and it is our loss if we continue to be ignorant.



COUNTING STARS

DAKOTA DALTON

BLAXLAND HIGH SCHOOL

My Under One Sky artwork is titled "Counting Stars". It represents two people, who are sitting on a tree looking up at the sky and telling stories to one another. My artwork also represents Australia with the gumtree, the kangaroo, and the desert-like ground. It relates to reconciliation by representing Australian culture and telling a story. Just like the Under One Sky artwork, it tells a story and represents something. For example, my artwork represents Australian culture as it has a kangaroo, a gum tree and is set in the desert.

Reconciliation means...

To represent other cultures.



TWO HALVES OF A WHOLE

ISABELLA GRAY

BLAXLAND HIGH SCHOOL

My Artwork 'Two Halves of a Whole' is about no matter how different we look or act we are all only human. It is about no matter where we come from or what our background is, we shouldn't be treated differently. This artwork relates to reconciliation by recognizing each girl's differences but choosing to accept them no matter the consequences. This connects to the theme because by recognising and putting aside differences we can all live together in peace. The beauty of the sky is that it is infinite and that there are infinite possibilities and combinations to be found. The starry sky and the daylight sky symbolize the difference of cultures and arbitrary treatment of the cultures in our country. The solid black crack between the two skies can be interpreted as the prejudice inflicted from one culture to the other and how that has separated us from what could have been.

Reconciliation means...

Before white settlers came to Australia, Aboriginal people cultivated the land in a sustainable way to be one with nature and never take more than what was needed. When the First Fleets saw this, their greed took over them, and instead of sustaining the culture, they destroyed it and said that the land was rightfully theirs. Reconciliation is about acknowledging what happened in the past and saying sorry to the Aboriginal people for all the hurt we and the government have caused in the past.



W R I T I N G

"So I take this word reconciliation and I use it to reconcile people back to Mother Earth, so they can walk this land together and heal one another because she's the one that gives birth to everything we see around us, everything we need to survive." – Max Dulumunmun Harrison



ERASURE POETRY

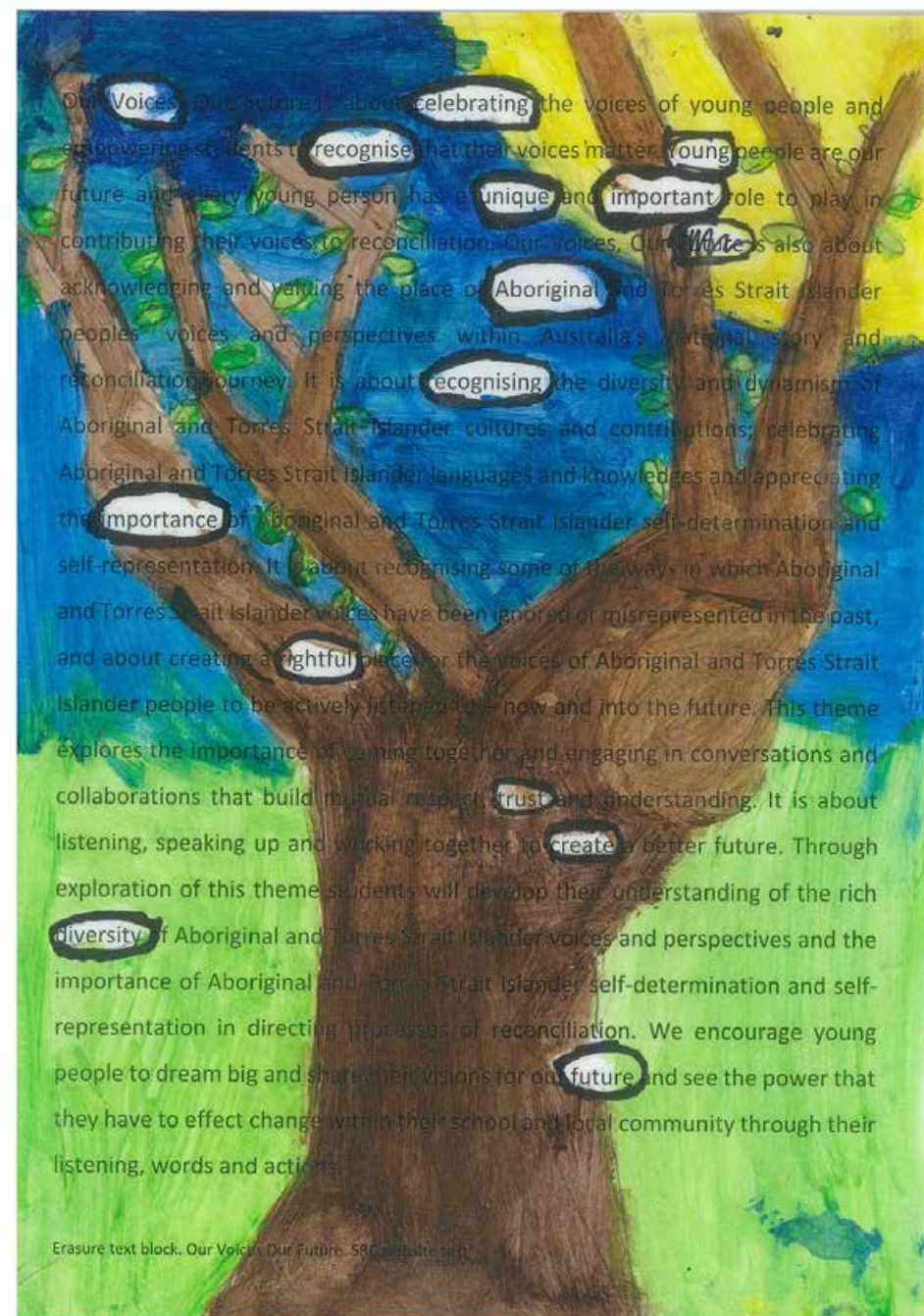
ALIYAH BRIGHT, RHYS BRIT-SEIMSEN, HADI RAHIMI,
EVAN BOWDITCH, ROHALAT DINA, HORIAN HASAN,
KARVEEN EEDO, JESSICA FIELD, TAYLOR DAWSON,
DESTINY KNIGHT

MOUNT AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

Our year 7 modified English class has been learning about Erasure poetry from Reconciliation NSW's lessons in the School's Reconciliation Challenge. The students have used the statements and lyrics Reconciliation NSW have included in the resources as well as a page about stars to go with the theme of this year's challenge. The students have enjoyed this experience and their artwork/poetry has far exceeded my expectations and they are super proud of their work.

Reconciliation means...

Our 7 English class is only 13 students who are Indigenous and non- Indigenous from all over the world including Iran, Iraq, Persia, Liberia and Nigeria. Reconciliation is a reflection of our classroom where all students can be safe and learn and grow together, being culturally inclusive at all times. We enjoy learning about the different cultures in our classroom and we have particularly enjoyed learning about Wiradjuri culture and language. The School's Reconciliation Challenge has provided amazing resources for our class to explore and learn from.



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

UNDER ONE SKY!

BRIDGET PHAM

ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Though the wind blows,
the clouds go away,
a ship on unknown land shows,
but the sky is there to stay.

Colonization is booming,
natives are driven out,
greed and selfishness looming,
but, the sky is here to stay.

Land riddled with injustice,
laughs turn to cries,
discrimination casts out justice,
but the sky is there to stay.

Mistakes are made,
but good can shine too,
with one foot at a time,
discrimination may fade.

Past, present, future,
future, present, past,
can we live in an equal word,
with the sky to last?

Is there a world,
where face and place can't hold us
back,
each other we can embrace,
where tears fall for a smile above?

Yes, if the sky can last,
it can be our reminder,
that we should be kinder,
as we all beings together will make a
sky to last.

We are all one race,
our hearts beat together,
the sky we embrace,
united in harmony forever.

Author's statement:

My poem is about the evolving history of Aboriginal people and all the mistakes of the past. Then, it talks about the future with a dream and a vision that we are one nation under one sky.

Reconciliation means...

To reflect on the mistakes of the past and learn and grow to be a better you and a better world.

THE VOICES

SOFIA SAVELYEVA

ORANGE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The banksia.
A striking flower.
A well of knowledge.
A mirror that reflects all the paths I've walked down, all the doors that I've opened on this journey.
My feet wander on, eyes, mouth, ears opened, soaking in the voices.
The voices that talk to me, lead me, tell me stories of old and new.
More paths are taken, more doors are opened.
My feet keep walking, surrounded by whispering voices.
The voices that murmur pieces of information, the information that glues themselves to me, forming a cover, as though I have a second skin, the sprinkles of colour that dance across my ebony page.
The sprinkles of paint, the thousands of people that crowd the world.
Watching, waiting, listening.
Straining their ears to hear the voices.
The voices that share their bountiful wisdom with us.
Explaining which paths to take, and which ones to avoid.
The voices that encourage us to tell others, show others, help others.
The voices.

Author's statement:

My artwork and story are both about journeys of knowledge. It relates to reconciliation because reconciliation is a journey, perhaps not an easy one, but a journey all the same.

Reconciliation means...

To ask for forgiveness and admit what you've done.



WALL OF GLASS
SAPHIRA LADBROOK
ORANA STEINER SCHOOL

The land is old,
As is the sky.
But we shall shatter,
The hideous lie.

That lies within our land,
The world is in our hands

A wall of glass,
Cuts between.
And though
it's translucent,
Nothing is seen.

Not within our land,
Weighing down our hands.

So we shatter the wall!
Break the glass!

Author's statement:

The glass wall is the lie of separation, built by our own hands, and I hope that we can shatter it together and all be free. This poem means a lot, and I hope it can mean something to others too.

Reconciliation means...

The reconciling and joining of peoples.

To finally see the sky,
We finally see the lie.

That lived within our land,
Made by our own hands.

We are one people,
Under one sky.
Stronger together,
No crystalline lie.

That was between our land,
Torn down by many hands.

So we can always be free,
It'll start with you and me,
Yesterday, Today and Forever.

A RECONCILED FRIENDSHIP
FELIX VAN MAALE
ORANA STEINER SCHOOL

Minjarra was strolling through the bushland; he had no idea where he was going. The sky was blue with a storm cloud here and there. He could smell the wattle already, the floral fragrance wafted into his nostrils. He could hear the rosellas chirping in the eucalyptus trees. He could taste a smoky campfire nearby; he was following the trail of smoke. He could feel the twigs snapping under his feet.

"Hey there! The voice made him jump; he had wandered right into the camp without noticing.

"Who are you?" Minjarra replied.

"Who am I? I am Steve! Who are you?"

"I'm Minjarra, what are you doing?" asked Minjarra.

"I'm trying to cook some chicken."

"Any luck?" Minjarra asked.

"No," said Steve.

Suddenly a monitor lizard with yellow stripes on its neck and tail burst out of the bush, grabbed the chicken, and ran off.

Later, they were walking through the bush, and Minjarra pointed out some berries to Steve,

"These are edible, by the way, not poisonous." Steve tried one,

"Very starchy," he said, "I hope it doesn't make me fart." Minjarra chortled, "Ha".

It was getting dark, and they had nowhere to shelter for the night, so they started to look for a place to sleep. They suddenly discovered a cave that was dug into a cliff-face. There was a striped, yellow tail sticking out of a crevice that was covered in moss.

"Hey!" said Steve, as he pulled the lizard out of its hole, "Where did you put that chicken!?"

Minjarra showed Steve how to cook the lizard. First, he made a fire and let it burn down to the embers. Then, he rolled the lizard into the ashes and covered it in embers. He waited for a little, before taking it out, finding it soft, and when he poked it with a stick, the flesh fell right off the bone.

Steve watched as Minjarra pulled the lizard out of the embers, brushing the ashes off. He began to pull chunks off by holding the legs and passed some to Steve.

"This is soft bush tucker, traditionally for old folks, but it tastes rather good."

They sat together eating the lizard, contentedly, until Minjarra asked Steve if he had ever had bush tucker before.

"Have you ever tasted lizard before?"

"I've never really eaten anything like this actually," said Steve with his mouth full of lizard flesh.

"You don't really have to chew much, that's why it's for the old folks. Usually, we clear out the tall grass by lighting small fires, that way it is easier to find them – lucky we did not need to do that this time, thanks to you yanking it out by its tail."

Steve sat quietly chewing the tasty meat and watched Minjarra expertly tear away more delicious chunks.

"I guess I should thank you for sharing your bush tucker knowledge with me. I would have been pretty hungry without the chicken." Steve mentioned.

Minjarra chuckled, "Tastes better than chicken anyway."

Author's statement:

I think it's about two people with different backgrounds coming together and sharing something.

Reconciliation means...

Recognising each other and correcting the wrongs of the past.

MY COUNTRY

RUBY H

MARRICKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

My Country.

We stop, we think, we reflect on Gadigal Land.

Acknowledging Indigenous custodians past present and future.

We live, we learn, we breathe on Gadigal land. We walk on Gadigal land.

Thinking about caring for the land, when we care for the land the land cares for us.

Reconciliation means...

Caring for land, caring for people, acknowledging Indigenous Custodians of Country.



MARLU THE UNCARING KANGAROO

THANUSRI REDDY GADIKOTA

MANLY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

One hot sunny day a small caring koala and a silly little kangaroo were having fun. They were playing near a thick rainforest and a gigantic orange outback.

"Let's go play on Skull Rock tomorrow, Colo!" Marlu the Kangaroo shouted, "Sure."

Colo was a grey Koala with a big pair of ears which came in handy when spying on others. She had the friendliest and kindest heart in the entire outback, known everywhere because she always cared for the land. Marlu was fun, daring and didn't care about anything except playing, only known for her magnet to danger. They were the least likely pair of friends as they were complete opposite to each other.

While the sun slowly descended behind the duo they quietly walked home. One of them heading to a bunch of gum trees and the other to a troupe of Roo's. After a restless hour, Marlu finely snoozed happily, excited to keep playing the next morning.

Early the next day as the sun rose, Marlu woke up making a huge racket. It woke up the entire outback, but Marlu did not care at all. She was too disobedient to even wait for Colo to come, so she went straight to where Colo lived. She saw Colo climbing up a long tree and decided to surprise her.

She hid behind a big green bush, waiting for the perfect moment not realising she was destroying a bush. The bush came back up and hit Marlu. She got annoyed, so she pushed it to the ground. It came back up again and she started hysterically squashing the plant, repeatedly getting angry...very angry. "Seriously!!!!!" she screamed. "You silly, dumb plant"

A scratchy hand pulled her from the irritating and yucky green bush filled with disgusting insects. "Stop doing that," An unfamiliar voice whispered. The **TREE** was holding her!!! She screamed louder than everyone in the world combined. She was scared to the bone. Her heart skipped a beat. A million thoughts rushed through her mind, the tree moved and was holding her! "Let go of me, you rough tree!" she screeched in excruciating pain.

"We as the land and plants have watched your and your friend's behaviour toward us and we see a major difference. She treats us as people and living beings instead of a silly green thing to hide behind, as you do. We do not like your actions! But since we are so wise and generous we will give you one last chance to prove yourself worthy in this magnificent world, so be warned any poor manners toward nature you will suffer the consequences!" It explained.

As Marlu was still in awe and amazement it took her a minute to digest the

information and when she understood everything she closed her eyes, rubbed them and looked up at the tree again as if waking up from a long nap. The tree was still there and it had talked! She ran out of the tree's arms and didn't stop till she was miles away. Panting she sat on a rock, so tired.

She looked around her surroundings and finally saw everything the way she should have. The caring way that Colo looked at the nature. She kept running, trying not to step on the bush's, not the irritating and yucky green bush but the beautiful green bush. She finally found Colo and explained what had just happened and that she had finally understood that the land and plants are living beings and need to be treated with care.

"OMG, wow! I'm so glad you at last have realised that!" Colo replied. From then on Marlu was always kind to the land, but not just kind; she was just that little bit kinder than needed. Somehow that story (of Marlu being mean) had spread all across the land giving Marlu the reputation of Marlu the Uncaring Kangaroo.

Author's statement:

My story is about a kangaroo and a koala. Marlu the kangaroo is very silly and Colo the koala is very caring towards the land. Marlu becomes frustrated and starts destroying the plants. Marlu has to learn to care for nature and respect the land. My story relates to reconciliation because it relates to respecting and acknowledging the land that everyone lives on and shares.

Reconciliation means...

Reconciliation means recognising the true owners of this land that were here before us. It's about remembering their stories, their culture and ways of living. It's about accepting who they are and closing the gap between our culture and their culture.

UNDER ONE SKY

EMILY BRAND

ERINA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

As the kids ran around playing with the ball,
I thought about the past, and it was not like this at all.
The past was not filled of joyful expression,
It was filled with sadness, no hope and lots of depression.
I remember the men with weapons i n their hands,
Mum on her knees banging against the sands'.
As the sun was setting, the trucks drove away,
Kids i n them were crying, along the whole way.
Families praying, hoping they would come back,
I knew they wouldn't, we all knew that.
We gathered around the fire looking at the stars all night,
There were no shooting stars, and no end i n sight.
When I think of the past, I think of trauma and distress,
I have changed my thoughts now and can see little progress.
I know we still have a long way to go,
But the past is important, even though it was a long time ago.
I count on us all to change the circumstance,
We need to take action now so we don't miss our chance.
Under one sky, we stand together,
Yesterday, today, and now forever.

Author's statement:

My piece is about the Stolen Generations. I wrote about this to make everyone aware of what happened in the past. The past was a very tragic time for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We can't go back but we can look back and learn from our mistakes. My poem relates to reconciliation because I am making reference to the immoral acts that happened in the past. I'm acknowledging the wrong doings and the damage done which cant be changed but the future can be from the lessons learnt. I know that we haven't done enough, and can still take action to fix racism and learn more about our First Nations peoples and their cultures. This year's poster inspired me to sympathise with the young girl and try to imagine what it would have been like during the Stolen Generations. So, I wrote about this to make other people sympathise with the young girl too and put themselves in her shoes and imagine what it would have been like. Everyone is different, but we are all connected by the sky and should stand together as one and take action now!

Reconciliation means...

The process of restoring respect and trust between wider Australian and Indigenous communities. It means to acknowledge the wrongdoings of the past, restore the relationships and to forgive the immoral acts of predecessors.

BUNDJALUNG

WARREN BUCHANAN ROBERTS

ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL

Beautiful
United
Nature
Dad
Jarjum
Aboriginal
Loving
Understanding
Nature
Gadigal Land.

Reconciliation means...

Coming together.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Blaxland High School
 Bolwarra Public School
 Cammeray Public School
 Chullora Public School
 Ellison Public School
 Erina Heights Public School
 Gardeners Road Public School
 Gundagai South Public School
 Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus
 Kings Langley Public School
 Knox Grammar Preparatory OSHClub
 Main Arm Upper Public School
 Manly Vale Public School
 Maribyrnong Primary School
 Marrickville Public School
 Morgan Street Public School
 Moruya High School
 Mount Austin High School
 Mulwala Public School
 Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School
 Northmead Public School
 Orana Steiner School
 Orange Grove Public School
 Peterborough School (SSP)
 Rosary Primary School
 Singleton High School
 Surveyors Creek Public School
 Ultimo Public School

Darug/Gundungurra
 Wonnarua
 Cammeraygal/Darug
 Darug
 Darug
 Darkinyung
 Gadigal
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 Biripi
 Darug
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 Ngunawal
 Gadigal
 Wiljari
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In support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart
and a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice

Designed by: Kristina Mackinlay