

# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK & SORRY DAY REFLECTION 2023

The voices echo across the Lands,  
In all footprints past,  
In all that is the stories of the First Peoples.

And the voices called from near and far,  
across Lands unceded  
Of ancestors past – strength with, and for  
their voices, felt and needed.  
Footprints past, resilient, strong and imprinted  
across this Nation,  
Weaving the voices of change, for every  
generation.

Voices never heard  
Voices silenced  
Voices shamed  
Voices caged  
Voices stolen

Voices of the First Peoples,  
Lift the voice for the voices,  
Imprisoned voices,  
Voiceless behind bars,  
Voiceless in the intergenerational scars,  
Voiceless in removal.

Voices calling from the land, sea and sky –  
entrenched in the name of the coloniser  
Heal the voices less and scars hidden in the  
trees and the leaves,  
Call out to the voices for recognition, stronger,  
wiser,  
Land, language and spirituality,  
Need to be strung in a new reality.

Storylines, song-lines, gathering, places and  
spaces,  
Ceremony, healing grounds, broken treaty  
surrounds.  
These are the spaces and places of truth  
telling, that must echo in the voices of this  
nations identity.

Identity,  
Connection,  
Reflection,  
Protection.

Reconcile,  
Sorry day,  
Mabo day,  
No more sorry,  
No more broken promises.

String together the YES,  
The yes for a string of restorative justice  
threads that heal a nation,  
Stringing the kanalritja of justice,  
In the collecting,  
In the holding,  
In the stringing together,  
In all seasons,  
In all storms of weather.

Weave and unweave the woven,  
In weaving we learn,  
In unweaving we unlearn.

In the woven,  
Of ancient wisdom and knowledge,  
Of connections to people, place and  
practice.

For our ancestors,  
With our ancestors,  
With a cultural heart.

Be the stringing,  
Be the weaving,  
Elders,  
Nations,  
Ancestors,  
Children,  
Family,  
Community,  
Let this be our call to unity.

Truth,  
Treaty,  
Voice.

Own truth telling,  
Stringing, threading, together.  
May the stringing of voice, of truth telling  
and treaty be the threads of justice.

*Alison Overeem*

May 2023