



THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025

The strength sits in our stories
And in our resilience as First Peoples,
In Country, on Country,
In relation to all.

Each of us stringing a vision
Of solidarity and connectedness,
Each shell strung into the legacy: kanalaritja.

Shell necklace (kanalaritja)
The maireener shell
Palawa Country, lutruwita / Tasmania
Each rina (shell) in the kanalaritja (shell necklace) legacy:
Strength
Vision
Legacy

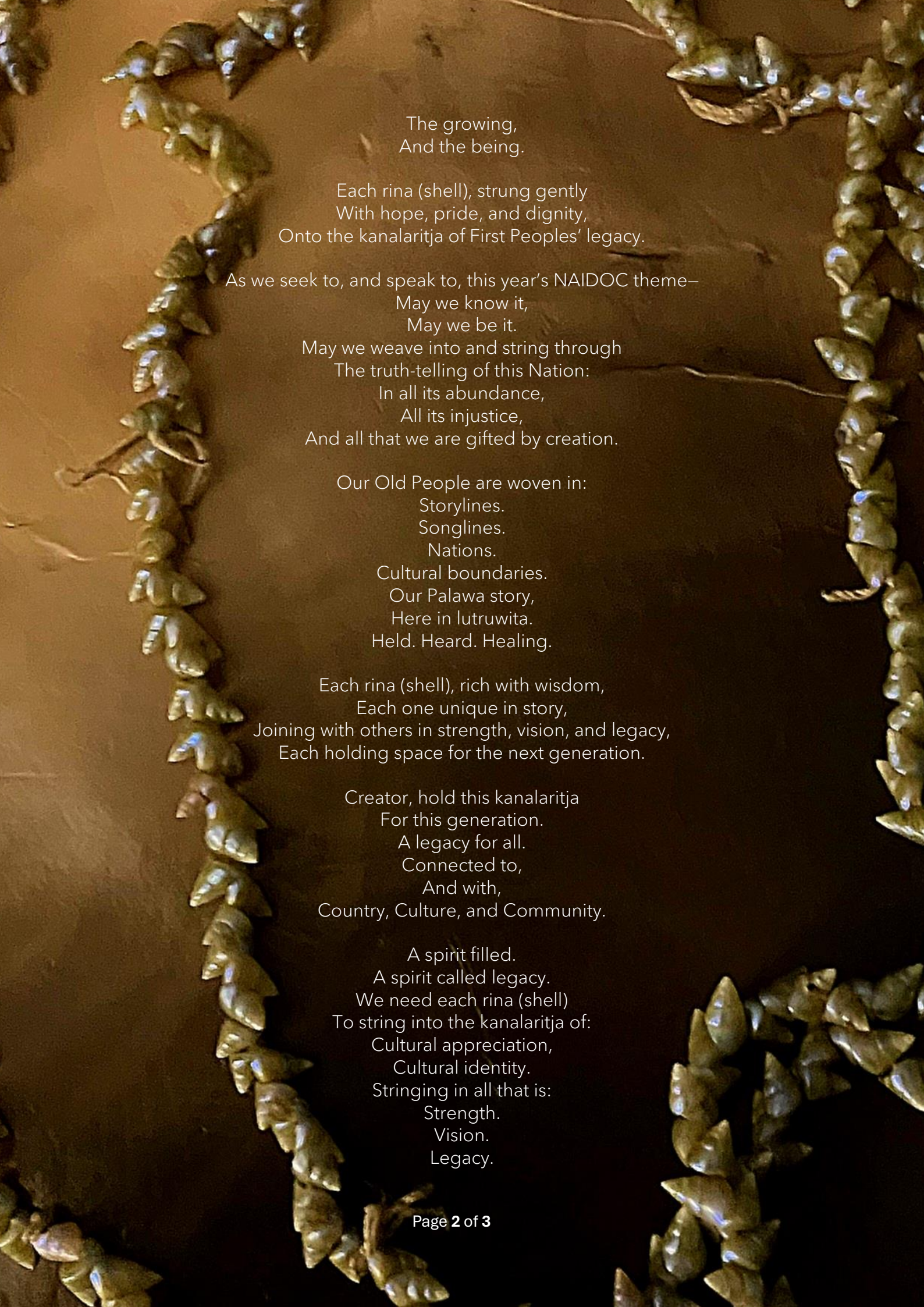
We are woven into the now,
And into our history.
Woven in strength,
In vision,
In a legacy that endures.

Ancient wisdom
Ancient lands
Ancient stories
Intergenerational hands

We walk with milaythina mapali (lots of Country),
In all its stories—past, present, and future.
With the wisdom of our Elders and Ancestors,
A legacy that will always ground us.

The next generation
Walking in care for Country,
Culture,
And creation.
Woven in relation,
Woven in justice.

I hear our Old People call.
I feel our Elders' strength.
A vision for the knowing,



The growing,
And the being.

Each rina (shell), strung gently
With hope, pride, and dignity,
Onto the kanalaritja of First Peoples' legacy.

As we seek to, and speak to, this year's NAIDOC theme—
May we know it,
May we be it.

May we weave into and string through
The truth-telling of this Nation:
In all its abundance,
All its injustice,
And all that we are gifted by creation.

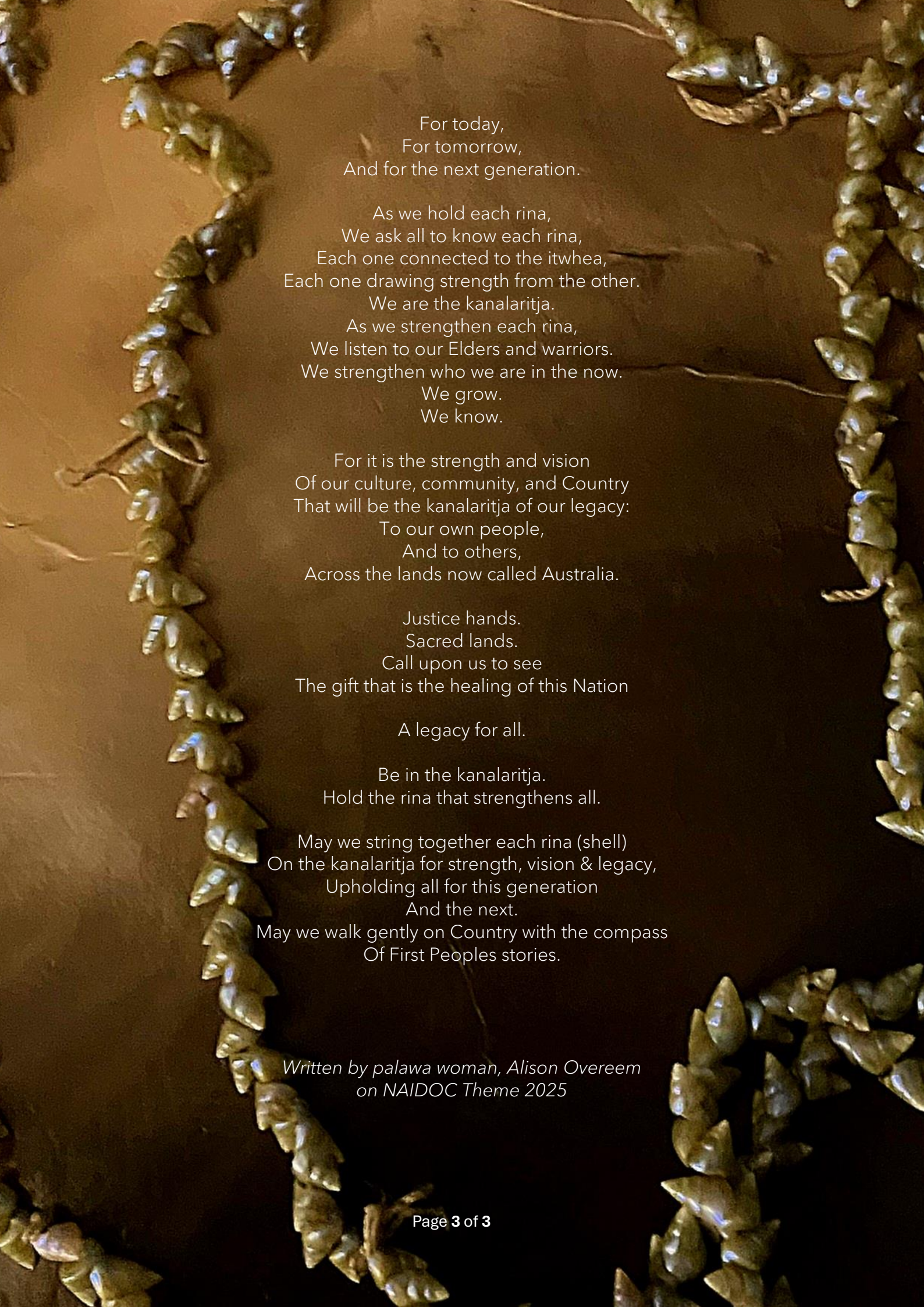
Our Old People are woven in:
Storylines.
Songlines.
Nations.

Cultural boundaries.
Our Palawa story,
Here in lutruwita.
Held. Heard. Healing.

Each rina (shell), rich with wisdom,
Each one unique in story,
Joining with others in strength, vision, and legacy,
Each holding space for the next generation.

Creator, hold this kanalaritja
For this generation.
A legacy for all.
Connected to,
And with,
Country, Culture, and Community.

A spirit filled.
A spirit called legacy.
We need each rina (shell)
To string into the kanalaritja of:
Cultural appreciation,
Cultural identity.
Stringing in all that is:
Strength.
Vision.
Legacy.



For today,
For tomorrow,
And for the next generation.

As we hold each rina,
We ask all to know each rina,
Each one connected to the itwhea,
Each one drawing strength from the other.
We are the kanalaritja.
As we strengthen each rina,
We listen to our Elders and warriors.
We strengthen who we are in the now.
We grow.
We know.

For it is the strength and vision
Of our culture, community, and Country
That will be the kanalaritja of our legacy:
To our own people,
And to others,
Across the lands now called Australia.

Justice hands.
Sacred lands.
Call upon us to see
The gift that is the healing of this Nation

A legacy for all.

Be in the kanalaritja.
Hold the rina that strengthens all.

May we string together each rina (shell)
On the kanalaritja for strength, vision & legacy,
Upholding all for this generation
And the next.
May we walk gently on Country with the compass
Of First Peoples stories.

*Written by palawa woman, Alison Overeem
on NAIDOC Theme 2025*