

The Deep Listening Project



Facilitating Intercultural Exchange

Background

The Deep Listening Project began sixteen years ago and grew out of the Koori Cohort of Researchers at RMIT University.





The Deep Listening Project applies an integrated model of cultural enrichment and regeneration, language revival, creative engagement, learning and research.

The concept of Deep Listening appears in many Indigenous languages in Australia. In the Ngangikurungkurr language of the Daly River in the Northern Territory, the word for Deep Listening is 'Dadirri' .



Treahna Hamm

In the Gunnai/Kurnai region of Gippsland, it is 'Molla Wariga'.

In the Yorta Yorta language of the Murray River in Victoria, it is 'Gulpa Ngawal'.

I see things in an Aboriginal cultural way
Sitting on the land, I feel strong

It takes me back to traditional cultural life
Back to the Old Dreamings

Of story-telling and ceremonies
And men and women's business

I tell stories through my art
Even though I live in this modern western world

It's the cultural way and it's still happening right now
When I look at the Country I know I am looking at Aboriginal land

I know what Country I am on
I am standing on my Traditional Country



Ronald Edwards 2014

Deep Listening is an Aboriginal way of listening and learning.

I use Deep Listening to guide me in hearing the voices of my ancestors,
listening to the land, the sea and the stars and hearing the stories that want to be told.



Deep Listening also allows me to hear the voices within which need to speak.

Lisa Kennedy 2013

In our Aboriginal way, we learn to listen from our earliest days.
We could not live good and useful lives unless we listened.
This was the normal way for us to learn...
Our people have passed on this way of listening for over 40,000 years...

Aunty Miriam Rose Ungunmerr



For Indigenous people Deep Listening comes naturally
It's about walking on the land
Softly quietly
And listening to the stories around the campfire

We've got to listen to the wind in the trees
Listen to the birds
It's the feeling of a gift
A gift always comes back

Ron Murray

Wamba Wamba



When we listen deeply
And feel the trust begin
We can open up the doors
And let each other in

*Werna wariga molla
Il mud-wud-gun gingin woonda
Nalu glurbety moolo
Il ya-wurn kinaway
Tier wootae nalu yail*



Excerpt from Dee Listening Song

*Lyrics Laura Brearley
Gunaí Translation Dr Aunty Doris Paton*

The translation of the Swahili word 'Sikia' is 'integrated sensing'.

'Sikia' refers to a single complex experience in which one simultaneously sees and hears, pays attention to, notices, understands, perceives.

In the African paradigm, life-force, sound and word are identical.

The African Tradition



Deep Listening in the Taoist Tradition

Jing

Respect

敬

Ting

Listen

聽

The characters for Deep Listening incorporate

Heaven

People

Earth

Ear

Eye

Heart

Respect

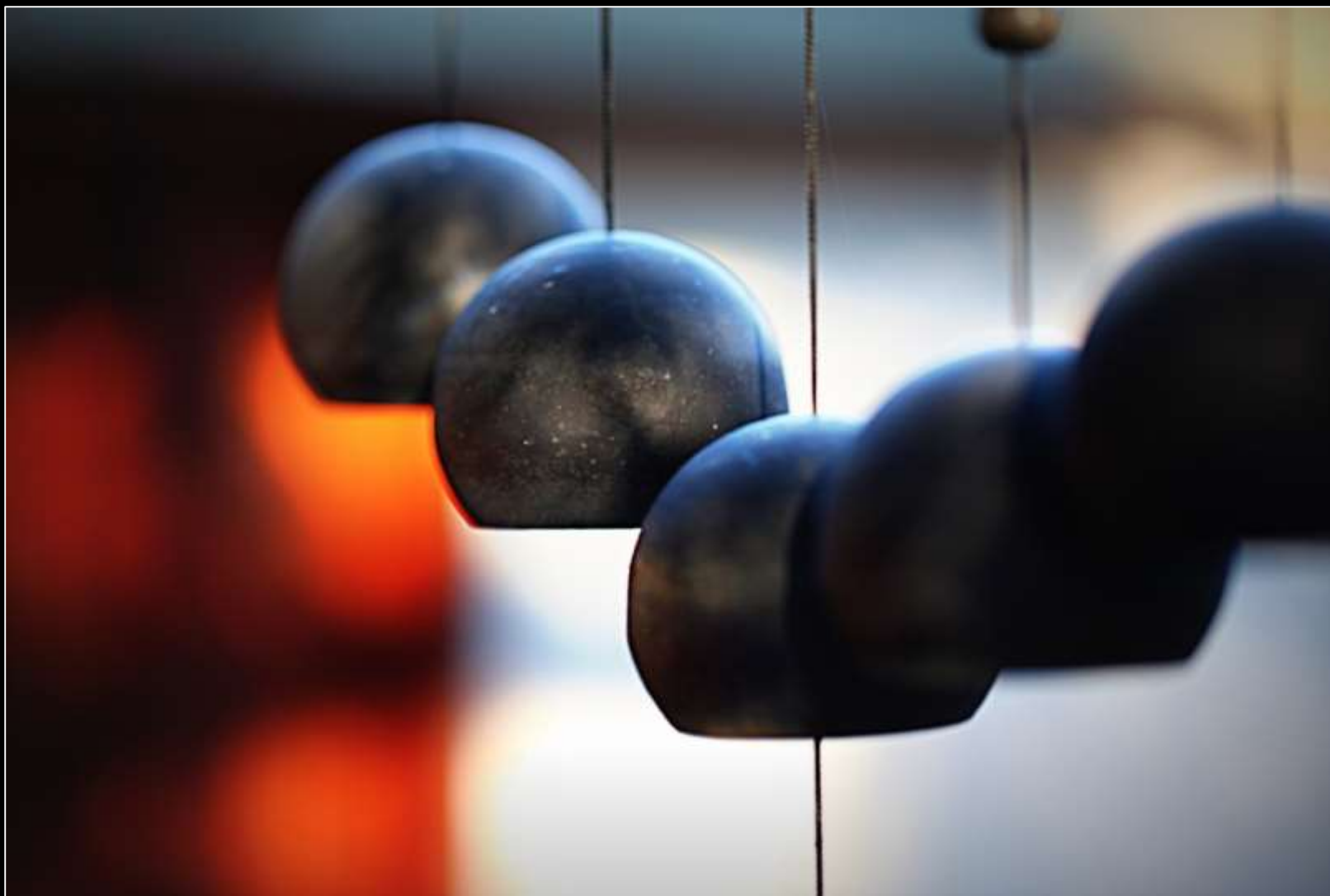
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And the relationships between all of these



Deep Listening in the context of surroundings – Land, People, Heaven and Earth



Being connected to all things

Deep Listening in Improvisation

The way I approach Deep Listening is to settle myself
Feel where I am
Feel the ambience of where I'm going to play
Feel the presence of the people I'm going to play with
And then relate to that

Deep Listening to me is a multi-faceted form of listening
It isn't only listening with your ears
But listening with your eyes
Your heart, your soul, your whole being
Everything

Mike Jordan Jazz drummer





Deep Listening to me is where you've got to start
Deep Listening means opening my heart and listening
Sometimes I may not play anything
I might just leave some space
My favourite thing is space

Steve Sedergreen Jazz pianist



In the Deep Listening Project, Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, musicians, educators and researchers collaborate on Special Events.

Members of The Deep Listening community come together to compose, perform, tell stories and facilitate Deep Listening Circles.



Launch of Deep Listening Book Federation Square 2010



Deep Listening Circle, Deadly in Gippsland Conference 2009

In Projects underpinned by Deep Listening, activities are documented to ensure that what is being learned can be passed onto future generations.



The Deep Listening Band has produced two CDs:

Deep Listening: Indigenous Deep Listening (2009) and *On Country (2011)*

The Deep Listening Band's performances interweave art, songs, improvisation, stories and multi-media.



Deadly in Gippsland Conference, Sale, Victoria, 2011

Winner of 2012 National Local Government Award 'Promoting Reconciliation through Deep Listening in Action'







A Creative Cross-Cultural Exchange
between Australia and Canada began in
2008 as part of the Deep Listening Project.











In November 2012, three First Nation Canadians from The Banff Centre in Canada travelled to Australia as Special Guests of the Deep Listening Project to participate in The Shearwater Festival on Phillip Island and to continue the Cross-cultural Exchange begun in 2008.



Elder Tom Crane Bear (Siksika) is a highly regarded and much awarded spiritual advisor to the Indigenous Leadership and Management Program at The Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada. Brian Calliou (Cree) is the Director of the Indigenous Leadership and Management Program and Don McIntyre (Ojibway) is a story-teller, artist and lawyer who is on Faculty at The Banff Centre.

The Creative Cross-cultural Exchange brings people together from both sides of the Pacific to undertake collaborative research and to engage in events underpinned by Deep Listening.





ABC Recording Studios with Producer and Presenter Daniel Browning



With Uncle Jim Berg at the Koorie Heritage Trust



Footscray Community Arts Centre
with Marre Clarke and Uncle Larry Walsh





With Board Members of the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation of Languages

The University of Melbourne: Melbourne Business School
Asia Pacific Social Impact Leadership Centre (APSILC)
Leadership Dialogue Series: Wise Practices in Indigenous







The Koorie Unit, GippsTAFE, Morwell





Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation, Sale





Visit with Uncle Albert Mullett hosted by Doris Paton and Family







Krowathunkoolong Keeping Place, Bairnsdale



The Shearwater Festival



The Shearwater Festival brings communities together to celebrate the migration of the short-tailed shearwater birds who fly 15,000 kilometres in their annual migration from Bass Strait in the Southern Ocean to the Bering Sea in the Northern Pacific.



The Shearwater Festival is underpinned by the concept of Deep Listening – a way of listening respectfully which builds community and deepens awareness.



The short-tailed shearwater is celebrated as a symbol of creative, cultural and environmental interconnectedness.

One million shearwaters have their rookeries on Phillip Island.



For the last two years, a Shearwater Festival has been held on Phillip Island to celebrate the annual return of the shearwater birds.



Shearwater Festival

Celebrating Biyadin

November 24th and 25th 2012

Penguin Parade
Nobbies Centre



A FREE event

- Art
- Music
- Dance
- Culture
- Nature

Developing partnerships, cross cultural understanding
and environmental awareness

www.penguins.org.au/events

BASS COAST
SOUTH COAST

phillipisland
nature parks



Shearwater Soundfest

A Creative, Cultural and Environmental
Festival on Phillip Island

Saturday 23rd November 2013
2 PM

Woolamal Beach Surf Life Saving Club
Woolamal Beach Rd Cape Woolamal Phillip Island





The Shearwater Festival uses the arts to enhance environmental awareness and to facilitate cultural regeneration and the revival of Indigenous languages.

The Festival brings members of the Deep Listening Band and the community together to celebrate the birds through creative cross-cultural collaborations.



The Deep Listening Band works in collaboration with other musicians, artists, acoustic ecologists, researchers and members of Indigenous communities, including linguists, children and Elders.







The Biyadin Boogie



Biyadin is the Local Aboriginal word for the short tailed shearwater, also known as the muttonbird or moonbird









The Shearwater Festival is facilitated by a partnership between the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation of Languages, the Bass Coast Shire Council in partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park.



The Festival was awarded the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards 2013 for Community Action Leadership.

Deep Listening is about hearing the sounds that haven't been made yet.

Don McIntyre
Ojibway





For further information

Dr Laura Brearley
Coordinator, Deep Listening Project
0434 596800
laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au