

Shearwater Festival 2015 Photostory



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Evaluation Artwork
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Evaluation Words
Shearwater Festival 2015 artists, musicians and participants

Introduction

The Shearwater Festival is a creative, cultural and environmental event which brings communities together to celebrate the return of the shearwaters from their 15,000 kilometre migration.





The two-day Festival includes a street parade, workshops, commissioned work, collaborations with Aboriginal linguists, performances, guided walks and talks to the shearwater rookeries.

The Shearwater Festival involves creative artists, musicians, Indigenous Elders, community members and school children.



The Festival is preceded by a Shearwater Education Program in local schools which includes visits from artists, musicians, environmentalists, and Aboriginal linguists and Elders.

The Shearwater Festival is auspiced by the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation of Languages and sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire Council in partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park.



Its focus is on Indigenous language revival, cultural revitalisation and the deepening of cultural and environmental awareness through the Arts.

A key objective of the Shearwater Festival is to create a sustainable framework of creative language revival, cultural revitalisation and environmental awareness through a distributed model of community engagement.



The Festival is designed to create a mutually enriching network of relationships between Indigenous linguists, cultural advisors and creative artists underpinned by the Indigenous concept of Deep Listening.

Shearwater Short Tales was a new element of the Shearwater Festival introduced in 2015. It featured creative collaborations between creative artists, Indigenous linguists and cultural advisors from Bass Coast and Mallacoota in East Gippsland.



Lead Artists

Padma Newsome
Susannah Keebler
Kutcha Edwards
Camille Monet



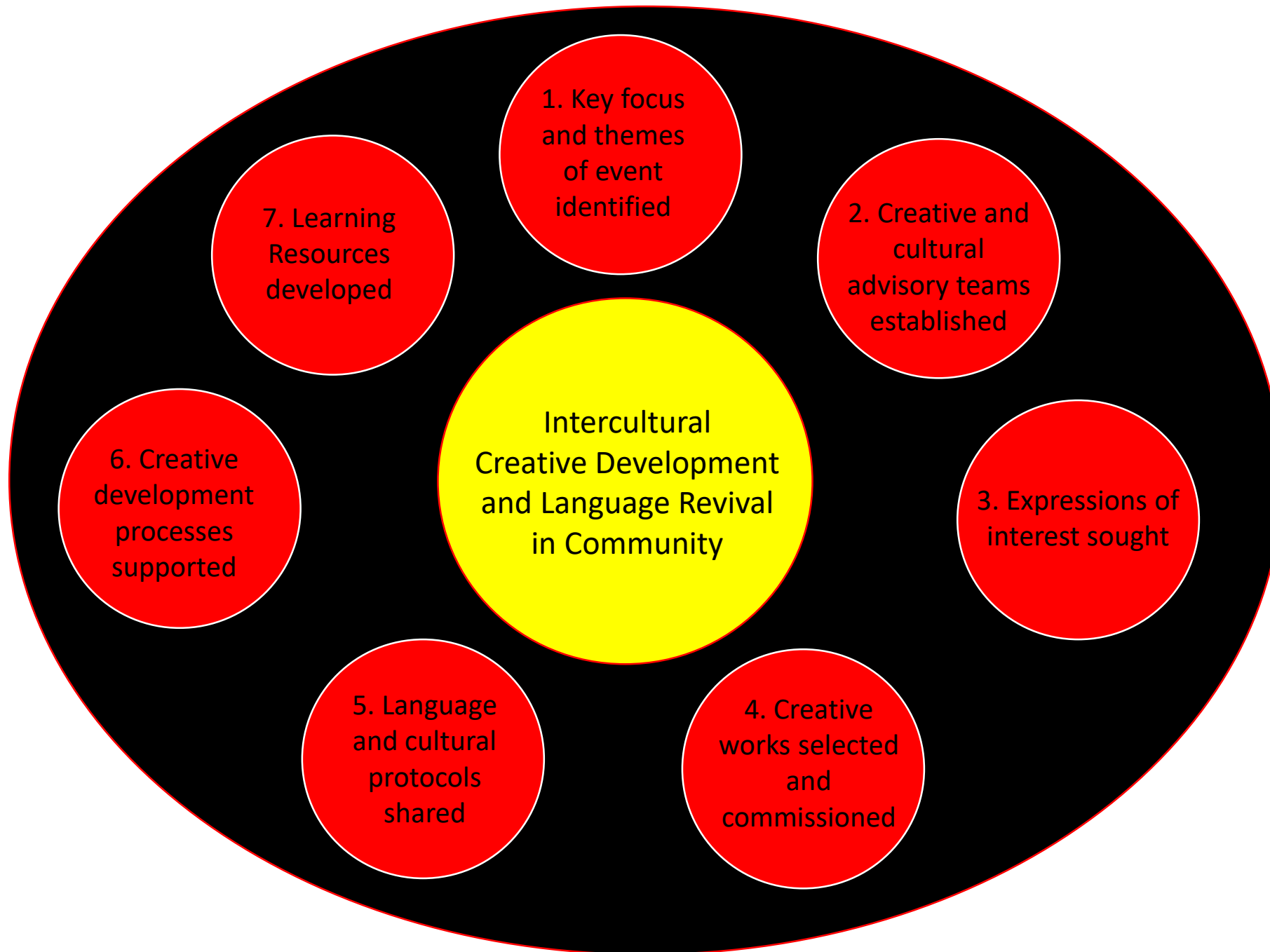
Community members were supported to develop short productions in song, music, dance, poetry, film and visual media.

With the guidance of VACL the auspicing body of the Shearwater Festival, a successful model of practice has been developed ...
'Intercultural Creative Development and Language Revival in Community'.

Within this model ...

1. Key focus and themes for community event are identified
2. Creative and Cultural Advisory Teams are established with lead artists, Indigenous linguists and mentors
3. Expressions of interest for creative works are sought from community members
4. Works are selected and commissions for creative and cultural collaborations are invited
5. Indigenous language translations and cultural protocols are identified and shared, as appropriate
6. Creative development processes are supported through workshops, mentoring and Deep Listening Circles
7. In accordance with cultural protocols, creative works are documented as resource material for educational purposes.





Images and Evaluation Comments from Shearwater Festival 2015



Aboriginal flag-raising ceremony





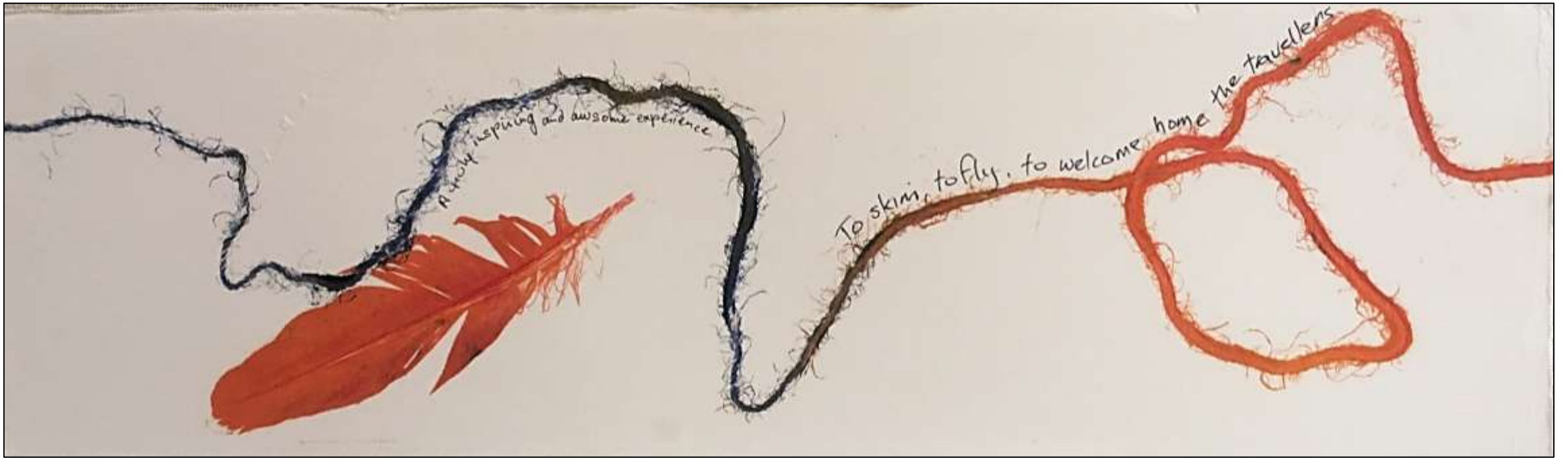
Twilight shearwater cruise at Cape Woolamai







Many lives across many cultures
weaving into a common thread
brought together by this little bird



A truly inspiring and awesome experience
to skim to fly
to welcome home the travellers



Shearwater Street Parade



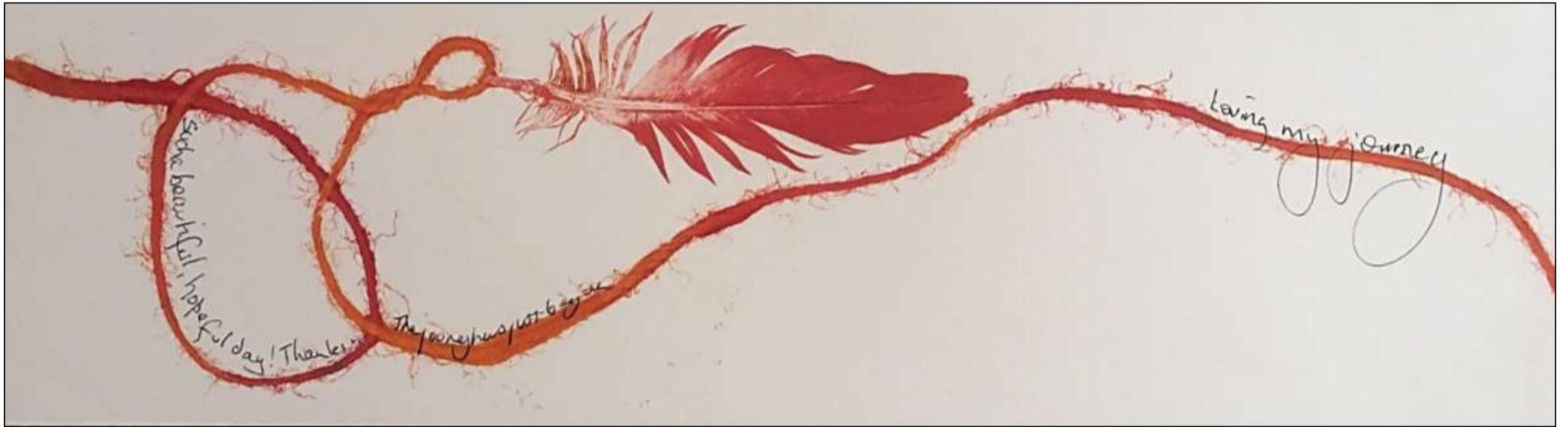








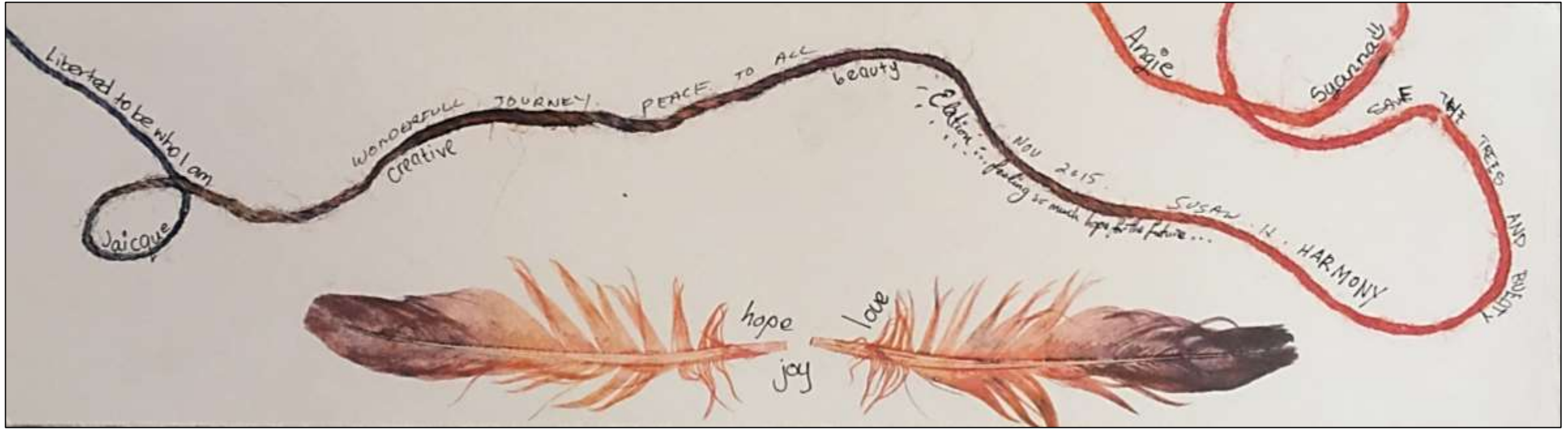




The journey has just begun

such a beautiful, hopeful day

Thanks xx



Liberated to be who I am
wonderful journey
peace to all

Creative beauty
elation ... feeling so much hope for the future
save the trees and beauty

hope
joy
love



Festival Opening





Shearwater Short Tales



Images Rachel Ramberg and Graeme Burgan







A journey to joy
coming together
family
friendship



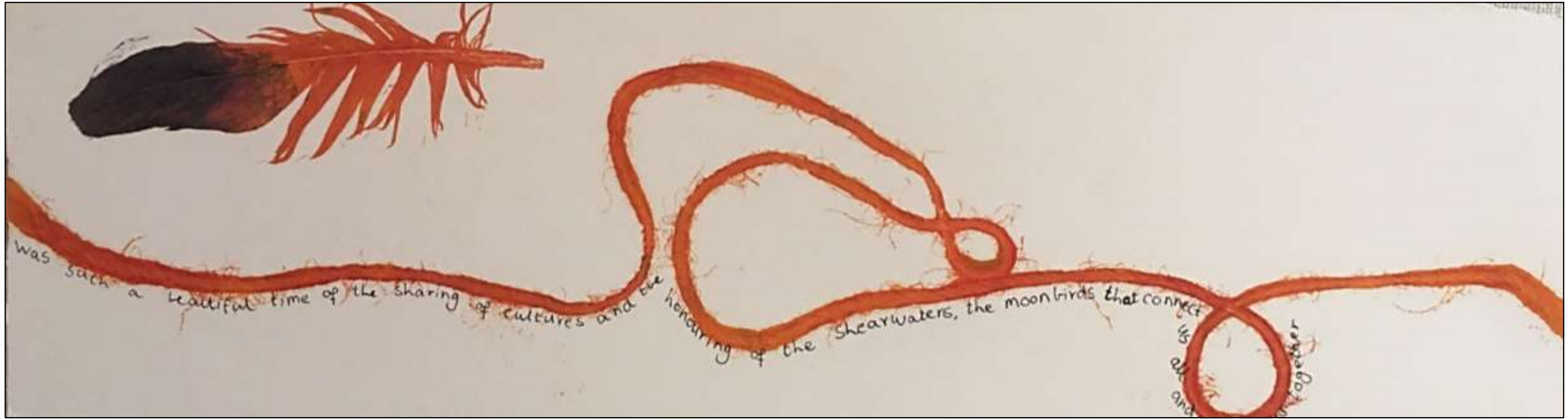
Ride the wave of love

Beautiful atmosphere

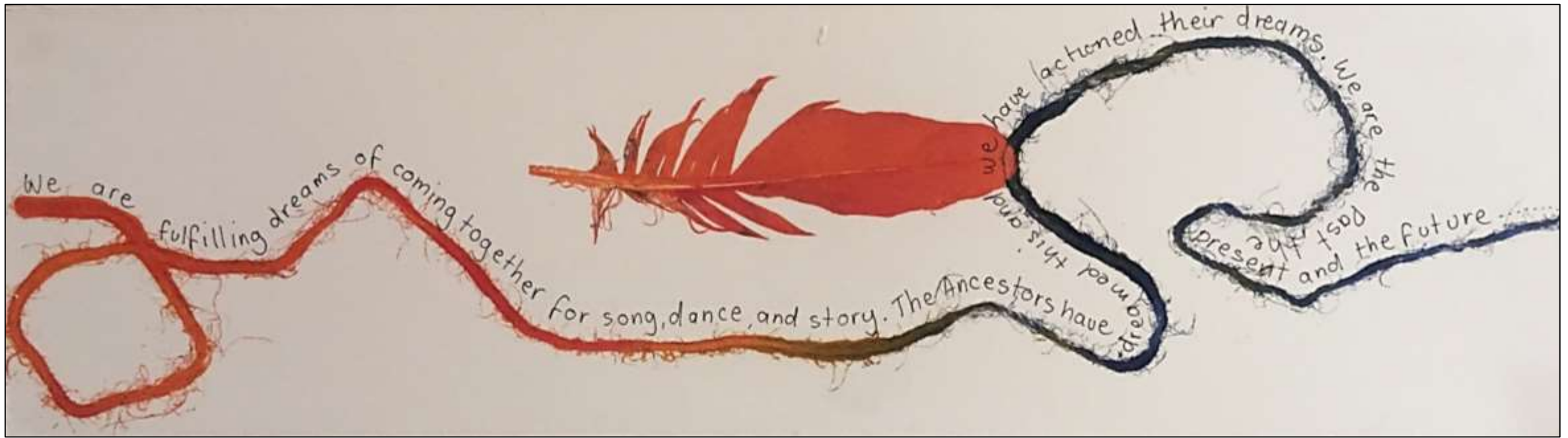
It was great to see everyone smiling and enjoying themselves







It was such a beautiful time of the sharing of cultures
and the honouring of the shearwaters
the moonbirds that connect us all
and bring us together



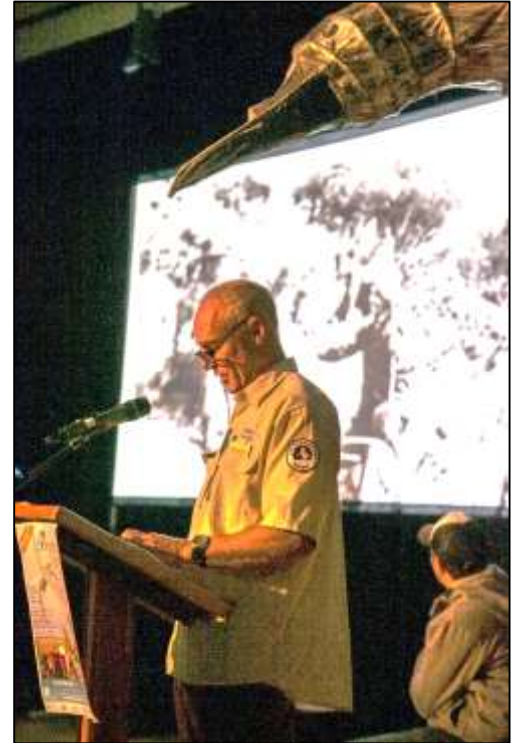
We are fulfilling dreams of coming together
for song, dance and story

The Ancestors have dreamed this
and we have actioned their dreams

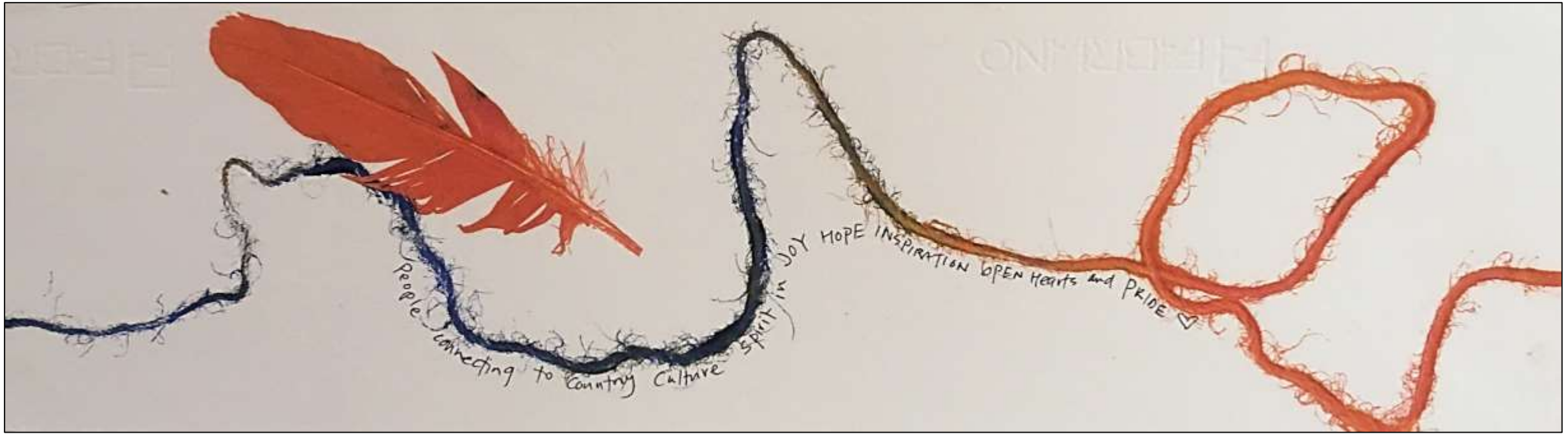
We are the past
the present and the future





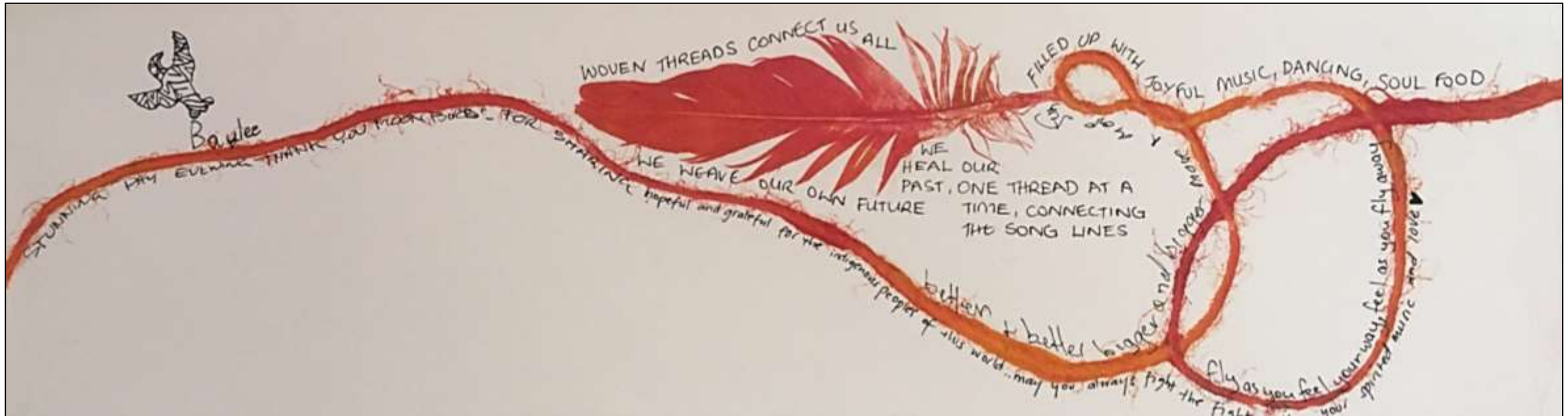






People connecting
to country
culture
spirit

In joy
hope
inspiration
open hearts and pride



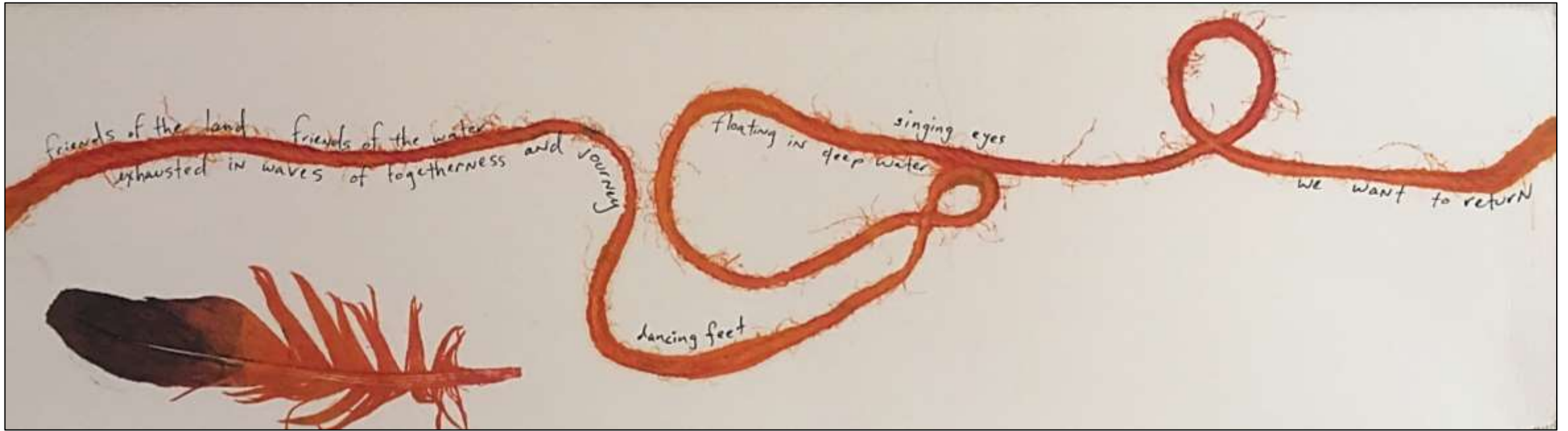
Woven threads connect us all
We weave our own future
We heal our past one thread at a time
Connecting the songlines
hopeful and grateful for the Indigenous peoples of this world
May you always fight the fight with your spirited music and love
filled up with joyful music, dancing, soul food
Better and better, bigger and bigger, more and more fun
Stunning day evening
Thankyou moonbirds for sharing
Fly as you feel your way
Feel as you fly away











Friends of the land
Friends of the water
exhausted in waves of togetherness and journey

Singing eyes
dancing feet
floating in deep water

We want to return



Many lives across many cultures
weaving into a common thread
brought together by this little bird



Workshops





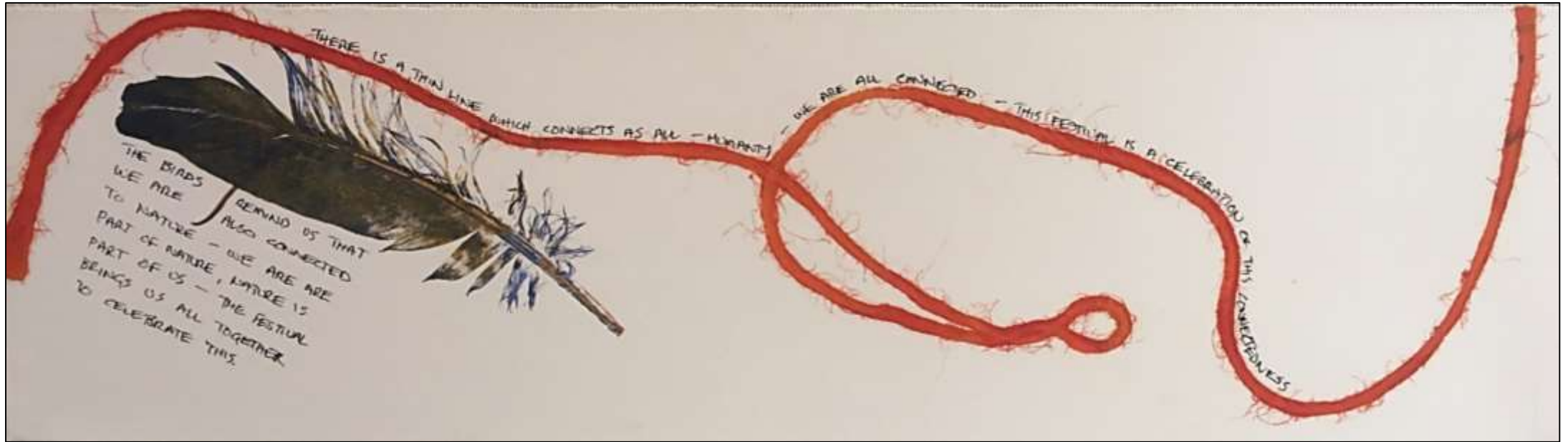




Images Rachel Ramberg and Terry Melvin

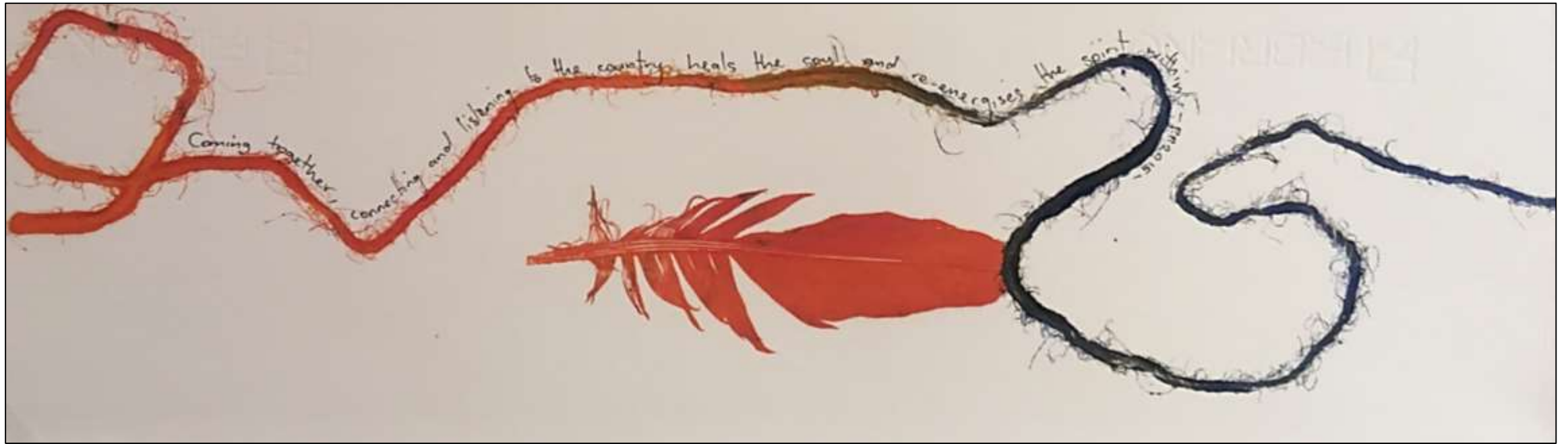


Image Rachel Ramberg



There is a thin line which connects us all
humanity
We are all connected
This festival is a celebration of this connectedness

The birds remind us that we are also connected to nature
we are part of nature
nature is part of us
The festival brings us all together to celebrate this

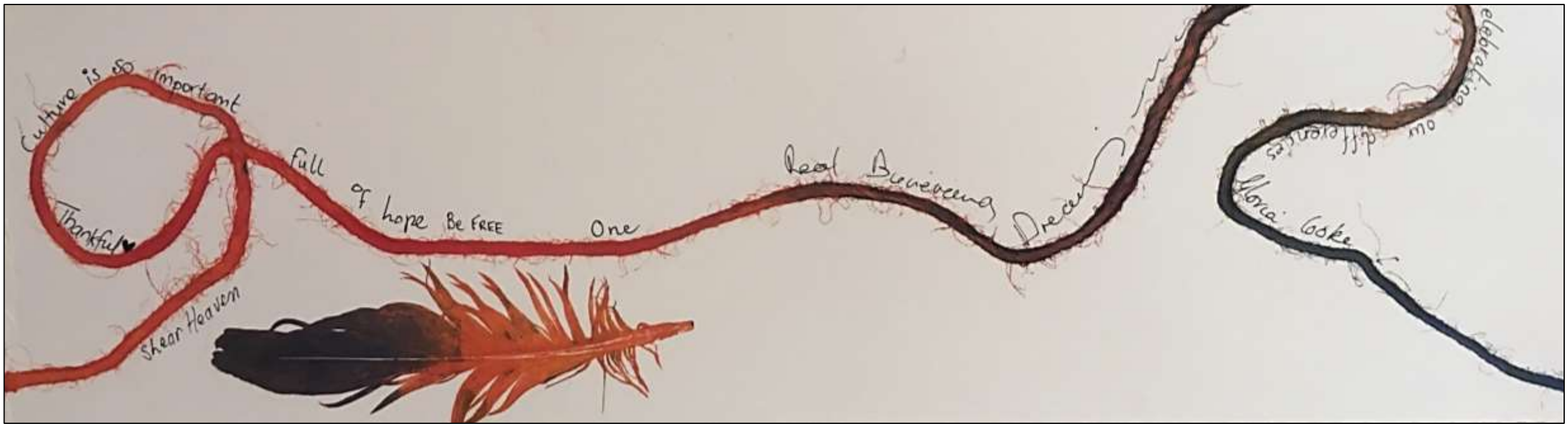


Coming together
connecting and listening to the country
heals the soul
and re-energises the spirit within



Shearwater Ritual





Shear heaven
thankful

Culture is so important
full of hope

Be free
one

Real Boonwurrung dreams
celebrating our differences



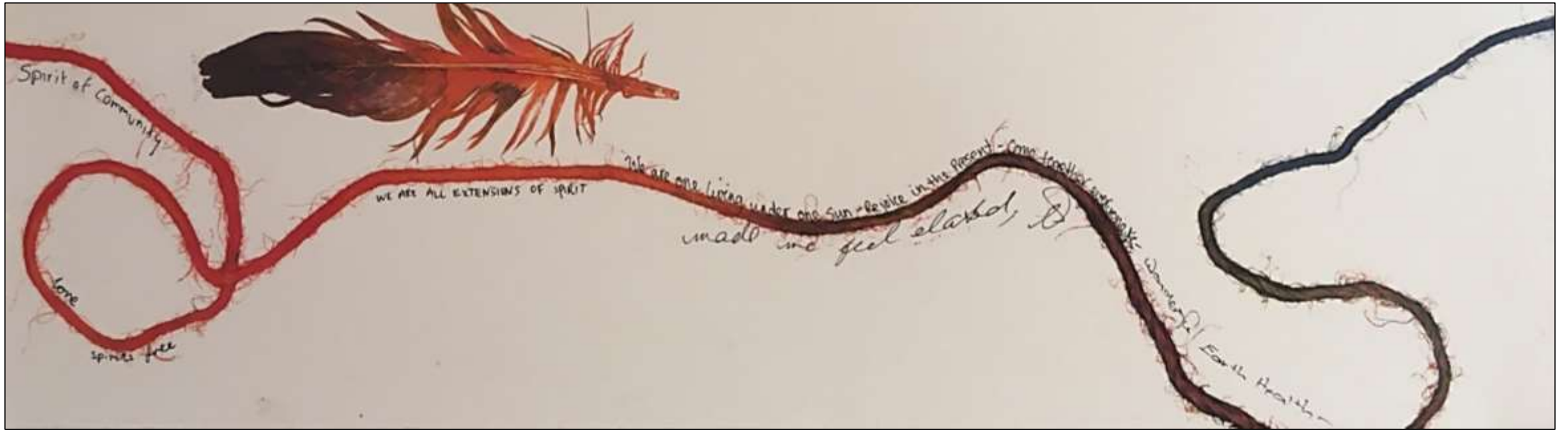
Concerts







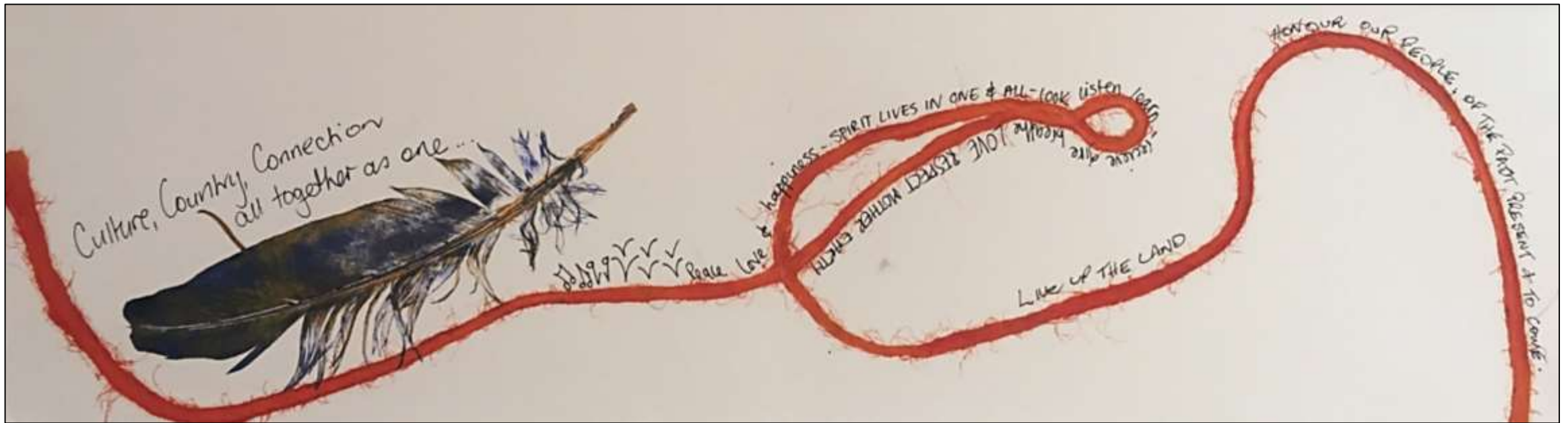




Spirit of community
spirits free
love

We are all extensions of spirit
we are living under one sun
rejoice in the present

Come together everyone
wonderful earth health
made me feel elated



Culture, country, connection
all together as one
peace, love and happiness
Spirit lives in one and all

Look, listen learn, receive, give breathe
love, respect mother earth
honour our people of the past, present and to come
Live up the land



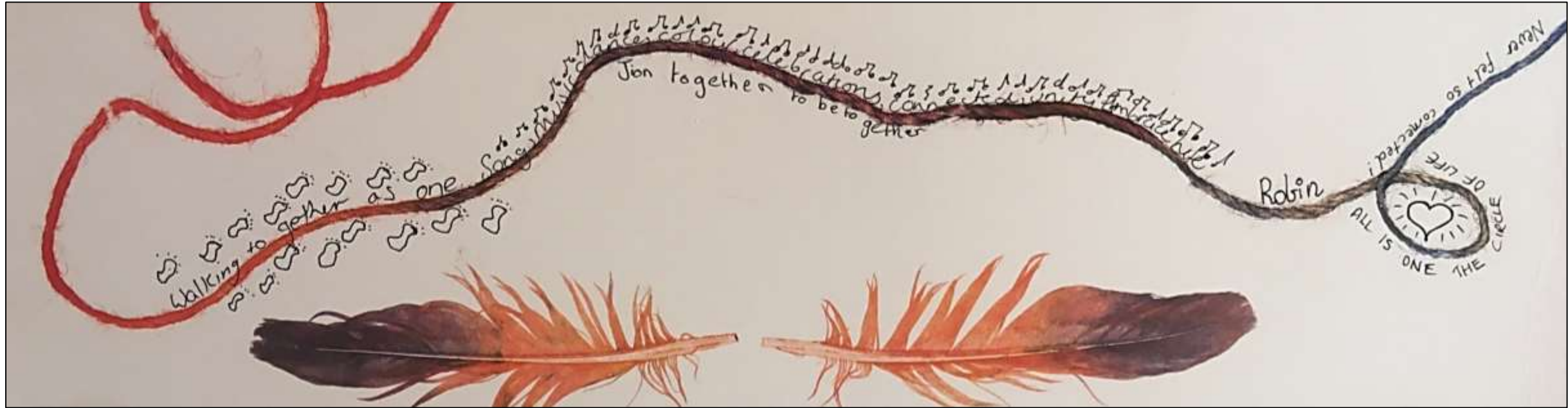




A magical journey

We are all connected





Walking together as one
join together to be together
never felt so connected

Song, music, dance, colour, celebrations, connected, unity
embrace life
all is one

The circle of life

