

Shearwater Education Program 2015



Photostory Dr Laura Brearley

Photography Fay Magee
Terry Melvin
Graeme Burgan
Natasha Lambie
Rachel Ramberg
Padma Newsome
Dr Laura Brearley



We acknowledge the Elders past and present who have supported and encouraged our work from the beginning.

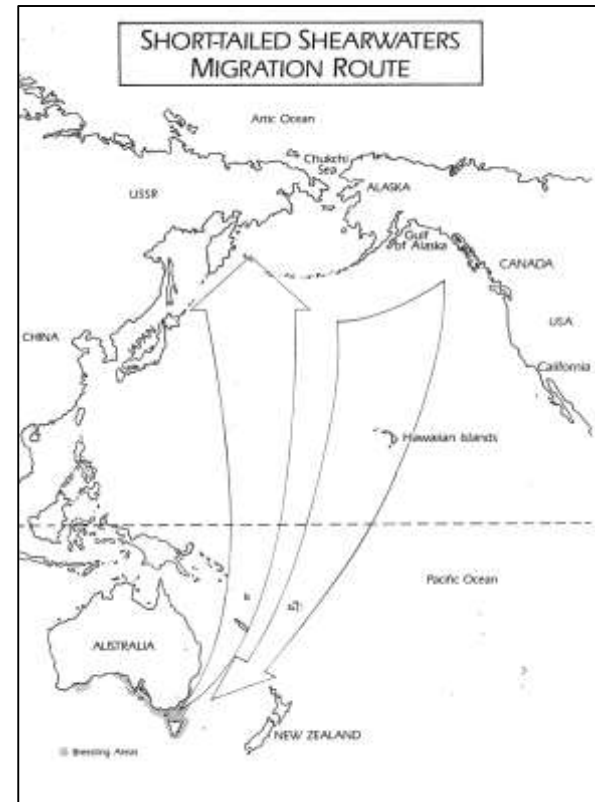


We also acknowledge the Ancestors, Guardians and Spirits of the Land on which we live for their inspiration and protection.

The Shearwater Festival connects artists, Elders and children in a celebration of 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.



Graeme Burgan Education Ranger from Phillip Island Nature Park has been researching the short-tailed shearwaters for over 25 years



The Shearwater Festival uses the Arts to contribute to Indigenous language revival and cultural regeneration, facilitate inter-cultural exchange and to raise environmental awareness.



Shearwater Festival 2015 took place in Cowes and Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island, beginning on the evening of Friday 20th November and running until Sunday afternoon, 22nd November.



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



*Camille Monet
Artist-in-Residence
Shearwater Festival and Education Program*

The Shearwater Education Program 2015 brought together children, Indigenous cultural advisors, linguists, artists and environmentalists in a ten-week intensive program leading up to the Shearwater Festival.



In the Shearwater Education Program 2015, school children participated in creative, cultural and environmental activities, focussing on the shearwaters, Indigenous culture and the natural environment.



The 2015 Shearwater Education Program was coordinated by Fay Magee.



Fay Magee and Peda Chambers



A team of artists, educators, Indigenous cultural advisors and linguists from the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation of Languages collaborated in the facilitation of the Shearwater Education Program.



The Shearwater Education Team Members of 2015 were Fay Magee, Camille Monet, Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir, Kutcha Edwards, Patrice Mahoney, Lisa Kennedy, Laura Brearley, Graeme Burgan and Joyce Agee.



*Joyce Agee
Shearwater Education Team Member*



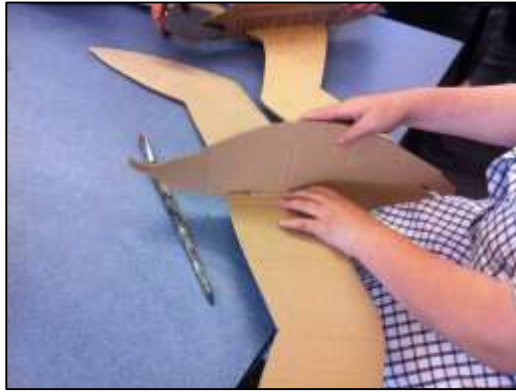
*Patrice Muthaymiles Mahoney
Shearwater Education Team Member*

Members of the Shearwater Education Team worked with teachers in the schools to develop educational resources and facilitate a learning program which deepened cultural and environmental awareness and prepared for activities within the Shearwater Festival.





*Lisa Kennedy with Camille Monet
Shearwater Education Team Members*



All materials for the puppet-making and brush reed project for the Shearwater Education Program 2015 were provided: Recycled cardboard, black tape, bamboo stakes and coloured non-toxic acrylic paint.





*Kutch Edwards and Graeme Burgan
Shearwater Education Team Members
Cowes Primary School*



The Shearwater Festival Working Group estimated that in 2015, 1000 school children were involved from the Bass Coast Shire, East Gippsland Shire and from schools in Canada and the USA through the Shearwater Message Exchange and the Shearwater Short Tales Project.



Newhaven College

The following schools were visited in 2015:

Newhaven College, Cowes Primary School, Newhaven Primary School, San Remo Primary School, Powlett River Primary School and Wonthaggi North Primary School.



*Graeme Burgan
Education Ranger Phillip Island Nature Park
Shearwater Education Team Member*





Newhaven College at Cape Woolamai





*Graeme Burgan and Laura Brearley
Newhaven College
Shearwater Education Team*



Hi Fay,

The Shearwater Festival and Education Program has deepened the school community's knowledge and understanding of indigenous culture by having the experts such as Ranger Graeme, Aunty Fay, Kutcha Edwards, Laura, Lisa, yourself and Camille Monet come into the school/class and talk to the students about the specific Shearwater topic or activity they were helping with. The visitors were able to impart their knowledge and share their expertise with our students through rich discussions and hands on activities.

Students in the Junior School, grades 1-4 were involved in a variety of activities such as writing of haiku poems, art and craft puppet making, creation of songs, using apps and technology such as pic collage, composing Shearwater short tales, Circle of Life , Trans-Pacific digital message exchange between Newhaven College and Canadian children provided opportunities for learning and community engagement in and through the Arts and has built awareness and appreciation of local and global environmental issues. Students were able to make connections with the local environment and what they were learning at school.

On the day of the parade these were further reinforced and afterwards by listening to the presenters all contributed to further strengthening the partnership between the home and the school by involving the parents in the student's experiences and education.

Have a wonderful festive season and a prosperous 2016.

Thank you for all your support this year.

Ralph Arceo

Head of Junior School

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1770 Phillip Island Road
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Cowes Library



Cowes Primary School





Newhaven Primary School















Powlett River Primary School



Wonthaggi North Primary School

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir, Kutcha Edwards and Amanda McMahon

Boon Wurrung Song-Writing Project



Poetry from Wonthaggi North Primary School

Boon Wurrung translations by Traditional Owner and Linguist Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

The land, the sea, the sky and the stars

Biik, warreeny, wurru-wurru ba turt

The water the hills

Baany ba ngurrak

The rivers and the creeks

Wurneet ba wurneet

Our coast, our trees

Warreeny-marr-ngal ba tarrang-ngal

We acknowledge the true owners of our home

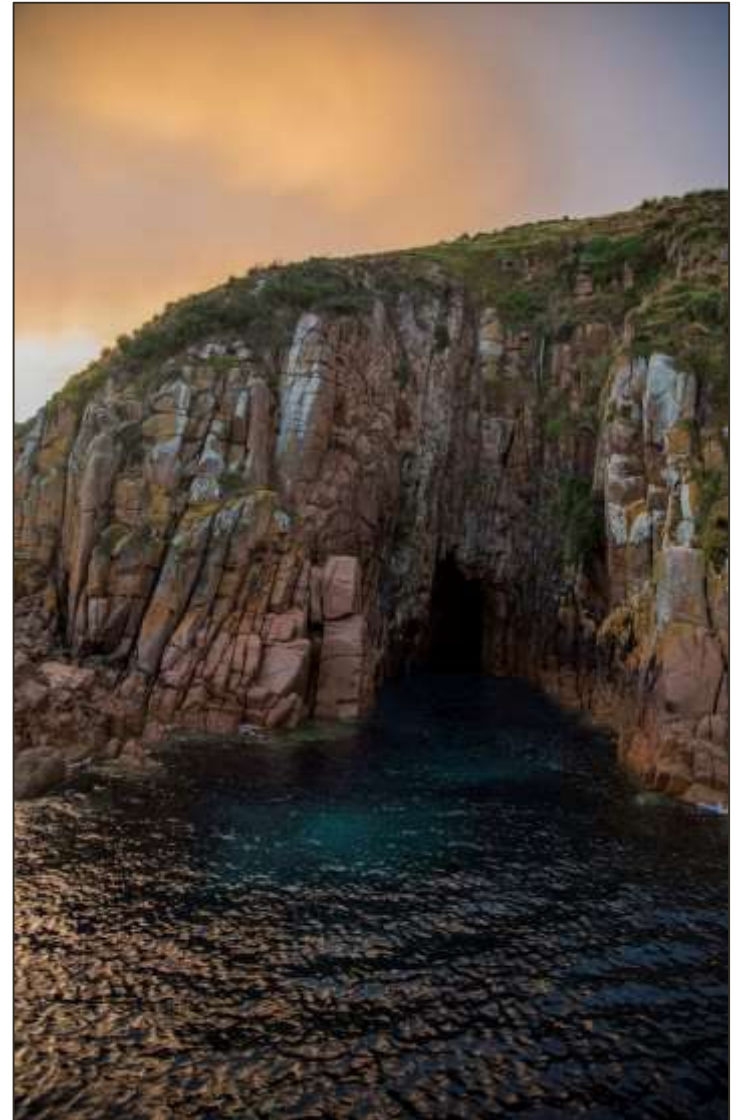
Weelam –ik Boon wurrung koolin burndap- buluk

We unite together

Yawing-ngal-in

Darcy Holden

Wonthaggi North Primary School



Boon wurrung is the name of the land
Boon wurrung biik-ik

Their culture is part of us (we are one)
Ganbu-buluk ganbu-dhan

Amy Britt
Wonthaggi North Primary School



I see the night stars
Nganga-ik turt-buluk burrun

People together around the fire
Koolin ganbu n'uther wirrate wiiny

Come with us on our journey
Yanna wirrate-ngal ngalingu

Zoe Bilson
Wonthaggi North Primary School



Shearwater Message Exchange

Linked to the Shearwater Festival and the Education Program is the Shearwater Message Exchange.



Birds as Messengers



Designs ...

Mick Harding (Taungwurrung)

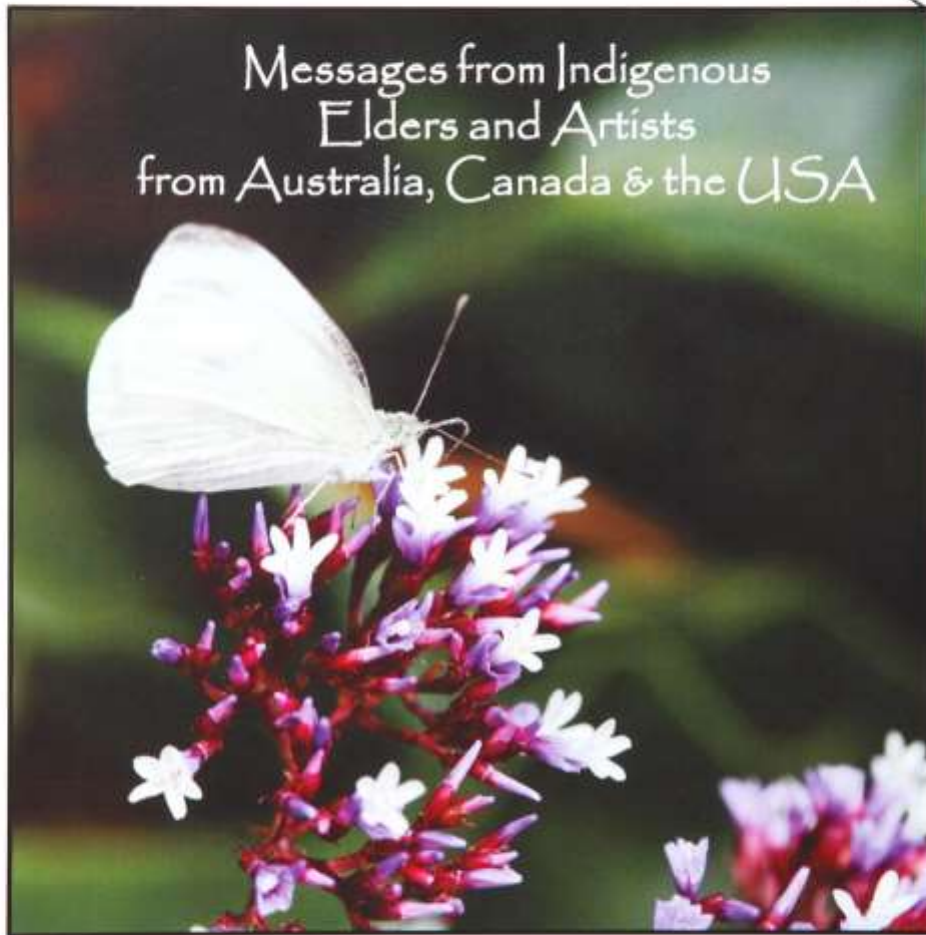
Lisa Kennedy (Trawlwoolway)

Patrice Muthaymiles Mahoney (Anewan)

Ronald Edwards (Gunnai Kurnai)

Uncle Dennis Seymour (Adnyamathanha)

Messages from Indigenous
Elders and Artists
from Australia, Canada & the USA



Nature's inter net... highway...

The Shearwater Message Exchange connects artists, Elders and children in a celebration of short-tailed shearwater birds and a recognition of the symbol of Birds as Messengers.



Patrice Muthaymiles Mahoney (Victoria, Australia) with C. Maxx Stevens (Boulder, Colorado)



This project reminds me of the beauty and importance of our human experience. We must remember that how we experience this world and what we do has impact and an exchange of energy.

LET US REMEMBER TO TOUCH THE WORLD AND EXCHANGE WITH ONE ANOTHER POSITIVE ENERGY + LOVE

Bethhuhtala
2015

www.Bethhuhtala.com



Terry Melvin (Victoria, Australia) with Bethhuhtala (Boulder, Colorado)



Mick Harding Taungurung Aboriginal Artist
Victoria, Australia

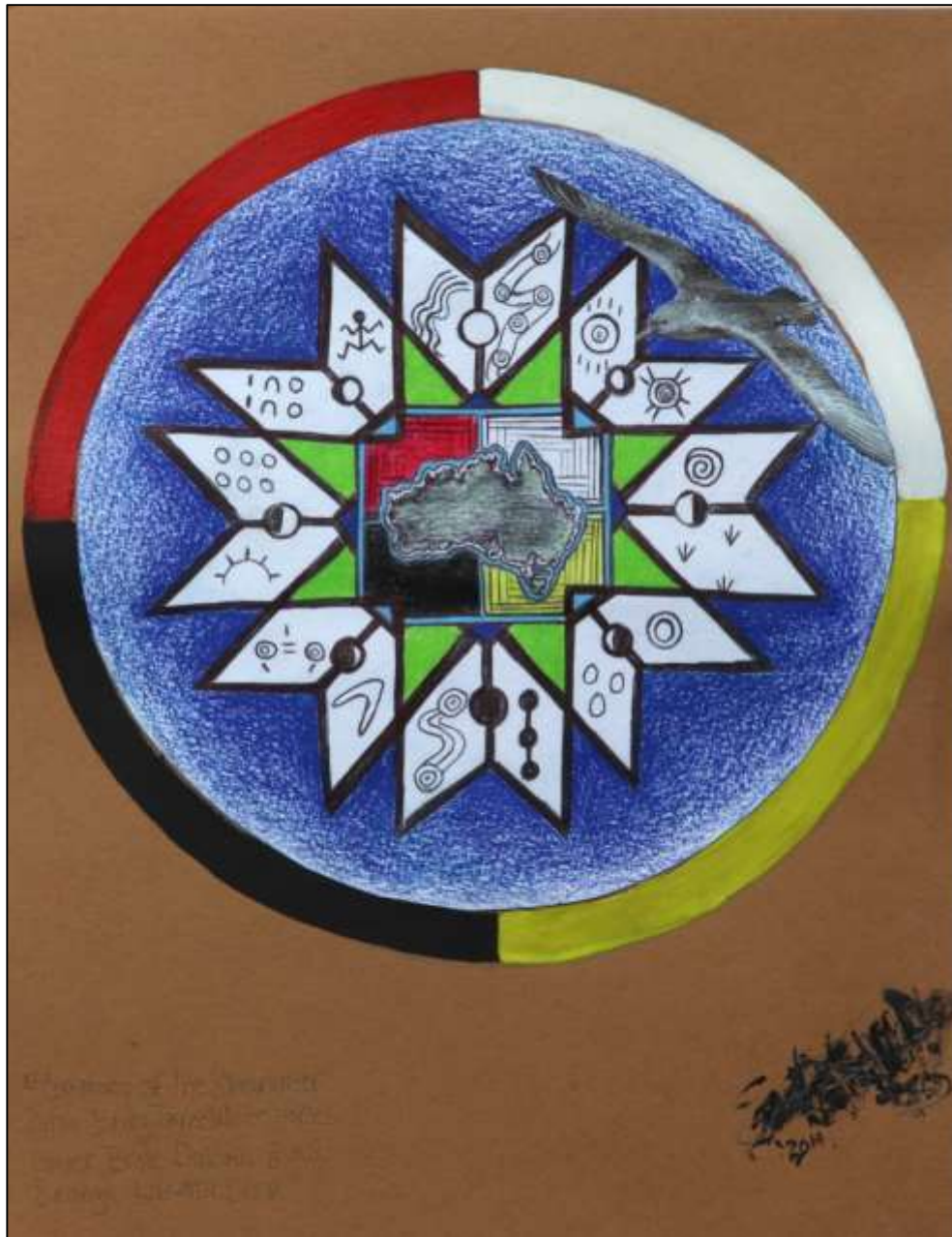
THE THOUGHTS ARE THE CIRCLES THAT
 ○ FLOAT IN MY MIND
 AS I WISH FOR THEM TO REACH
 MY GRANDPARENTS
 WHO HAVE
 ○ PASSED...
 THE LINES
 REPRESENT
 MY
 CONNECTION TO
 MY
 PEOPLE +
 CULTURE
 2014

I AM OF THE EAST AND BITREWARR CLANS AND MY HOPE IS TO KNOW AND CONNECT WITH MANY THROUGH ART MAKING.

I sometimes think what it would be like
 To spend a day with my great great grandparents
 I have moments when I feel the ancestors are helping
 Guiding me, sitting right beside me
 I need to do justice to the struggles they lived through

Mick Harding Taungurung Aboriginal Artist
Victoria, Australia

Mick Harding (Victoria, Australia) with Melanie Yazzie (Boulder, Colorado)



'Ceremony of the Shearwater'

Sarah Brings Three White Horses

Lower Brule Dakota Sioux

Sicango Lakota Sioux

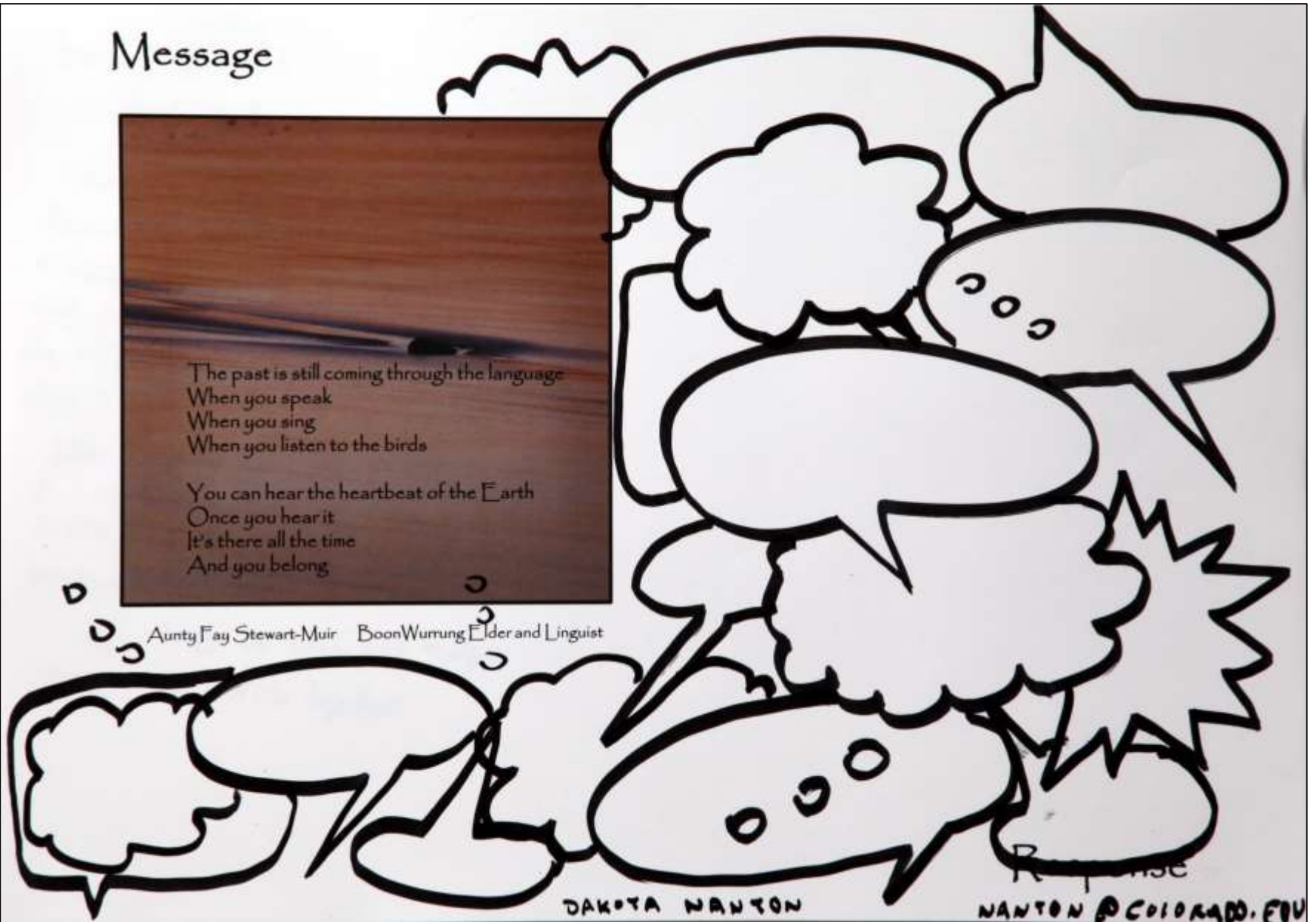
Message



The past is still coming through the language
When you speak
When you sing
When you listen to the birds

You can hear the heartbeat of the Earth
Once you hear it
It's there all the time
And you belong

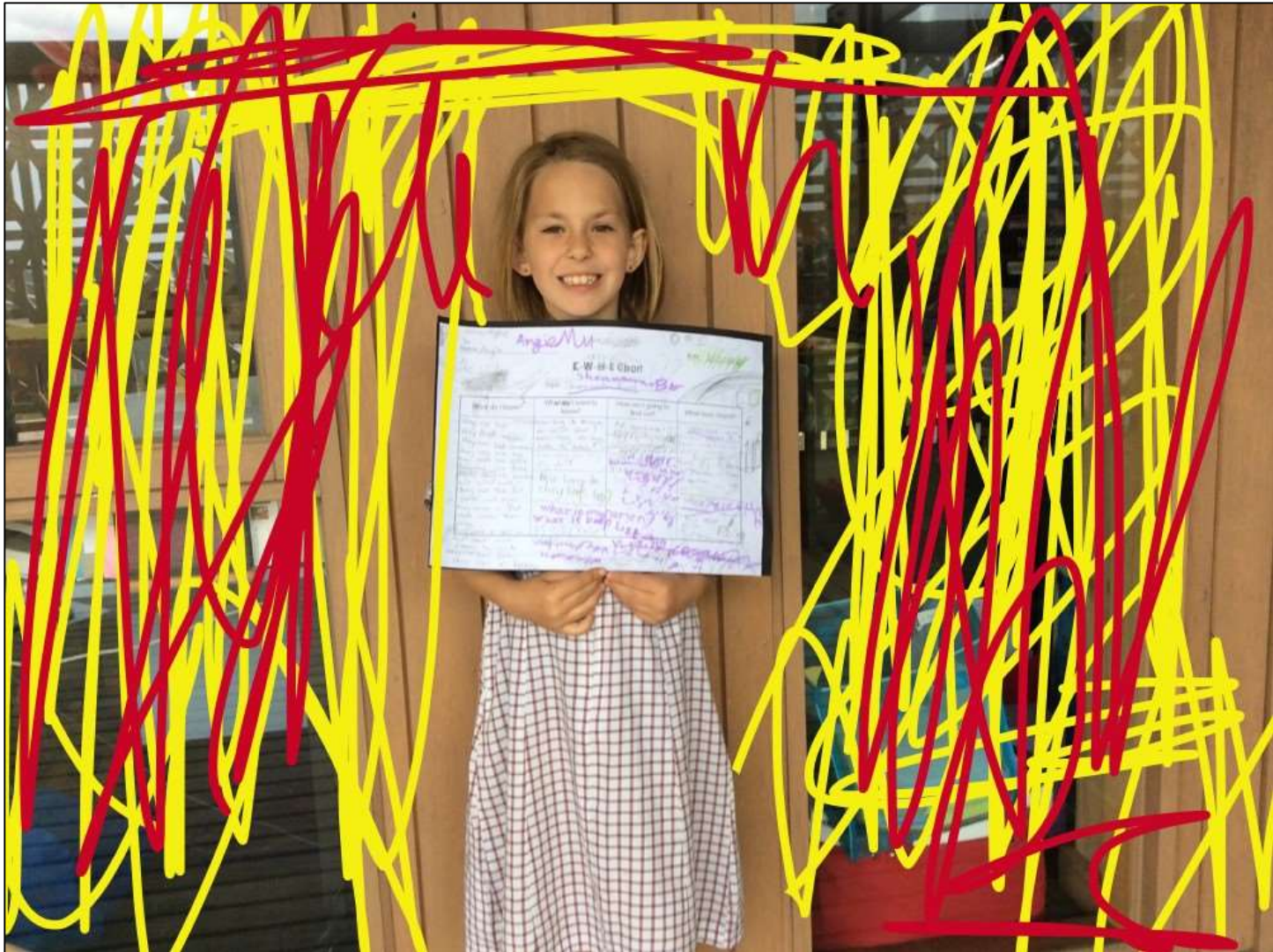
Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir BoonWurrung Elder and Linguist



DAKOTA NANTON

RESPONSE
NANTON @ COLORADO.FDU

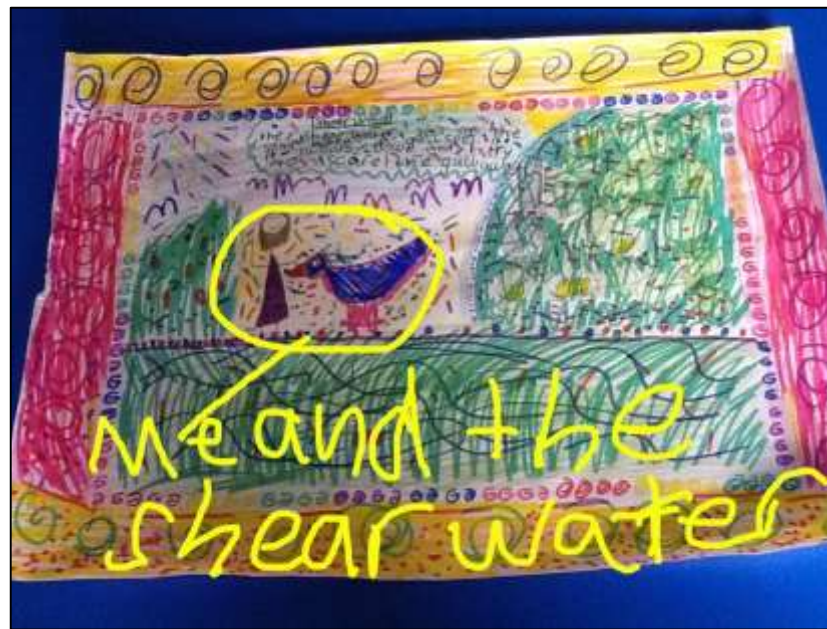
Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir (Victoria, Australia) with Dakota Nanton (Boulder, Colorado)



To hear Angie's message and songs to the children at Bella Bella, British Columbia, go to ...
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*Natasha Lambie
 Newhaven College
 Shearwater Education Program and Message Exchange*



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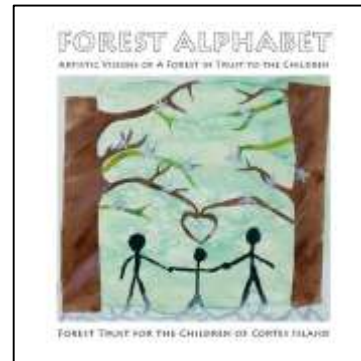
In 2015, the Shearwater Message Exchange featured messages and artworks from children in the Bass Coast, East Gippsland, Exshaw School in Alberta, British Columbia, Bella Bella School, British Columbia and children from the Children of the Forest Project, Cortes Island, British Columbia.



Quadra Island, British Columbia



Cortes Island, British Columbia



In the Children's Forest Project, children on Cortes Island are raising funds to buy back forest to prevent it from being logged. As part of the Message Exchange, children in Mallacoota, made short films and sent them to the children of Cortes Island in support their environmental work.



BELLA BELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Canada to Australia





Carla Pauls (pictured right) organised the Shearwater Message Exchange as part of the Summer School at the Nakoda Lodge. Carla teaches at the Exshaw School where the children are also participating in the Shearwater Message Exchange.





Children from the We-Wai-Kai Nation, Cape Mudge on Quadra Island respond to Shearwater Messages from Australia.



First Nation Elder Bill Assu and We Wai Kai Nation Children, Cape Mudge, Quadra Island, British Columbia

Messages and artworks from the Message Exchange were included in the Shearwater Education Program and were featured in the Shearwater Festival through collaborative projects, performances and an exhibition in the Cowes Cultural Centre.





The shearwater puppets are ready for the Shearwater Street Parade







www.shearwaterfestival.com.au

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