

The Shearwater Project

Regenerating Aboriginal Culture

Reviving Aboriginal Language

Promoting Reconciliation

Facilitating Intercultural Exchange

Increasing Environmental Awareness



Photostory Dr Laura Brearley

Photographs Terry Melvin

Paintings Lisa Kennedy Trawlwoolway Artist

The Shearwater Project includes a Festival, an Education Program and an international Cross-Cultural Exchange between children, artists and Indigenous Elders.

The Project focusses on the migratory birds, the short-tailed shearwaters, as symbols of global interconnection and the importance of caring for the environment.



The shearwaters fly 15,000 kilometres from the Bering Sea near Alaska every year to return to Phillip Island to breed. One million shearwaters live on Phillip Island.



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



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



The two-day Festival includes a Street Parade, workshops, performances, guided walks and talks to the shearwater rookeries.

The Shearwater Festival received the 2015 Community HART Award from the Victorian Local Government Association and Reconciliation Victoria.

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Shearwater Festival takes top prize

PHILLIP Island's annual Shearwater Festival has won the 2015 Community HART Award from the Victorian Local Government Association and Reconciliation Victoria.

The festival, which celebrates the area's natural beauty and heritage, was judged to be the best in the state.

The award is presented annually to the community organisation that has made the most significant contribution to the community.

The Shearwater Festival is a major event for the Phillip Island community, attracting thousands of visitors each year. It features a wide range of activities, including live music, art exhibitions, and cultural performances.

The festival is a testament to the community's commitment to preserving its natural heritage and promoting cultural diversity.

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Presented at the 2015 Community HART awards, where the Phillip Island Shearwater Festival took out the top prize, are members of the Phillip Island Shearwater Festival Committee: (from left) Donna Smith, Shearwater Festival Co-ordinator, Gwyneth Rogers, Mayor, Elizabeth Rogers, Phillip Island Mayor, and Donna Smith.

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Mayor's message

By Dr Kimberley Nixon

Bea Class
Mayor Council

History, culture and language
recognised

"PHILLIP Island's Shearwater Festival, recognised by the award from the Victorian Local Government Association and Reconciliation Victoria, has made an important contribution to the community."

"Presented in partnership between the VLG and Reconciliation Victoria, these awards recognise organisations that have made an important contribution to the community."

"The award is a testament to the community's commitment to preserving its natural heritage and promoting cultural diversity."

"The Shearwater Festival has made a significant contribution to the community and is a testament to the community's commitment to preserving its natural heritage and promoting cultural diversity."

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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. It is supported by ABC Gippsland, the Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation and other educational and community organisations.





The Shearwater Festival is preceded by an Education Program in schools which includes visits from artists, musicians, environmentalists and Indigenous Elders.



*Graeme Burgan, Senior Education Ranger
Phillip Island Nature Park on a rock pool excursion at
Smiths Beach, Phillip Island*





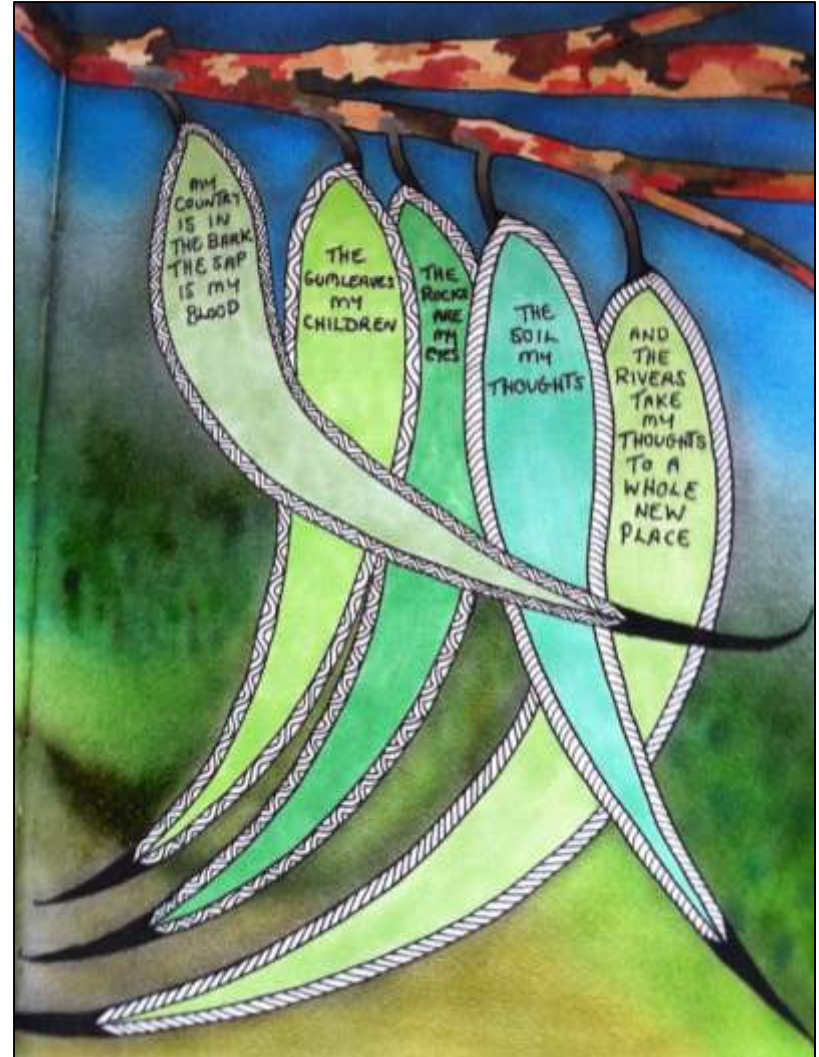


Trawlwoolway artist and story-teller Lisa Kennedy

The Shearwater Project is underpinned by the concept of Deep Listening.

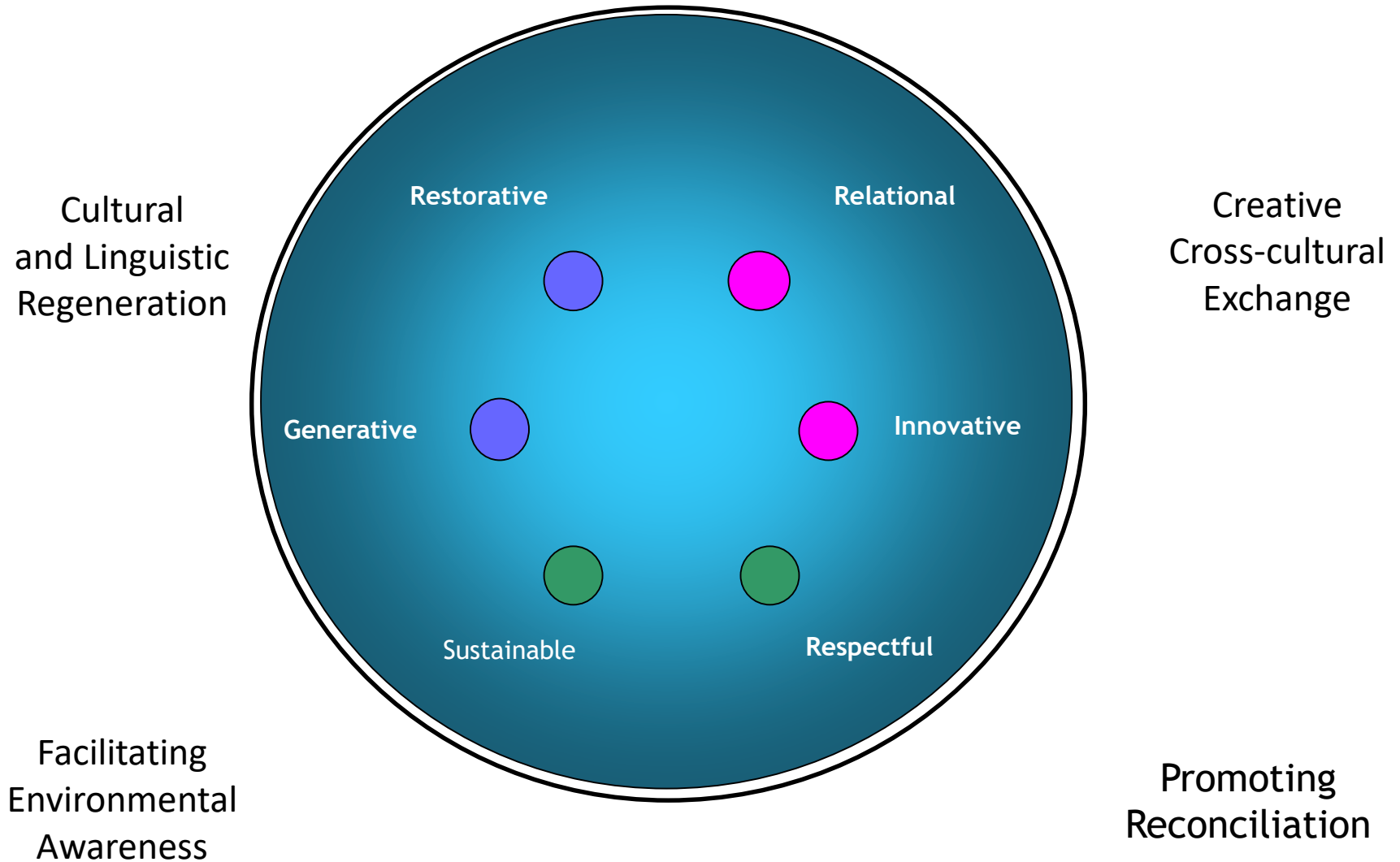
The concept of Deep Listening appears in many Aboriginal languages.

It describes a process of listening deeply and respectfully in ways which build community.



Excerpt from visual journal of Taungwurrung artist Mick Harding

Principles of The Shearwater Project





The Shearwater Project applies an integrated model of cultural enrichment, regeneration, language revival, creative engagement, community development and learning.

The Shearwater Project facilitates collaborations between musicians, artists and members of Indigenous communities, including linguists, children and Elders.



Community members 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



Cross-cultural Deep Listening Circle, Boonwurrung Cultural Centre 2012

The Deep Listening Circle has been brought to Phillip Island and will play a role in the Shearwater Festival 2015.





In 2011, the Deadly in Gippsland Conference won the National Local Government Award for 'Promoting Reconciliation Through Deep Listening in Action '.



International Cross-Cultural Exchange



A creative cross-cultural exchange has been taking place between Australia, Canada and the USA since 2008.











In the Shearwater Project, activities are documented to ensure that what is being learned can be passed onto future generations.



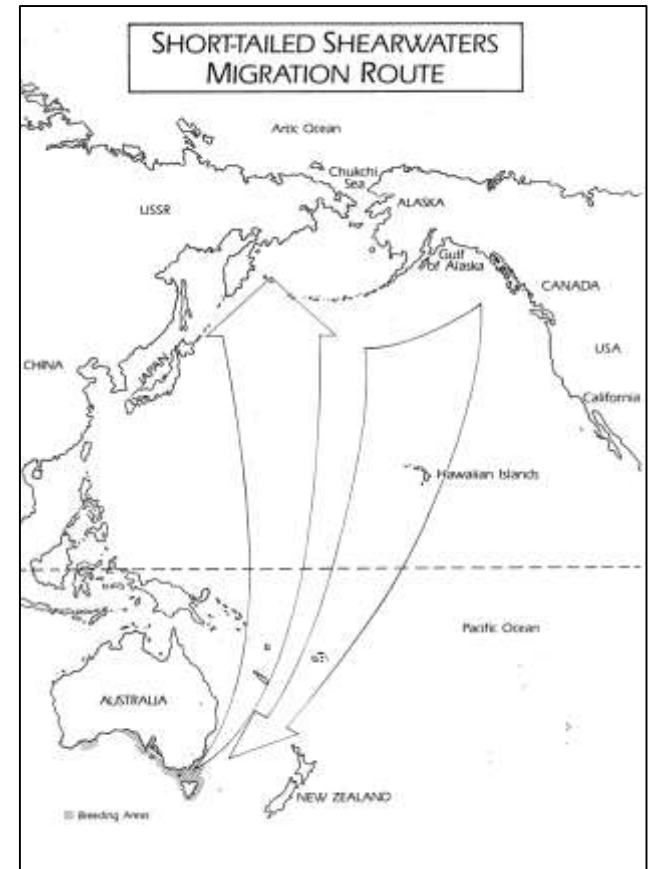
A Shearwater Message Exchange between children, artists and Elders from Australia and Canada and the USA has been taking place since 2012.



The Cross-cultural Exchange 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.



Birds as Messengers



Designs ...

Mick Harding (Taungwurrung)

Lisa Kennedy (Trawlwoolway)

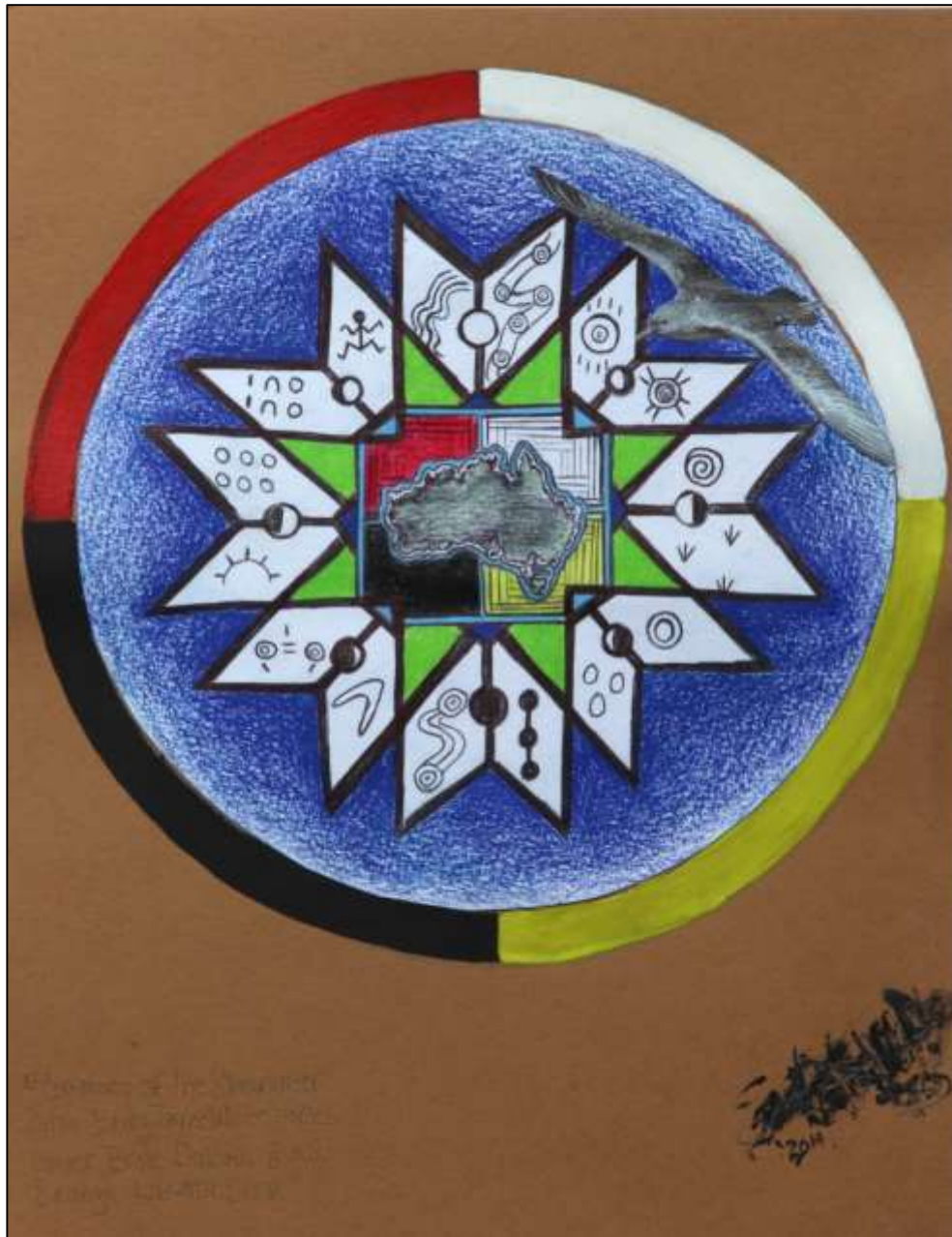
Patrice Muthaymiles Mahoney (Anewan)

Ronald Edwards (Gunnai Kurnai)

Uncle Dennis Seymour (Adnyamathanha)



Designs *Terry Melvin*



'Ceremony of the Shearwater'

Sarah Brings Three White Horses

Lower Brule Dakota Sioux

Sicango Lakota Sioux

Cape Mudge
Reserve
Quadra Island





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





Elder Bill Assu is the oldest grandson of Chief Billy Assu of the We Wai Kai Nation (pictured left).



Lokota artist, drummer and drum-maker, Pawl Mountain Skyrider, lives on Cortes Island. He is holding a turtle artwork gifted to him by Taungwurrung artist, Mick Harding. The First Nations people call Canada and the USA Turtle Island. Pawl sent shearwater birds with messages back to Australia.



Carla Voyager received shearwater messages and artworks from Mick Harding (Taungwurrung) and Lisa Kennedy (Trawlwoolway) in Australia.

Carla comes from Kingcome Inlet and is a member of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Nation.



Stoney Nation Elder Grandmother Clarisse is the Granddaughter of Chief Walking Buffalo and daughter of Medicine Woman.

Here she is holding a gift from Trawlwoolway artist Lisa Kennedy at the Nakoda Lodge on the Stoney Reserve.

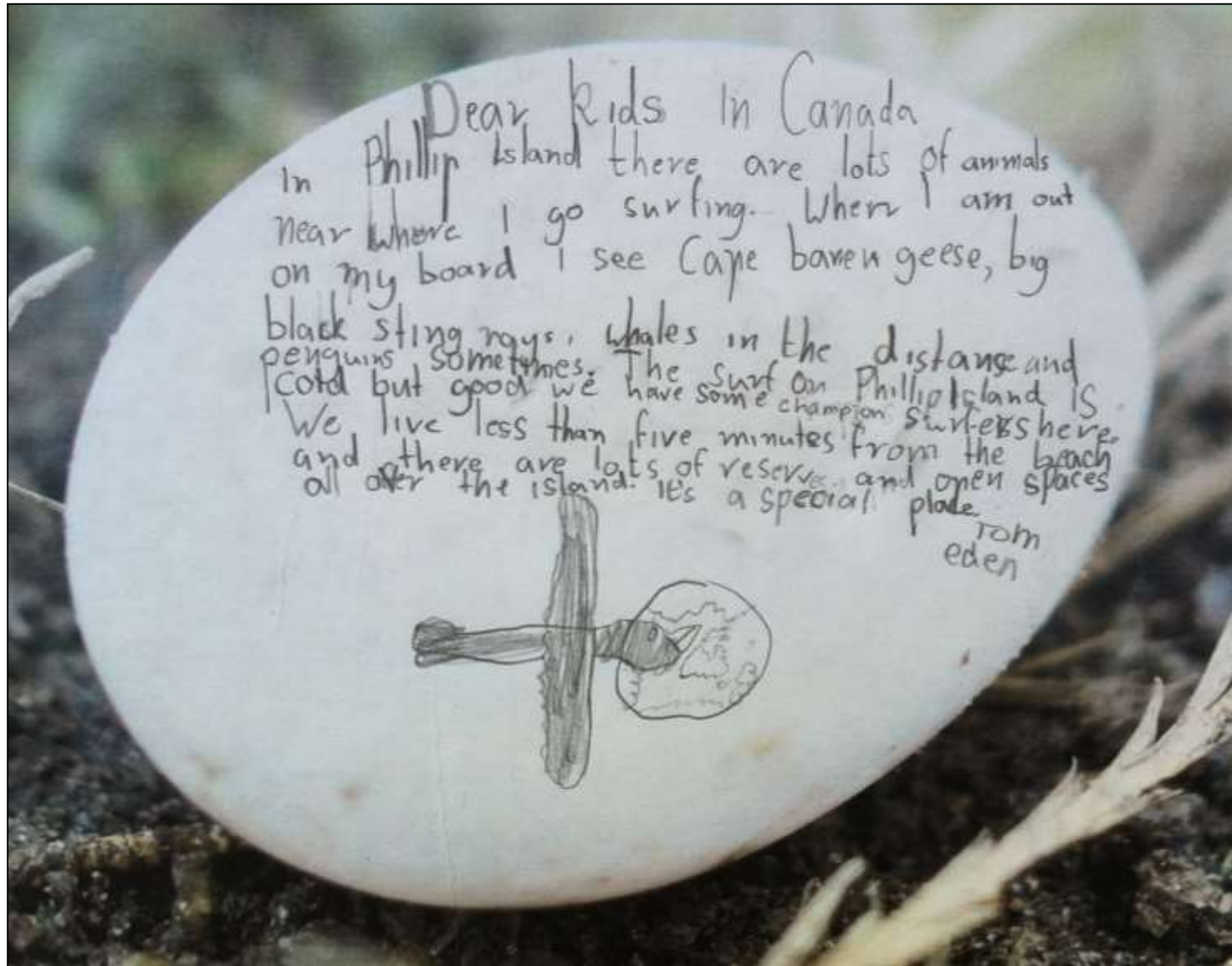


Shearwater Short Tales is a component of the Shearwater Festival. It features creative collaborations between artists, performers and Indigenous cultural advisors.

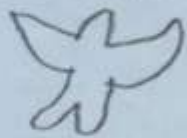


Community members are supported to develop short productions of ten minutes or less in theatre, song, music, dance, poetry, film or visual media.

Samples of Messages from the Cross-cultural Exchange



I go to the beach in
the summer. I swim in the
waves it's so fun. I really like
seeing fish in the water. I like the
beach because of all the sea animals
and shells. I like to go surfing and
playing in the rock pools.





Exshaw School is a Kindergarten to grade eight school located in the community of Exshaw, in Alberta, Canada.

The students come from Exshaw, Canmore and the nearby Stoney First Nations Reserve of Morley.





ANDRAIYN



maddy



BELLA BELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Bella Bella Community School is located halfway up the coast of British Columbia on Campbell Island. Bella Bella is nestled in the "Great Bear Rainforest" and is a place of great natural beauty.

Bella Bella Community School is proud of its cultural heritage. The School teaches students through both modern and traditional ways, and includes Heiltsuk cultural activities such as singing and dancing into the school program.



My favourite
place is the ocean. I Love
to fish! There is so many
Places to fish.



Ciara Lawson

Becky Sally
5/10/07



melvin



Nature is cool. There are bears,
and cougars, and wolves,
in Bella Bella. Bella Bella
Community School

Living Connection



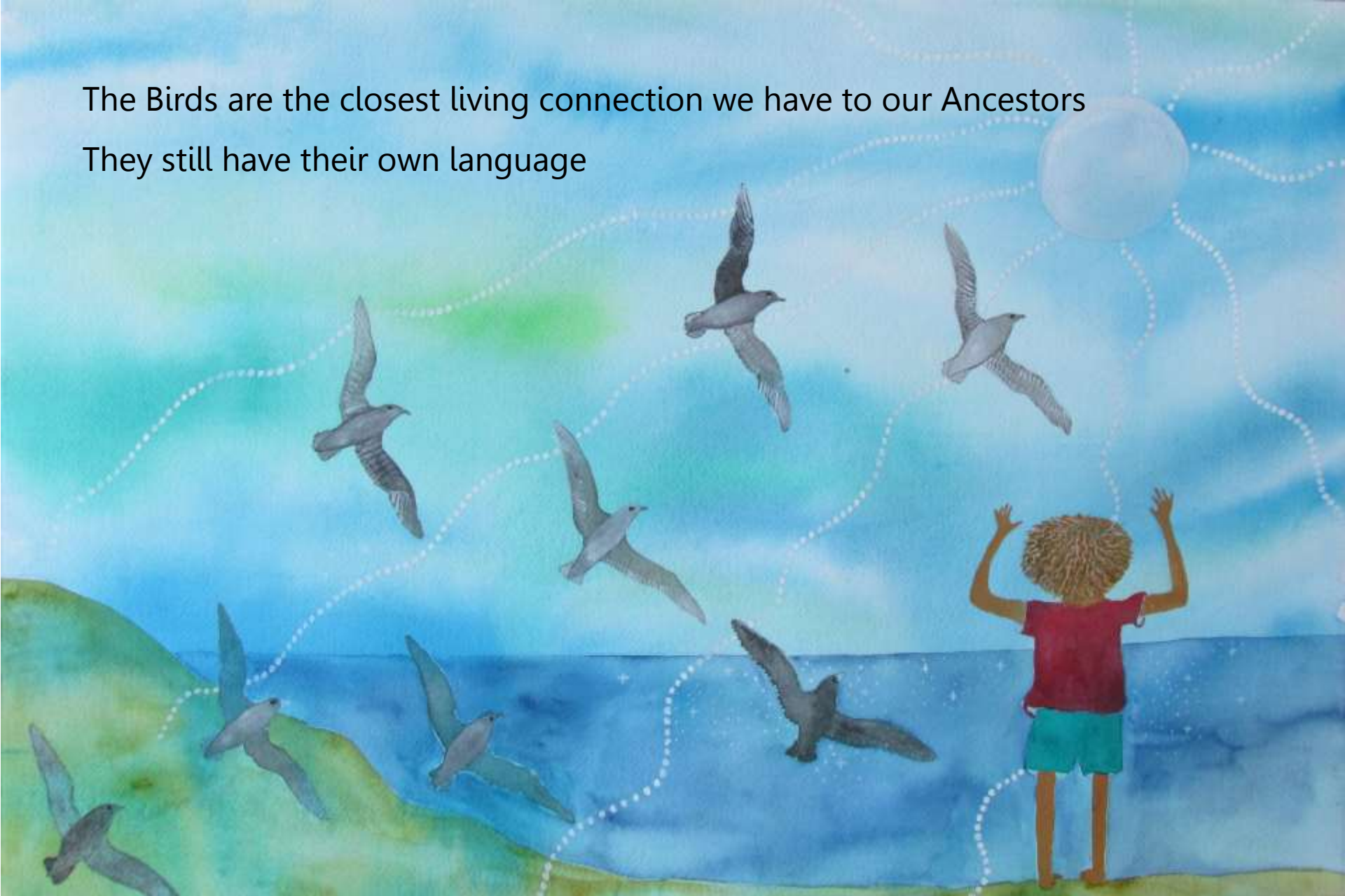
Words and images

Boon Wurrung translation

Lisa Kennedy

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

The Birds are the closest living connection we have to our Ancestors
They still have their own language



Guyup guyup wurrung bul wurrung bul

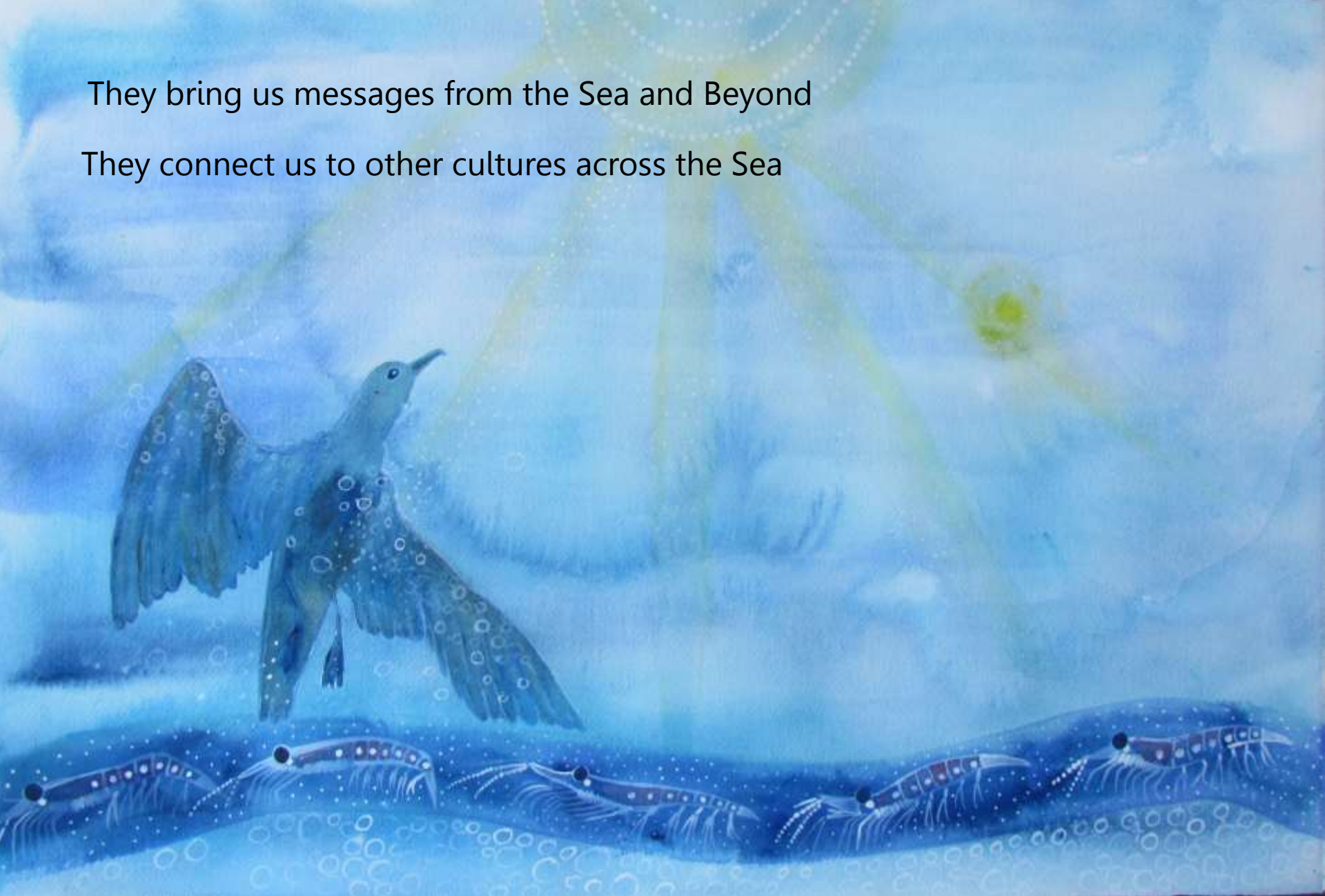
They relate to us through the Land
Their families lived with our Old People



Koolinik ngalambut wigabeel koolin-ik buluk

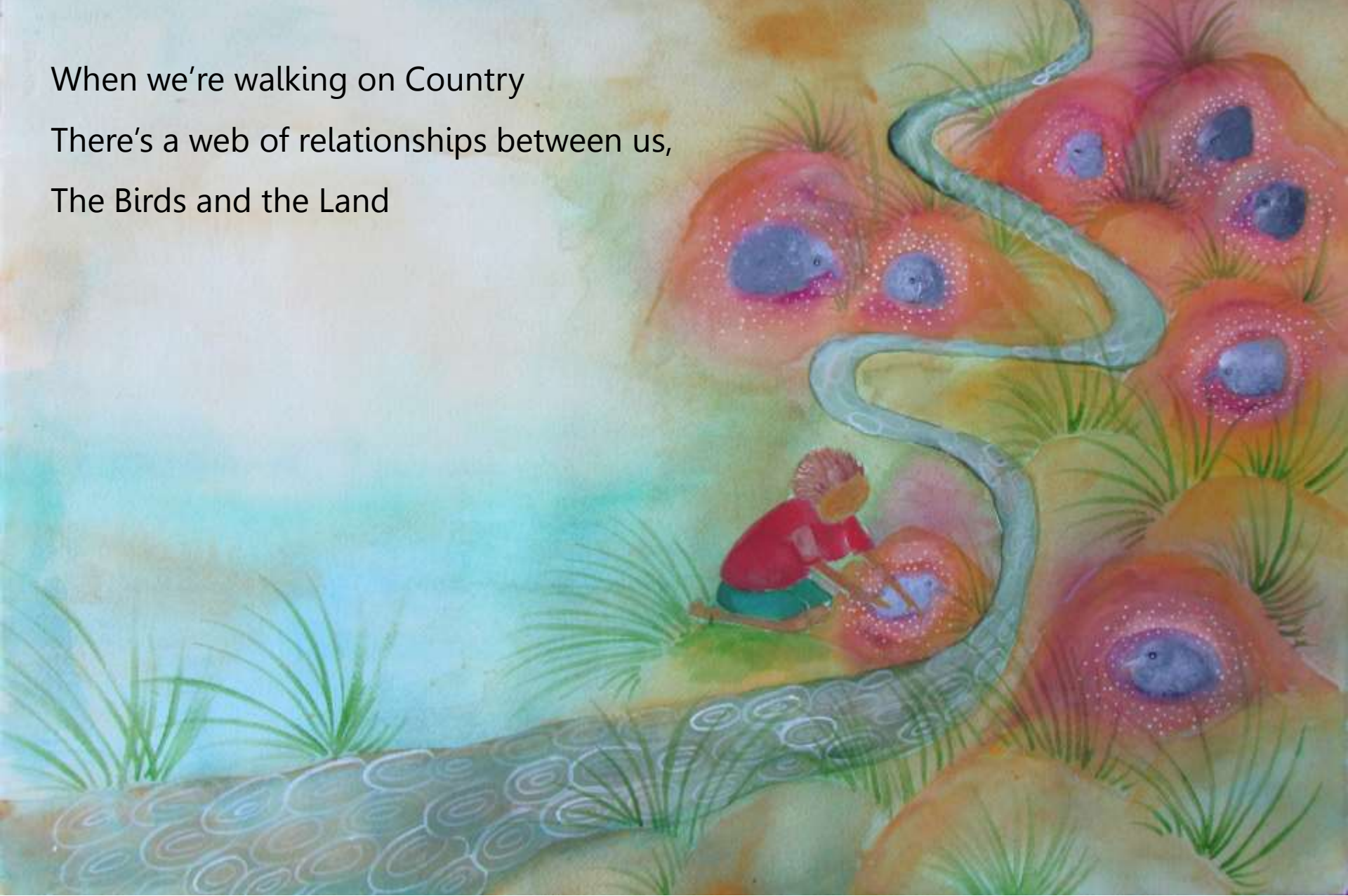
They bring us messages from the Sea and Beyond

They connect us to other cultures across the Sea



Yanna toe wareen(y) ba wirrat(e)

When we're walking on Country
There's a web of relationships between us,
The Birds and the Land



Yannadha barerar(e)-runga-ut guyup guyup-bul ba beek

The Birds are singing the Country
They invite us to sing the Country too



Guyup guyup barerar(e)-runga yingha-dha barerar(e)-runga yingha-bul



www.shearwaterfestival.com.au
www.facebook.com/shearwaterfestival

Shearwater Festival 2014 <https://vimeo.com/116616171>

Shearwater Festival 2013 <https://vimeo.com/82049856>

Shearwater Festival 2012 <https://vimeo.com/58521654>

