



Drawing Us Together

A collection of community stories from authors across the nation



Acknowledgement of Country

Charter Hall is proud to work with our customers and communities to invest in, develop and manage properties on land across Australia. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, their Elders past, present and emerging and recognise their continuing culture and contribution to this country.



Drawing Us Together

Leopold Primary School

Keek and Bamba

Written by Jayden Boundry

Proud Wadjak Ballardong Noongar and Badimaya Yamatji man

Keek and Bamba (Page 1)

In the winding bilya (river) we see Keek (dolphin) and Bamba (stingray) playing in the shore.

Bamba and Keek are always hunting, learning and playing together side by side. Throughout their life things started changing, it began to get harder to find safe places to play, enough food to share and shelter for sleeping. One day Bamba started to feel very hungry and she thought Keek was eating too much food. The pair started to argue and Bamba stung Keek with her barb. Keek felt hurt and swam away.

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Leopold Primary School

Keek and Bamba

Written by Jayden Boundry

Proud Wadjak Ballardong Noongar and Badimaya Yamatji man

Keek and Bamba (Page 2)

Swimming alone, Bamba could see that the river had changed. The river was murky and there were things in the river that didn't belong there. There were not enough people caring for country and keeping the rivers clean so the fish were all swimming away. That is why there wasn't enough food, it wasn't Keek's fault. Bamba quickly went and found Keek and apologised. Bamba said "Keek we were so busy playing that we didn't realise the people aren't caring for country like they used to". Keek replied "Bamba when will they listen to the people who know how to care for us"?

Now whenever you see Keek or Bamba swimming in the river, they are reminding you and thanking you for caring for country.

Drawing Us Together

Leopold Primary School

Fire Heart

Written by Coral Reeves

Proud Gundijitmara woman

Fire heart

My ancestors held a fire in their hearts.

It burned so great within their chests,

they passed it on to their children so they could lay and rest.

The fire helped the children grow into Uncles and Aunts holding the fire within their chests.

They shared their fire in their hearts with the land, the sea and the sky
and all animals far and living nearby.

My ancestors, Uncles and Aunts, you see, also shared this fire with me.

I now share the fire with the land, the sea and the sky
and all animals far and living nearby.

It is now your turn my children, to keep warm and safe,
and to share the fire in your hearts with the land, the sea and the sky
and all animals far and living nearby.



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Leopold Primary School

Warami

Written by Bernadette (B) Hardy

Proud Dharug & Gamilaraay woman

Warami (Page 1)

On Dharug Country (Sydney), the sun greets the day,
Young Dyin stirs where the eucalyptus sway.
By a cosy fire's welcoming light,
Dyin sketches an eel, a sight so bright.
A child of the oldest Dreaming,
Where ancient resilience is beaming.

Draw your Dreaming, what shapes would it be?
Capture it now, for your heart to see.

Drawing Us Together

Leopold Primary School

Warami

Written by Bernadette (B) Hardy

Proud Dharug & Gamilaraay woman

Warami (Page 2)

At 9:27, as Dyin whispers WARAMI with pride,
Friends gather 'round the fire, with eyes wide.
Magpies warble in joyous black and white flair,
Embers grow, casting sparks in the air.
The sky itself can feel the drum,
Of ancient words spoken, under the warm southern
sun.

Draw your connection, this is yours to keep.
Where does it stretch, in what bounds does it leap?

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Warami

Written by Bernadette (B) Hardy

Proud Dharug & Gamilaraay woman

Warami (Page 3)

At 9:27, a tear on a cheek as "Warami" hits the
breeze,
Dyin's grandfather feels a deep sense of ease.
The word, once lost, now found anew,
Granny's tea warms, as morning dew.

What sounds around make you feel you belong?
Draw them here, where heart, mind, spirit grow
strong.

Drawing Us Together

Ocean Grove Primary School

Warami

Written by Bernadette (B) Hardy

Proud Dharug & Gamilaraay woman

Warami (Page 4)

Tomorrow at 9:27, will Warami you say?
Or what is your greeting, in your own cultural way?
Draw it here, let's see it displayed,
Greet your land, what's your mob?

Warami is more than hello, but a connection of story
that forever remains.

Drawing Us Together

Ocean Grove Primary School

Think of Country

Written by Jayden Boundry

Proud Wadjak Ballardong Noongar and Badimaya Yamatji man

A thoughtful mind and caring koort
We must keep all of country in our thought
What's your footprint gonna be?

Clear water rivers and fresh waters nyinning
Will they flow like they have since the begining
What's your footprint gonna be?

Tall shady treetops and green leaves for minga
And don't forget homes for the ones that can sting ya
What's your footprint gonna be?

Plenty of fish in all of the kep
Make sure you're careful before taking your step
What's your footprint gonna be?

Clean air for breathing and beautiful djet
Plant native gardens, bees aren't all gone yet
What's your footprint gonna be?

Caring for country for all kedela
Stop and listen to what boodja tells ya
Now have a think of what YOUR footprint will be.

Kaadatj – Think
Boodja – Country
Koort – Heart
Nyinning – Sitting

Minga – Insects
Kep – Water
Djet – Flower
Kedela - Day



Drawing Us Together

Ocean Grove Primary School

Animals

Written by Coral Reeves

Proud Gundijitmara woman

Koala's keep the gum nuts grey

Emu's run faster than night and day

Eucalyptus trees say Matkatkat (be quiet) while

Possoms come out and play

Tortoises take their time, mostly coming up tenth

Hammerhead sharks hide amongst the Coral reefs and

Earthworms grow to be giants, sometimes 2 meters in length!

Frill necked lizard's sit in the tree

Ibis fly with their long black beak above me

Rainbow Lorikeets fill the sky with rainbows while

Echidnae are laying eggs, you see?

Bilby's scamper across the deserts red

Ulysses butterflies are nodding off to a flowery bed

Rainforests shower the animals with shade

Numbats cousins are Kangaroos, what an accolade

In this big wide Australia, we have all the animals and more

Near and far, loud and proud, let them hear our roar

Go about this land and explore, keep the fire burning no matter how big or small

Drawing Us Together

Ocean Grove Primary School

Beautiful Birds

Written by Ellen van Neerven

Proud Mununjali person living on Turrbal land.

There are many beautiful birds that live here on Turrbal land. We see this mob all the time! Which is your favourite?

Willie wagtail says hello, we are all welcome here

Magpie sings a pretty tune, they are so jazzy

Crow announces their arrival, they are hungry

Laughing Kookaburra is pretty cheeky, better watch your lunch!

Curlew's wailing sounds give us a fright but it's all alright

Owls are masters of the night, with their soundless flight

Lorikeet is so pretty, showing every colour of the rainbow

Cockatoo is busy cracking open a nut, to have a snack

Ducks swim in family groups in the rivers and creeks

Sea Eagle flies high in the big blue sky

Ibis stands tall and resilient to so many changes to the environment

Brush turkey is the colours of the Aboriginal flag, reminding us we are living on Aboriginal land. Always.



Drawing Us Together

Ocean Grove Primary School

The Big Campfire

Written by Alton Walley

Proud Whadjuk, Wilman, Kaneang, Nyoongar man.

As the campfire blazed, popping and crackling, the little children ran towards it.

They watched as their family, even nans and pops danced around the flames.

As the fire grew intensely, their dancing grew too, with shadows swaying, twirling and stretching out.

The little ones watched their Elders in awe, with each step came thousands of years of knowledge. Each movement and kick, twist and turn held a story of its own that linked them to their ancestors.

As the fire slowed, so did the dancing.

As it died down they thought it would cinder and cease through the night.

But they woke the next morning to find it alive, the amber glow held tight through the night. The Elders had fed it with new twigs, new sticks, new logs and new branches that now held the fire. And one day, the little children would get their chance to pass the flames on.

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Ocean Grove Primary School

Voices of Seasons

Written by Coral Reeves

Proud Gundijitmara woman

Autumn dropped in and left sticks and pieces.
Whisper, whisper can you hear the people's voices?
Winter blew in and created a small flame.
Whisper, whisper can you see the flying Cranes?
Spring blossomed and the small flame grew countrywide.
Louder, louder can you feel the people's pride?
Summer burned in and all plants, people and voices worked together
to keep fire burning, no matter the weather.

Thank you

