

Kombumerri dreaming

For 40 000 years, our culture has survived.
 The oldest known people on our prized planet.
 Surviving through stories, through music, through dance.
 Dreamtime weaves itself into our beings.
 Ancestral songs flow through our veins.
Numbin janigam.

Custodians of country, we respect and protect the surrounds.
 The animals, the landscapes, the language, and people.
 Past, present and future.
 From the *ngarehr* screeching in the sunny sky, to the *nguhnybah* slithering beyond
 Our feet; we cherish them all.
Garihmalala gali jagun

I stand a proud *Kombumerri* girl,
 Committed to my culture, my connection to land, and Dreaming.
 Yet, my reflection speaks a difficult truth.
 Sapphire eyes and paperbark hued skin contrasts that of my father's elders.
 Flowing locks, not dissimilar to bark of an ancient ghost gum, portray my mother's heritage.
Jundi wunjar-jam

Displacement. Disillusionment. Disenchantment.
 Dreamtime remains within my soul, yet a larger dream calls.
 A dream that celebrates differences.
 A dream that unites our nation.
 The dream of acceptance for all people.

Note: Translations from Yugambeh Language

Numbin janigam – The house is strong.

Ngarehr- Black cockatoo

Nguhnybah- Red belly black snake

Garihmalala gali jagun- Respect this land

Kombumerri – a clan of the Yugambeh people

Jundi wunjar-jam – Speak truth