

Balginjirr “A Special Place on our Home River Country”!

I came home to our river country, our place... our space... today.

I stood at your grave site and recall the first night when I came back to my mother's land, and now I ask you... Do you know what is coming our way?

I heard your many lived stories... those who had stood before, through the collective wisdom as elders, now see some of their children's children start to sway.

Is country for sale, is country for keeps, who will work with country to watch over the people who sleep.

Some dream, dreams of money and some talk of gold, lead, mineral sands, intensive agriculture, pastoralism, harvesting water into licences and allocation flows.

The nightmare for people like me, is to be buried alive from the constant demands on a sacred river and kinship system, not found anywhere else on the planet, but to us known, inter-generationally as the River of Life.

Can we learn from the Murray Darling ... hey, what about the oldest river in the world... the Finke... let these rivers share with us what the humans have done! We need to know this to let the Mardoowarra, Martuwarra... Fitzroy River run.



Dr Anne Poelina is Chair of Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council, and a Nyikina Warrwa Traditional Custodian from the Mardoowarra/Martuwarra, Lower Fitzroy River in the Kimberley region of WA. A Peter Cullen Fellow (2011) awarded Laureate Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva) (2017) and recent Board and Councillor with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with Notre Dame University Broome. Her current work promotes entrepreneurial 'New Economy' opportunities for Indigenous people in relation to green collar jobs in diverse, science, culture, heritage and conservation economies. Dr Poelina promotes the need to include traditional ecological knowledge, First Law and the rights of nature to the solutions for planetary health and wellbeing.

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Do we cover it with intensive cotton, coal mine, scar up the country... drawing from aquifers, seismic lines ... fracking hydro-geology... or do we take a breathe and keep the living waters living free?

Can we listen to the ancient song lines, singing the creation stories of geo-heritage, astronomy... astrology and ancient boab trees?

Our bloodlines singing our songline roamed this country wise and free.

Five times ten years plus five since I first walked with this big spirit country, who still knows and will forever hold me.

Country knows you, country watches you and country is alive... waiting for you to see.



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”

Photo: Magali McDuffie

What is coming will change our world forever, if we don't stand with one mind and one voice, in solidarity.

Our fellow Australians are learning of this river country, they too recognise the Mardoowarra, Martuwarra, Fitzroy River is National Heritage Listed and to be shared by you and me.

Do we call them our friends, do we call them our foe, do we work together to understand what must be done to give all of us fair go?

2019 can it really be, that Indigenous Australians, the original First Peoples still stand...

Do we call on earth justice, earth centred governance, First law of this land! We must all work together...lead and govern for our commons good for this wide brown land, country.

We have seen how the Crown Law has taken and we ask what will be left? We cannot forget that this land we come from and still hold on to... was taken by theft.

We have a new dream, a dream for oneness, values, ethics... need not confess, but unless we stand together, with collective wisdom, it will be nothing we dreamed the dreams from, it will quickly turn to nightmares, poison and sweat.

We all want the same things, for our children and their children's children before we are laid to rest.

In good faith, free informed consent, science, industry with traditional owners its time to build collaboration and welcome all projects to the table in good spirit to understand the cumulative impact test.

Can the government keep its pre-election promises and demonstrate good governance for citizens of this state, whilst in power... now they are gst blessed?

Climate Change, Climate Chaos, quickly spiralling out of control, but despite 90 IPCC Scientist "Warning...Warning quickly approaching 2.5 degrees", some number from Paris in which the world agreed, No More Coal, our Federal Minister for the Environment does not believe what she has been told.

If this truly was about shifting from the old economies—fossil fools sorry, fuels transitioning to an abundance or renewable, wind, wave, solar in abundance, which we can globally lead.

Tell the companies, renewables are gold. They can make forever profits if they transform from the old.

Come on country men, fellow Australians, global citizens, one mind, one voice, one river country. Let's make a River peace park before there's nothing left. Let's hold to humanity, one planet, Mother Earth she's the best!

I know we can do this, and we must if we are to stay blessed. I know our ancestors are watching and waiting to make sure we pass this test. Past, Present, Future held in this moment of time, let's hold to the dreaming and hold our blood and songlines.

Sleep well my family along this river time, and I am sure we will keep talking as you watch over us in this modern Dreamtime. Circular storytelling, we know time moves in circles and not in a straight line.

Run free forever, Mardoowarra, Martuwarra, Fitzroy River... ask the humans to be kind, they think they are the top of the tree but if they are not careful, we will all be left behind.

River, bird, animals, fed by living waters shallow, and deep, cradled in the coolness of country once surrounded by sheep. Years of pastoralism, agriculture and now plans for grid lines, licenses, permits, ask the humans to consider more than themselves, think of the bio-diversity, water quality, and creative ways to maintain their keep.

I close my eyes, but not my head and heart as my liyan, my moral compass keeps my watch... tick... tick... ticking... my brain shrieks... no more alarm clocks... just the sharing of this river country, for the Friends of the Mardoowarra, Martuwarra, Fitzroy River Country...

Hello hello do you hear me, don't desert or leave me, can we stand together for all time as the River of Life with the Right to Life, is someone listening, is someone standing for all of us, what about the Crown, What about the Queen, before she passes on, should we go to her and ask her only one time, now time, let the people and the river country be finally set free.

An ancient river with the right to life, this is the First Law which we know, Law of the Land, not Law of Man, values, ethics, civil society, social cohesion, words of consensus, not conflict, multiple world views, trans-discipline knowledges and practice post development, post colonisation, post oppression, not just for the blackfellows but all who have made this land their home.

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Come to know us, know country and redefine who we are, it's a new time can we seize it can we hold this wide brown land, we can advance Australia fair, fair go, for its citizens not corporate welfare in the millions.

Rather a fair go for the Aussie black, white, brown and green and some other multi-colours and multiple world views, lets be a lot more open, others can teach us some of their unspoken... with this Coalition of Hope... we can Advance Australia Lucky Country and give the Mardoowarra River Country and People a Fair Go!

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...in the natural world, healthy competition is intertwined with healthy cooperation. One of the great co-benefits of rebalancing our rights would be the recognition that rights can, in fact, be held and exercised in common, for the common good, rather than simplistically as competitive individuals.

This collection takes the question of rebalancing rights and examines it from several directions—with contributions from some of Australia's leading thinkers and practitioners in their fields.

 the green institute


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