

## In the spirit of Reconciliation

Our paths have crossed this land for countless generations.

Our camping grounds and ritual sites inhabit this landscape.

The earth is our mother, we feed from her breast. It is our responsibility to respect and care for her.

We are never far from water and the land is rich with food to sustain us and medicines to heal us.

Our children and babies are our life blood. As we are future ancestors, they are our reason for being.

We are dependent on each other.

Our culture, our totems and our kinship enrich us and make us strong.

Through our stories and rituals we connect with knowledge ancient and proven.

Through our resilience we have adapted, survived and now flourish to share our stories with you.

All are connected. Come, walk beside us.

We came in ships.

Our ways were strange.

We were not receptive to the lessons this land could teach us and we thought ourselves superior to the people who were here before us.

While our hearts were elsewhere, we were hungry for land and our arrogance made us cruel.

Our biased laws let us believe that our actions were just.

We were ignorant that what we sought to destroy was precious and sacred.

But time has slowly changed us. Our weaknesses are many but our virtues include our capacity to learn, to admit our mistakes and to finally come to understand.

We express our regret and remorse with sincerity. We are sorry.

Circumstances have brought us all together within the bosom of this special land.

We seek to listen and to share your caring.

All are connected. We walk beside you.