

YUNGBALI

A Preamble

Often in literature allusions are drawn to other pieces of writing to make a point.

What you are about to hear is an ambitious attempt to draw allusions from various indigenous languages, and to walk in the story-country of those who inherited this land before us, particularly the Ngunnawal. Allusions that hopefully will help us make connections not only with our own story as a College community, reinventing itself as it does every year, and based and steeped as it is, in our Western and Christian theological tradition, but also with the reality and the mystery of this Land that is common to all cultures, who for better or for worse, now occupy it together.

On this the 25th anniversary of its founding, we seek to articulate a story, and ritual actions that go with the story, that will from year to year encapsulate afresh, the vision that explains the College's creative energy, its Christian vocation, and its commitment to social justice, in such a way, that all of us, irrespective of whether we have a faith or hold to secular beliefs and values, will find here in the allegory as told and enacted, a common cause. A story telling circle where none must feel excluded.

Please remember that this allegorical allusion is being told throughout 2008. It is being heard by many and people's input is welcomed. Eric Bell, Ngunnawal elder has offered his blessing, welcoming the story and the use of Ngunnawal words and ideas.

In the end it will be a story that lies in between us all, and a story that will hopefully, open wide a path of reconciliation not only with our indigenous peoples, but with those of every persuasion, simply because the story belongs to none of us, and all of us.

Lexicon:

<i>Yawahr</i>	<i>Corroboree (Yugambah Language, Tweed - Logan Rivers)</i>
<i>Yungbali</i>	<i>language, Logos, Song of the Dream (in Ngunnawal, it literally means 'sing')</i>
<i>Wingarramina</i>	<i>Breath or wind (Ngunnawal language for wind)</i>
<i>Ngunna</i>	<i>'here', this land, this place (Ngunnawal language, Canberra country)</i>
<i>Yungbali-Ngunna</i>	<i>Song in flesh; Vessel.</i>