

By Gini Lee

Many of us have only recently become aware of how to learn from and to live on country. And many of us realise how far we need to go on a journey towards making peace with the changes and injustices we have wrought over the landscapes of this place, currently known as Australia. We come from our own places all over the wider world to settle and prosper, utilising all the riches that this country has to offer. It is not so certain that we understand the reciprocal actions required to give back, some recompense for the benefits we have received, in equal parts, to the land and its First Peoples.

It is always enlightening to experience Welcome to Country invitations when we meet, together, on the local landscapes of the First People, each offering an expression of the diversity of the languages of welcome. This simple yet profound practice is an acknowledgement that we are all visitors to this land, welcomed by the custodians whose permission is freely given to us to be on their country. The words, and often histories and stories of belonging spoken are reminders that the landscapes upon which we dwell is more broadly understood as country, inseparable from other living entities, past present and emerging, with acceptance of home and the nurturing spirit that accompanies deep association with one's place in the world.

The Uluru Statement for the Heart and the multiple signatures from every region across the landscape, from coast to coast, from inland to the sea, from the mainland to the islands, call for all of us to understand how we may learn to

walk in two worlds. In acknowledgement of and to encourage sharing our various learnings drawn from personal histories and familial relationships, for the mutual benefit of human and non-human beings in place. This is why I write in support of a First Nations Voice, for People and for Country.