

STATION 4

BLACK AND WHITE FEET AROUND A FIRE – REPRESENTING OUR NEED TO SHARE AND WORK TOGETHER

READING: *Aboriginal Charter of Rights* (Oodgeroo Noonuccal)

PRAYER: We stand together, united as one people;
proud of our ability to work together;
grateful for our gifts;
nourished by our diversity and our harmony.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.

Walk deliberately to station 5 (with music sticks)

STATION 5

BLACK AND WHITE HANDS, CLASPED TOGETHER – REPRESENTING UNITY IN HEALING THE EFFECTS OF THE PAST

READING: *The Petition; The Ruling* (Mabo: What the High Court Said)

PRAYER: Let us look back with courage; see the truth and speak it.
Let us look around with compassion; see the cost and share it.
Let us look forward with hope; see what can be and create it.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.

Walk deliberately to station 6 (with music sticks)

STATION 6

A MAP OF AUSTRALIA, WITH TRACKS GOING OUT FROM THE CENTRE ACROSS THE COUNTRY – REPRESENTING HEALING GOING OUT FROM ULURU TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY

READING: Adapted from the *Book of Exekiel*

PRAYER: Give us courage to face the truth;
compassion to share the burden –

We gather in union with the walks occurring throughout the country this week – the Journey towards Reconciliation, the Journey of Healing.

We begin from Uluru – we recapture the event that occurred there last year and carry it forward into our own lives, places and times.

READING: *Radiating From the Rock, New Ritual of Hope*
(*Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* 06/05/99 by Debra Jopson)

Sunset, Bobby Randall found during the long search for his mother, was a time for women in Aboriginal communities to gather and wail over the many children taken away. But last night, as tourists sipped champagne while watching the grandeur of Uluru's sundown, the Rock's Aboriginal traditional owners joined members of the stolen generations from all over Australia in a new ritual of hope. They hope it will mean there will never be cause for such wailing again.

As the Rock turned pink, purple, then brown, nearby the Mutitjulu people handed over ten pairs of music sticks to those who had been taken away. These were painted with symbols carrying messages to be taken to all capital cities in ceremonies on May 26. Last year it was called Sorry Day; now it is the Journey of Healing. In an emotional day of welcome to about forty "stolen ones" and some one hundred of their friends and families, the politics of their plight was not forgotten. The symbols on the sticks include shackles, reminder of our penal colonies, and a boomerang. Message: Do not forget history.

Teardrops above the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are a call on the Federal Government to apologise. Among those making the journey around the Rock were the NSW stolen generations' representative Ms Carol Kendall, who will take her two music sticks to a ceremony in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens.

"We are in the process of kicking the winning goal," said Mr Randall. He was elated. After the pain of being stolen and rediscovering family there was "niceness" in being recognised, he said.

Many wept as the Mutitjulu women joined him to sing his composition *My Brown-Skinned Baby, They Take Him Away*. A policeman took Mr

Randall away on a camel from Angus Downs Station near Uluru, at the age of seven, about 59 years ago. Motherless, on faraway Croker Island, he was sung to sleep at nights by the crickets. He only found his mother when she was in her grave.

Said Aboriginal leader Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue: "As Yankuntjajara woman taken from this country as a two-year-old child, I can only think of my mother who has had five children taken from her."

Mutitjulu elder Mr Rupert Goodwin told how his mother used to rub charcoal on his older brother Donny's skin and hide him in a sack to stop him being taken. But a policeman showered him, saw his skin colour and took him away. "The next time I saw him he had silver hair ... the Government has got to say sorry," he said.

A former prime minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, sent a message to the gathering: "Other nations have healed deep wounds. France and Germany fought three wars between 1870 and 1945 and millions died; yet today they are friends," he said.

The Federal Opposition Leader, Mr Beazley, sent these words: "The message sticks you receive today and carry off to all parts of the country, leave here from the heart of the continent to reach the heart of all Australians."

Ms Audrey Kinnear, who has relations at Uluru, said: "When we were growing up in institutions, the only safe place was in bed at night – to go into our beds and cry." The policy of removing children to erase their Aboriginality had not worked. She was among the stolen generation women who painted up with the local women and danced dusty traditional dances like that of the crow and of gathering bush tomato. "We are back again," she said.

Walk deliberately out of room to station 1 (with music sticks)

STATION 1

FEET WALKING – REPRESENTING THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

READING: *Indigenous Australians* (The Honourable Justice Marcus Einfeld. 1997)

PRAYER: We who have come from every land give thanks for Australia:

This earth that feeds us;
The shores that bind us;
The skies that envelop us in freedom.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.
Trisha Watts

Walk deliberately to station 2 (with music sticks)

STATION 2

A BOOMERANG, A MAP OF AUSTRALIA AND SCHACKLES – REPRESENTING OUR NEED TO RECOGNISE THE TRUTH OF OUR HISTORY

READING: *The Purrkuji Massacre* (Desert Healing)

PRAYER: Yet we turn to the original owners of our land and see, too,
what we have taken.
We weep for their loss of freedom, of country, of children –
even of their very lives.
We stand in awe at their survival, and in debt for their land.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.

Walk deliberately to station 3 (with music sticks)

STATION 3

TEARDROPS AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS – REPRESENTING THE NEED FOR AN OFFICIAL APOLOGY

READING: *Took the Children Away* (Archie Roach)

PRAYER: We have shadows in our history which if unfaced
diminish us;
We have taken without asking;
Our nation has taken without asking;
Lives are wounded. We see the pain, feel the sorrow
and seek forgiveness.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.

Walk deliberately to station 4 (with music sticks)

strength to play our part in the healing –
and hope to walk forward to a place of justice.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.

Walk deliberately to station 7 (with music sticks)

STATION 7

SUNRISE WITH A TRACK OF FOOTPRINTS, BLACK AND WHITE –
REPRESENTING JOURNEYING INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER

READING: *Statement of Reconciliation*

PRAYER: With courage, compassion, strength and hope,
we will walk together on the journey of healing.

SING: I am the Land, Living, Breathing, Dying, Rising.

Continue until we return to Uluru.

FINAL PRAYER: *Sister of Colour (Seasons of the Feminine Divine, Cycle C)*

Sister of Colour,
You are the One we have not seen
as we passed You on the street.
You are the One whose voice has gone unheard.
You are the One who more than any other
has suffered the contempt of the world.
Yet in You compassion has bloomed
bright as the fireweed upon the mountainside,
sweet as the perfume of the magnolia tree,
and as certain as the solitary beauty of the lotus bud.
Open our eyes to our common humanity:
that, giving up the protection of our prejudices,
we cease all divisiveness;
for You are the Angel of Mercy,
the friend Who Pours Oil on the Wounds of Humanity,
and our Shekinah, Who Carries Us in her arms to the
place of eternal safety.

As we move out to share a meal, let us greet one another.

(Prepared by Social Action Office – CLRIQ, 30 May 2000)



*J***OURNEY of** *H***HEALING**

