

Naydene Mynnette Robinson

Return to Country at Mulga Downs

Going Going Gone – a poem by Naydene Mynnette Robinson

The following poem, titled "Going Going Gone", was penned by Gumala Member Naydene Mynnette Robinson. Her poem was inspired by and coincided with the 3rd Anniversary of 'The Apology' speech that was delivered by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on February 12, 2008.

Country STRONG, Children STRONG, Culture STRONG, Identity STRONG.

Cheated, Mistreated, Abused, Confused, Refused.

Ridiculed, Segregated, Separated, Humiliated.

Country GONE, Children GONE, Culture GONE, Identity GONE.

Missionised, Baptised, Ostracised, Patronised, Victimised,

Misplaced, Disgraced, Belittled, Befriended, Behaved.

KNOW: Resilience is common place among our Mighty Race.

KNOW: Country is Ours, Children is Ours, Culture is Ours, Identity is Ours.

KNOW: Country in US, Children from US, Culture is US, Identity is US.

Slowly: Walk Behind, Wait Behind, Bide your time.

Children RETURN, Culture RETURN, Identity RETURN.

Never to Return COUNTRY, GOING, Going, gone.



A story told through records from the archives of a child snatched from her mother's arms and incarcerated in the notorious Moore River Native Settlement – the child of Gardie [Gertie], a Bayjima woman on her traditional country at Mulga Downs Stations and the station owner. A family separated by the cruel and racist policies of the West Australian government and the hypocrisy of the white man who bore them. The story of recovery and overcoming adversity. The search for identity and for justice as told through the archival records. This is Naydene's story, the daughter of Sella, grandchild of Gardie and the station owner, the late Lang Hancock, father of Australia's richest woman, Gina Rinehart.