

### **The power of poetry**

*From time to time Indigenous and non-Indigenous people around Australia send us their poems (and occasionally song lyrics) conveying their candid opinions or thoughts in verse.*

*With permission of the writers, we've reproduced some of those poems for your enjoyment. If you wish to publish any of these poems please contact us and we'll put you in touch with the writer.*

### ***A Tribute to the Timeless Land***

by John McHardy

*John McHardy said he wrote his poem 'years ago after seeing Possum's paintings - what a revelation it was for me. I dedicate this poem to him and your efforts'.*

This is  
The blackfellas land  
It always was,  
The blackfellas dreaming  
Has bought it here.  
He will lend  
This land to us  
For a little while,  
But we must  
Give it back  
We do not own it.

When we walk  
This land,  
The blackfellas  
Will watch our footsteps  
And make sure  
We take care of it.

The blackfellas walk  
The black mountains,  
They watch  
The shadows  
On the desert,  
They speak through  
The rocks  
And where they lay,  
Through the grass  
And the rain.

The blackfellas eyes  
See the coming  
Of the new day  
And know why it comes.

When we leave

The sunburnt land,  
It will still belong  
To the blackfella.  
His dreaming  
Is powerful  
And calls me back.

The land  
Can use my sweat,  
Use my body,  
Use my love,  
And the blackfella  
Will look on and smile.

His dreaming place  
Will now be safe,  
And the old ones  
Will lie in peace  
To dream their world.

The spirit  
Of the land,  
Will rest.  
The blackfella  
And the whitefella  
Will be brothers  
In the timeless land -  
And dream  
In love together.....