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Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

Queensland Healing Strategy



What does healing look like for you?

MEMORIES (Song)

By Leroy Wilson

Bidjara and Kara- Kara and South Sea Islander descendent

Finished chopping wood it's time to light the fire
Wind will die down as the sun sets
Be sure to stoke it up cause soon the dew will bring cold
Spare a second for the reds and the purples and the orange and the blue

Two dollars to anyone who can spot the first star
It's funny how the children always seem to win that game
Can someone tell me a story about a constellation?
I think I see the cross and the sisters and the saucepan

Memories sitting round the fire with my family so true
A guaranteed recipe to bring it all back from blue
A shared story, gidyea coals and a memory of you
Oh, I love you, yes, I love you.

I often see an old magpie sitting on me fence
Hope you like that devon sausage that I threw you
Reminiscing bout the old girls playing canasta
Old gulbrae in the sky trying to pick a trifecta





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Leroy shared the background to the song Memories, “I wasn’t feeling my best and hadn’t been for awhile so I came home to be with Mum. The great thing about being home is the recalling of memories whether through photo’s, the smells coming from the kitchen and music.”

“On this occasion Mum and I were sitting outside around a fire under the mango tree. We were just yarning about the old people and the many stories they have left us with. While we were yarning up together we wrote this song. We called it memories.”

“In the song I remembered laying on the ground looking up at the sky and the old people teaching about the constellations and showing us how to finding our way home. Yarning-up with mum also reminded me about gidyea coals, which refers to a tree that we used for fire wood because it was slow burning and very hot.

“I refer to the old gulbrae in the sky and gulbrae in our Bidjara language means emu and is also our totem. I remembered clearly the yarn about the old magpie because my old uncle who is no longer with us used to say he hopes that he comes back as a magpie because they used to get fed devon sausage from the old women and he just loved devon sausage. Memories of the old girls playing canasta which is a deadly card game that would go on for hours and was such fun.”

“Memories, they made my spirit feel good.”

