

## ***REFLECTION***

### **KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL WEEK**

#### **Hear the words of Big Thunder (Bedagi) late 19th century Algonquin**

The Great Spirit is in all things, is in the air we breathe.  
The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother.  
She nourishes us; that which we put into the ground, She returns to us.

Give us hearts to understand:

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;  
Never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;  
Never to fail to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty;  
Never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand:

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion;  
That to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;  
That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench;  
That as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.  
We have sought only our own security.  
We have exploited simply for our own ends.  
We have distorted our knowledge.  
We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst,  
Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution,  
Help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse,  
Help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed,  
Help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption,  
Help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind,  
Whose breath gives life to the world, hear me.

I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in Beauty.