



Teaching Artist Statement

Yolande Yarran-Ward



Who am I?

My name is **Yolande Yarran-Ward**. I was born in Quairading, two hours east of Perth. I am a Teaching Artist for The Song Room. I make dolls, eco dye and paint.

When I was young I did a lot of singing with my parents. I am a singer songwriter as well.

Culture

Noongar culture is a sense of belonging and family. It's identity really.

I took my learning from my parents and Elders.

Country/Boodja

Boodja is our land, our earth which we walk on. When I take my shoes off I feel at peace with the earth, connected, blessed with the land we have.



Noongar people

Noongar are from the South West of Western Australia. Noongar people are our tribe.

Community

Community means connection - it's who is your mob.





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Why is story important?

Story telling is important because you feel like it's something that belongs to you - it's your story. You can go anywhere. You share with others, and they will share their story.

It's brought me through loss and grief and when you're feeling down.

Story telling brings you down to earth. It's relaxing. It's healing.

Story

Story to me means yarning and yarning circles. It's having a yarn with people and sharing your little travels and stories.

Story telling is healing because you have a voice to share your emotions, you feel free.

You mainly share with your family and with people you trust.

Yolande's advice to students and teachers

Respect that everyone has their own story, their own connection to land, connection to family and community.

