

## Walingera (Old Woman)

A poem

**Romaine Moreton**

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This country is nothing  
Without you

Walingera

This country is all  
Because of you

Walingera

You are  
The fire that has given me warmth

You are  
The home that I have for so long, longed

You are  
Place where I belong

I belong Walingera

Because of you

You have shown me  
That country is buried in our chest

That country  
Is lived not bequest

You have shown us  
That love and laughter is soil

You have given us  
So much so freely

Walingera

There is no homecoming  
Without you

Walingera

Home is not a distant  
Land from which our grandfather walked

Walingera

I know now  
That home is you

Home is the love where I rest  
This home is surest

With you Walingera  
With you

I have never been displaced  
Nor destitute

Dispossessed  
Nor possessed

Walingera

I am home  
Because of you

I am here  
Because of you

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## AUTHOR

### ROMAINE MORETON

Dr Romaine Moreton is Goenpul Yagerabul Minjungbul Bundjalung from Tjerangeri (Stradbroke Island) and what is now northern New South Wales. Romaine is the Director of First Nations & Outreach at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS). A writer of poetry, prose, and film, and a philosopher, she has published three collections of poetry, *Rimfire* (Magabala, 2000), the CD-book *Post Me to the Prime Minister* (IAD Press, 2004), and *Poems from a Homeland* (Hatje Cantz, 2012), and directed two short films, *The Farm* (2009), and *The Oysterman* (2012). While a Research Fellow Filmmaker in Residence at Monash, she completed the transmedia work *One Billion Beats*, that examined the historical representation of Aboriginal people in Australian cinema. Prior to that, she was a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Newcastle and worked on a project about Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property in the digital space. With Dr Lou Bennett, Romaine has been working closely with AFTRS over the last two years on a first-of-its-kind Indigenous Curriculum for screen and broadcast, focussed through the lens of ethics and aesthetics.