

**LEARNING ASSISTANCE & SPECIAL
EDUCATION SECONDARY**

Winner

Drago Kalinic

Katherine School of the Air
KATHERINE NT

MARRALAWA

Marralawa -	Whatever belongs to the land belongs to me.
Marralawa -	
Ancient voices calling me from a deep, dreaming sleep -	Fading – Waiting for Marralawa - Hiding behind the sun's fierce, powerful, intense light –
Looking – Searchingly towards the East's dawning, reflective horizon - Feeling instinctly – age, old intuition - Something in the sky, shimmering in the shadowy dimness caught my eyes - Something so bright - Existing – nomaleea - I want to shine, flicker and flash like the mythical, magical Marralawa. Everything Marralawa can see - Whatever belongs to the land, belongs to me.	Something moving and looping westerly across the daily track - Something setting - the reddish, orange sun fading over the dry, brown plains Appearing silently - visible, and unreachable. I want to shine, flicker and flash like the mythical, magical Marralawa. Everything Marralawa can see Whatever belongs to the land, belongs to me.
Touching – Crisp air - washes over me - Arousing alertness - Something awakens exhilarating - Something rouses and stirs - Beginning of another, age, old day - I want to shine, flicker and flash like the mythical, magical Marralawa. Everything Marralawa can see -	Marralawa, Marralawa, Ancient voices calling me from a deep, dreaming sleep - I want to be Marralawa. I want to shine. It's my shining and my dreaming – I wish, I wish, Oh I wish I was Marralawa, the Morning Star.

Judges' Comment:

An enchanting indigenous aesthetic. Most Australians have very little understanding of Indigenous mythology or aesthetics. This poem about Marralawa, better known to us as Venus or the morning star, is like a sacred hymn that provides a window into a world where all things are unified. What the poet proclaims is not mere connection with the land and the ancestors but a sense of oneness with and belonging to the cosmos itself. It is a joyful poem, full of light, aspiration and confident well-being.