



30th October 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the exceptionally talented and valuable performing arts organisation, *The Storey Players*, who Red Hill Environmental Education Centre (EEC) have collaborated with on two highly successful and impacting programs.

Red Hill Environmental Education Centre (EEC) is a facility of the Department of Education located within the Mudgee Network in Central West NSW. Our Centre's motto is, 'Learning from our past to inform our future'.

Red Hill work to support the delivery of the NSW syllabus with experiential, hands-on activities that lead to a deeper knowledge and understanding of both our urban and natural environments. In doing so, Red Hill EEC works closely with external providers in collaboration with our local community, including the Gulgong Musical and Dramatic Society (MADS) Inc., and the many historical museums and resources within the town, to enhance student engagement and improve student outcomes.

'The Forgotten Warrior'

Red Hill EEC first collaborated with *The Storey Players* in 2022 when they came to Gulgong to perform 'The Forgotten Warrior' at the historic Prince of Wales Opera House. In conjunction with the Gulgong MADS, Red Hill EEC welcomed 700 students from our local primary and high schools to view 'The Forgotten Warrior', an outstanding performance combining live theatre and film that shares the significant stories of Australia's Indigenous soldiers and their life experiences. The collaboration was an enormous success, with students and staff thoroughly enjoying such high-quality and relevant performances in their own local theatre.

'The Untold Story of Gulgong'

After the highly successful collaboration in 2022, Red Hill EEC invited *The Storey Players* back to Gulgong in 2023 to work with our local students on the development of 'The Untold Story of Gulgong'. Once again held at the famous Prince of Wales Opera House in Gulgong, this program offered selected students in Years 3-6 the opportunity to open their imaginations and create an 'untold story' of Gulgong. Using elements of Visual Arts, Music, Dance and Drama, the program invited students to interact with Gulgong community elders as they shared and swapped stories about the past to create a visual masterpiece that students then performed to their families and peers.

'The Untold Story of Gulgong' was held over a 5-day period with 40 students from 4 different schools. The students worked closely with *The Storey Players* to first strengthen their dramatic

skills through a series of workshops focusing on stage presence, voice projection and audience engagement. Students were then involved in community story telling sessions, as well as historical research through the local museums. *The Storey Players* then guided the students through the development of scriptwriting, casting, stage and costume design and scene blocking. On the final day, the students performed a 40-minute readers' theatre piece to an audience of over 100 guests.

The success of the program was a direct outcome of *The Storey Players* ability to interact professionally and personally with the students, whilst capturing the essence of the community through skilled story telling. Feedback from the students and schools who participated has been overwhelmingly positive, with all involved wanting to invite *The Storey Players* back to Gulgong in 2024. We cannot wait!

In summary, Red Hill EEC strongly recommend working collaboratively with *The Storey Players* in all forms of performance and storytelling. Our local community has benefitted greatly from these collaborative programs, providing opportunities for students in regional areas to engage with a highly professional and experienced creative and performing arts organisation. Our community speak very highly of the work Simon, Tina, and their children have brought to Gulgong, and we are very much looking forward to collaborating with them again in the future.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Centre on 02 6374 2558.

Alternatively, please contact the Principal, Rebecca Nielsen, directly on 0402 088 097 or Rebecca.carroll7@det.nsw.edu.au.

Kind regards,



Rebecca Carroll Nielsen
Principal



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"If children don't grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don't understand it, they won't protect it. And if they don't protect it, who will?" Sir David Attenborough