



# The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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*The following poems by Fourth Form Aboriginal students at Walgett High School, New South Wales, were submitted by the Principal, Mr. E.D.Gaskell, who comments that "both these poems provide a valuable insight into the thinking of young Aboriginals today".*

### DARK SHADOWS

Dark shadows from year to year,  
Have ruled my tribal life.  
They are the shadows of slaughter,  
Murder!  
They are the shadows of Life;  
- now and life to come;  
Death by meaningless diseases.  
We lived, contented as cows.  
Where do we come from?  
What are we?  
We are the Aboriginals -  
By white law only.  
But what *are* we?  
Shadows of Life have fallen,  
Fallen from tribal elders.  
And from one great woman,  
She is the protector of my life,  
She will see that I am a proud being.  
I am the shadow of her life,  
And she is the shadow of his life,  
He is the King, and,  
Life of his tribe -  
And when death arrives for him,  
His life that was will be,  
A Dark Shadow to me.

*Cheryl Rose.*