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[Indigenous Connection to Country & Why The Destruction of Sacred Sites is So Devastating](#)

Indigenous connection to country is more than an abstract concept, it's a deeply held belief that the land and all living things are our ancestors and family.

This is why it's so distressing to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when land, forests and sacred sites are desecrated, such as the destruction of Juukan Gorge by Rio Tinto in May 2020.

Interestingly, Western science is starting to catch up with this ancient wisdom as Aunty Munya Andrews from Evolve Communities explores in this article about [talking trees!](#)

A recent ground-breaking study has found that trees commune with the aid of fungi beneath the ground.

Not only do they talk to each other, trees are extraordinarily intelligent and community-minded. They care for, nourish, sustain, and share resources with one another.

When 'Mother Trees' are injured or dying, they send messages on to the next generation of siblings. Given our rich human tradition of oracular trees and Aboriginal Tree Dreamings in particular, some might say they also pass on their wisdom to us. Science has proven that talking trees are a very real scientific phenomenon, and a further illustration of the physical, emotional and spiritual connection to Country that is so deeply and devastatingly affected by the destruction of sacred sites we have seen in recent years.

Munya Andrews and Carla Rogers are available to discuss our national anthem and avenues for a more inclusive alternative.

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