What is Dadirri?

The following statements are drawn from Miriam Rose Ungenmerr, Dadirri: Aboriginal Way - Listening to One Another.

Dadirri means inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness.

Dadirri recognises the inner spirit that calls us to reflection and contemplation of the wonders of creation. Within a deep silence we attempt to find the inner self and the perfect peace.

We are not threatened by silence. We are completely at home in it. Our Aboriginal way has taught us to be still and wait. We do not try to hurry things up. We let them follow their natural course - like the seasons.

Application to Society and Culture

To start a new HSC cohort in Society and Culture the first activity for the Equality and Difference Depth Study was to apply the Indigenous way of learning known as Dadirri. This way of learning and knowing was introduced to me by, Julie Smith, a Kalkadoon woman who encouraged me to use it in my classes. After a brief introduction to the concepts of equality and difference and a presentation of Dadirri, the class is given pieces of paper, their choice of crayons and told to find a comfortable place to sit in the school grounds and reflect for about five minutes on the meaning of 'equality' and then to draw images, designs or graphics that depict their sense of the meaning of this concept. Then they repeated this process for 'difference'. This is a viable and meaningful way to introduce, reflect on and interpret a wide variety of concepts in the Society and Culture course.

Some of the drawings are depicted on the following pages.

Reactions from class:
"What a relaxed way of learning, but I was a bit concerned about whether I could draw well enough."

"It made me really contemplate." "I like transferring concepts to symbols"

"It was so refreshing to take time this way, as learning has been so hectic since the HSC courses started..." "I was able to distinguish between equality and difference after doing dadirri."

"Such a contrast to the definition and Google search way of learning. Even a contrast of world views."

"On the surface we are all equal, but on reflection this does not seem true." Lucy

"Difference seems normal, and equality seems more like a social construct."

"There seems to be a strong link between equality and conformity." Gini

"Is it as simple as one being negative and one being positive?" "No. it's not a black and white as that."

Quote from Uncle Max Harrison, Yuin Elder:

"We all breath the same air, we all drink the same water."

"There is an ideal of equality, but in reality there is nothing but difference." Lucy

Difference: I might think I'm better than someone, but eventually we realize we all come from the same place. Kirsten.

The Butterfly's wings are the same, they are equal. Look at the beauty and be happy. Bec.

Drawing these images, it just came out, very positive vs negative. I just drew whatever came out. The black came out when I was thinking about race.

Difference is Two Trees. Very different, but the same. Hannah

A History of One Tree Hill:

"One Tree Hill in Auckland is also known under its Maori name Maungakiekie, which translates to 'hill of the kiekie vine'. The mountain and its surrounds were home to the Wai o Hua tribe, since the early 1700's and probably before that time. Other tribes in the Auckland..."
area can also trace their ancestry to the Mountain.

Maungakiekie was the largest and most important Maori Pa in pre-European times with a population estimated at up to 3000. On the summit of the hill until recently was a Pine tree. This tree was one of two pines planted to replace a sacred Maori Totara tree. The name of this tree gave Maungakiekie its English name. In 1852, the Totara was cut down by a white settler/pakia for firewood.

Sir John Logan Campbell, who is referred to as one of the founders of the city of Auckland, requested in his will that a monument be built to commemorate the Maori people who were thought to be a dying race. The obelisk was completed in 1947. This obelisk and the pine tree are seen by many people as symbols of European dominance and oppression. During the 1970s there were reported attempts to blow up the existing pine tree. There were initially two pines, however, in the early 1960's, a group of overseas Boy Scouts cut down one of them. The remaining tree was attacked with chainsaws twice by Maori protesters. The final attack left the tree unable to recover and so was removed due to the risk of it dying and falling down."


accessed 25.10.2005

We are more equal when we work together to be. We are much better than when we don't even acknowledge that equality exists. Hannah

**Be Still**

Be still, wait, do not rush things. 
Let life happen by itself. 
Work with it, trust in the spirituality and wisdom that is around you. 
By Miriam Rose Ungenmerr
References:

http://member.melbpc.org.au/~grjallen/dadirri.htm
http://compassreview.org/spring03/1.html