

## RESEARCH STATEMENT

### Original Creative Work

**Citation:** Shilton, Leni 2012 *Looking for Bertha Strehlow – giving voice to silence*, e-book, Northern Territory Library, Darwin, available at [http://artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-library/news/literary\\_awards#.UHJQo7Rpsy4](http://artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-library/news/literary_awards#.UHJQo7Rpsy4)

### 1. Research Background

- Field – Creative Writing – poetry.
- Context – women, silence, 1930s Central Australia, Aboriginal/white relations,
- Research Question – Silence is a prevailing theme in the story of historical character Bertha Strehlow. My research into her story asks how writing about her can give her a voice, in doing this I explore how using the literary device of the verse novel is an effective genre for the development of narrative and voice.

### 2. Research Contribution

- Innovation – The theoretical exploration of the verse novel as an effective literary device for the writing of historical fiction.
- New Knowledge – There are no previous writings or research papers on Bertha Strehlow, thus my work contributes to New Knowledge by telling the story of her life and experiences in Central Australia in 1930s.

### 3. Research Significance

- Evidence of Excellence – Awarded the Charles Darwin University Essay Award in the 2012 Northern Territory Literary Awards (May 2012)

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