

# Kirwan State High School

## *Land Walkers*

Students at Kirwan State High School have embarked on a creative journey to design a wearable art outfit inspired by significant animals in Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The garment is titled *Land Walkers* and draws inspiration from the idea we as humans and all earths' creatures walk the same land, together. Students have incorporated Kangaroos, Snakes, Stingrays, and Emus into their design, each selected for its representation of various cultural values and traditions.

*Land Walkers* consists of a canvas slip dress with panels of dot paintings lining the sides. These panels signify a meeting place, where the knowledge and stories of these significant animals are told. Over the dress is a cotton

macramé knotted dress that incorporates segments of cloth, knotted strings of cotton rope signifying how all of our stories are tied together. Beads adorn the dress with a central chest plate that uses traditional dot painting techniques, surrounded in emu feathers. The garment is finished with a cape made in the shape of a stingray and filled with pattern work inspired by the Torres Strait Islands. The cape can be wrapped around to surround the garment, much like the oceans around Australia in which the stingray lives. The headpiece consists of a moveable ghost net sculpture of a snake. Snakes are often regarded as powerful spirit beings, closely connected to the land and Dreamtime. They play a role in teaching important lessons and imparting cultural knowledge, thus its placement on the head.

***Land Walkers*** 2024

Leilani ALFRED, Dube CLOUDY, Reijeli DAY, Baylee GRAY, Mandy HOOKEY, Sophie JOHNSON, Aleeah MICHAEL, Kaiontae ROSS, Aydah ROSS-KELLY, Kesa-Lee SAVURO (model), Zealand VAILALO, Kalina ZARO

Canvas, faux leather, cotton string, macrame cord, beads, repurposed nets, fishing line, raffia, acrylic paint, emu feathers, wood, wire, feathers.



