

# Mornington Island State School

## *Living Languages – The Salt Water Queen*

*Living languages – The Salt Water Queen* brings to life a colourful and rich tapestry of the history and unique experiences of the lives of our students: The Salt Water people of Mornington Island.

Our artwork has been inspired by the Kaiadilt and Lardil languages of the Wellesley Islands. It tells of the Lardil and Kaiadilt people's connection to Country, land and the revitalisation of language.

We showcase images of key animals, totems and language words, as we bring these languages to life using the medium of fabric and fibre to teach our language(s) to the audience.

Through the Stingray (Balibal), the Brolga (Buthurmarr), the Groper (Minyingkalda), the Fish (Yaka) and the Barracuda (Danka), we travel over the *dayarrinda malaa* (crystal clear

water) and share with the audience our identity as First Nations people, and we pay tribute to our Ancestors who pass their language names onto us: The next generation.

Each artwork within our tapestry was meticulously curated by our students to tell the story of creation, and of our present lives and our emerging futures on this Island called "Gununa" which are very bright indeed.

We would like to thank Pa Johnny and Nanna Betty for mentoring us, and in particular to thank Pa Johnny for allowing us to use a Dugong (Dilmirrur) bone to outline as the stencil for our sensational back right dress panel piece.

We would also like to thank Traditional Owner Pa Teddy for allowing us to travel on Gold Cliff land to photograph Living Languages – The Salt Water Queen.

***Living Languages – The Salt Water Queen*** 2024  
Soren JOE, Teonie PAUL, Mia SCHOLES (model), Danielle THIMBLE  
Mixed media.

