

People, Culture & Country - 2025

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Project

Acknowledgements

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Project: *People, Culture & Country,* acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Townsville - the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun; and Bindal people. We pay our repsects to their cultures, their ancestors and their Elders - past and present - and all future generations.

Project Management Team

Project Manager

Christina Papadimitriou

Regional Community Education Counsellor Coordinator

Joan McKay

Project OfficerBarbara Webster

Project Officer Kelsey Maher Director

Partnerships and Programs

Dr. Josephine Bourne

Manager

Partnerships and Programs

Rebecca Simmons

Lead Principal Project Base School

Melissa Jackson

Senior Project Officer

Jeanette Wyles

Project Officer

Beverley Cummins

Project OfficerPatricia Burns

Graphic Design

Christina Papadimitriou

Videography

Kate Osborne

For more information about the project and to access resources please visit:

https://heatleysc.eq.edu.au/our-community/community-partnerships/people-culture-country

© State of Queensland (Department of Education) 2025

Cover Image: Land and Water 2025

Charters Towers State High School Photographer: Merrie Carter The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Project: People, Culture & Country is an initiative of the Department of Education, North Queensland Region.

This project is supported by the Queensland Government though Arts Queensland, Schools Plus, Townsville City Galleries - Townsville City Council, The University of Queensland, and Queensland Museum.





Schools Plus





With thanks to Brilliant Prints, Pack & Send Townsville, and The Upholstery & Decorating Place.

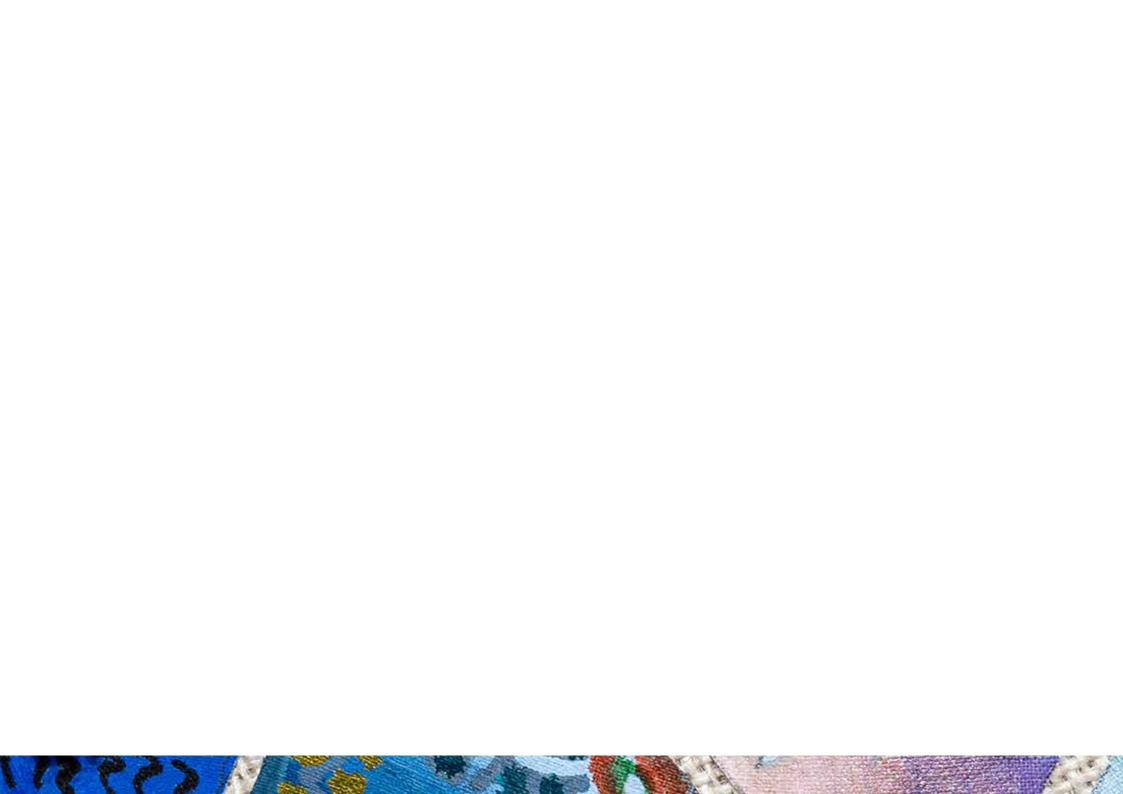












CONTENTS

Message from Traditional Elders	7	Heatley Secondary College	32
Message from Regional Director, North Queensland	8	Heatley State School	34
Message from Chief Executive Officer- Queensland Museum	9	Ingham State High School	36
Message from Chief Executive Officer- Schools Plus	10	Kirwan State High School	38
Message from Galleries Director - Townsville City Galleries	11	Mount Isa Central State School	40
Message from Project Manager	12	Mundingburra State School	42
Welcome in Traditional Language	13	Northern Beaches State High School	44
Ayr State School	14	Spinifex State College	46
Bluewater State School & Rollingstone State School	16	Thuringowa State High School	48
Bohlevale State School	18	Townsville Community Learning Centre	50
Bohlevale State School	20	Townview State School	52
Bowen State High School	22	William Ross State High School	54
Charters Towers State High School	24	Wulguru State School	56
Currajong State School	26	Students, Staff & Community Support	58
Doomadgee State School	28	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists	68
East Ayr State School	30		



Message from Traditional Elders

We would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Elders of the Wulgurukaba and Bindal Traditional Owners of the Townsville area, who endorse the *People, Culture & Country* wearable art project.

The *People, Culture & Country* project has provided opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across North Queensland to make connections with their family's culture, to land, sea, and sky.

In a positive step towards reconciliation, non-Indigenous students participating in the project enhance their knowledge and gain a better understanding, respect and an enriched appreciation of the world's oldest continuous living culture.

Exposure to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures has allowed all students to explore the importance of family kinship structures for maintaining and promoting health and wellbeing.

Congratulations on the project's eighth year. It is wonderful to see the students continue to design and create inspirational pieces of wearable art which educates and informs, not only education staff, but the wider non-Indigenous community.

This project is also a way of linking the oldest Traditional art in the world with a very multi-cultural society of Contemporary art.

The continued support by the Department of Education in acknowledging and promoting the rich cultures of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is seen as a positive commitment by the Elders.

This project is strengthening the confidence and identity of our young people who are stepping into bright futures alongside an interesting and important moment in our shared history. We look forward to celebrating the exciting pathways and skills they grow and expand on with the *People, Culture & Country* Project.

Aunty Virginia Wyles Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba Elder

Aunty Dorothy Savage Bindal Elder

Message from the Regional Director North Queensland Region

It is my great pleasure to introduce and acknowledge the 2025 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Project: People, Culture & Country. Now in its 8th year, this project continues to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with the opportunity to pursue their artistic talents and deepen their understanding of culture, traditions and histories.

This creative project incorporates traditional and contemporary concepts and challenges students to think outside the box and grow in ways previously not considered. With the support of our respected Elders, local Traditional Custodians and artists, students have deepened their ability to connect with Elders and have grown their confidence and identity. The students' inspiring designs encapsulate the current themes affecting their world. The students' ability to dream and utilise their skills to create incredible art is truly impressive.

The project has grown significantly over the years, beginning with seven Secondary schools at the time of inception in 2018, to include 22 schools in 2025. In addition to the continued return of schools historically involved in this event, two new schools; Bowen SS and Mount Isa Central SS, have been welcomed to the project.

The 2025 exhibition is hosted by the Queensland Museum Tropics for the first time, and is supported by Arts Queensland, Australian Schools Plus and Townsville City Galleries.

I congratulate the 22 participating schools, seven First Nations artists, 15 volunteers, over 250 students who have been involved this year. I offer my sincere thanks to over 70 staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly on the *People, Culture & Country* project and I make a special mention of the project team who have supported this inspiring work: Christina Papadimitriou, Barbara Webster, Kelsey Maher, Dr Josephine Bourne, Rebecca Simmons, Aunty Joan McKay, Aunty Beverly Cummins, Aunty Jenny Wyles, and Patty Burns.

We look forward to another exciting presentation ceremony bringing together over 300 students, stakeholders, teachers and volunteers from across North Queensland to celebrate the year's achievements.

> Joseba Larrazabal Regional Director North Queensland Region Department of Education

Message from Queensland Museum

Queensland Museum is proud to present *People, Culture & Country* for the first time in 2025. This exhibition celebrates the stories, creativity, and knowledge that shape Queensland, showcasing the work of more than 250 First Nations students from North Queensland, whose art reflects their deep connection to culture, community, and Country.

Developed in partnership with Education Queensland, this initiative exemplifies the power of collaboration between cultural institutions and the education sector, uniting students, artists, Elders, and community members. It highlights how shared learning, and creative expression can foster greater understanding, respect, and appreciation for the diverse cultural narratives that shape our state.

We extend heartfelt congratulations to everyone who contributed to this remarkable project and express our sincere gratitude to the First Nations Elders, artists, and mentors whose wisdom and guidance has made this exhibition possible.

We hope *People, Culture & Country* inspires curiosity, pride, and connection in all who experience it.

Dr Jim Thompson Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Museum

Message from Schools Plus

Congratulations to the incredibly talented students and the inspiring works they have created for this exhibition. We are honoured to be able to support this project and the communities involved.

In Australia, cultural learning is central to who we want the next generation to become. It is fundamental to shaping young people's sense of identity, belonging and wellbeing. The works in this exhibition clearly show the deep passion and connection of students to cultural learning, they should be proud of their achievements.

A shared understanding of culture provides a foundation for building stronger, more inclusive communities. It also encourages students to see culture as a living, evolving part of Australian identity.

By ensuring cultural learning and cultural identity are central in schools, we prepare the next generation to walk together with confidence, pride and mutual respect.

> Sherrill Nixon Schools Plus CEO

Message from Townsville City Galleries

Townsville City Galleries is honoured to support the People, Culture & Country project - a vibrant celebration of young voices, cultural connection, and creative exploration.

With 22 schools participating this year, the project continues to grow in reach and resonance, bringing together students, educators, artists, and communities in a shared journey of storytelling through art.

This initiative showcases the dynamic nature of creative practice. Students are not only engaged in customary visual art forms, but are mentored to extend their creativity into culturally inspired fashion - creating wearable artworks that speak deeply to identity, heritage, and connection to Country.

Through weaving, painting, printmaking, and the use of both natural and recycled materials, youth artists craft intricate costumes, headpieces, and jewellery that transcend decoration. These works embody stories, traditions, and pride - reflecting the living, evolving nature of Indigenous culture.

We applaud the student artists for their courage and imagination, the artists in residence for their generous mentorship, and the teachers and project team for nurturing such a transformative experience.

People, Culture & Country is more than an exhibition - it is a platform for cultural dialogue, personal growth, and lifelong inspiration.

Townsville City Galleries is proud to support this initiative through our ongoing programming, recognising its powerful outcomes for students and its contribution to building self-esteem and cultural pride.

We encourage you to explore the stories behind the artworks in this publication and to celebrate the creativity and commitment driving this remarkable initiative.

Congratulations to everyone involved—your voices and visions are weaving a living tapestry of creativity and connection.

Jo Lankester Acting Galleries Director - Townsville City Galleries Community and Lifestyle

About the Project

People, Culture & Country offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across North Queensland a unique opportunity to connect with their culture through creative exploration and self-expression. By delving into their heritage, students gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world. Non-Indigenous students participating in the project enrich their knowledge and appreciation of the world's oldest continuous living culture, taking meaningful steps toward reconciliation.

Each year, students embark on their creative journey with art workshops and yarning sessions facilitated by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and mentors. These experiences inspire and guide students as they design and create collaborative wearable artworks that reflect First Nations culture and identity. Throughout the project, they are supported by teachers, Community Education Counsellors, Indigenous Education Workers, school staff, family, and volunteers.

A key feature of the project is the photographic documentation of students wearing their artworks, enhanced by artistic hair, makeup, or body paint that complements each design. These striking portraits provide powerful insight into the cultural and creative stories embodied within each piece.

In 2025, more than 250 students from 22 schools

participated in the program. Their collective efforts culminated in an exhibition showcasing 22 wearable artworks, 110 photographs, an exhibition catalogue, and a short documentary film.

Extension programs in Dance and Music were integrated into a Performance Event, where students modelled wearable art from the 2024 project. In addition, five senior students took part in a five-day Fashion and Textiles Immersive Experience in Brisbane, exploring potential career pathways in the creative industries.

Building on the success of the project, the 2024 artworks were exhibited for the first time at the Mount Isa Regional Gallery and the Mike Carney Toyota Showroom. Students also modelled a selection of past artworks at the *Maltha Waru Fashion Show* in Mount Isa, and at the *Mike Carney Toyota Reconciliation Event* in Townsville.

The project also received the Ausatralian Education Union's Arthur Hamilton Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education.

Through *People, Culture & Country,* students are empowered to share their stories of family, culture, and Country with pride, fostering understanding and connection within their communities and beyond. We hope you enjoy!!

"Nyba nya nya nginda nyarrinyi bi ngya"

"I see you have arrived"

(Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba Language)

"Wadda Mooli"

"Welcome, Greetings and Goodbye"

(Birragubba (Bindal) Language)

Ayr State School

Kaiar Ama (Crayfish Mother)

This wearable artwork represents the Torres Strait crayfish, a creature of great cultural and economic importance.

The blue colours symbolise the waters of the Torres Strait. For many young children, crayfish diving with fathers, grandfathers, uncles and cousins was a way to learn and connect. Beneath the surface, they discovered an underwater rainforest—green reef beds, white coral sand, brown seaweed and the many colours of living sea creatures. These sights became treasured memories carried throughout their lives.

The gold colours reflect the wealth and support the crayfish industry has brought, helping families and communities remain strong. Diving is more than work—it is tradition, pride and knowledge. Divers are strong providers with a deep understanding of the reefs, tides, weather and landmarks. Their boats carried them across the sea and, as

they returned home, created a powerful link between sea, sky and land. In this way, they were not only fishers, but also caretakers, moving between the elements and holding responsibility for all.

Equally, within homes and communities, if the father is the provider, then the mother is the giver and sharer of what is provided. She ensures the catch sustains the family, that resources are shared, and that cultural values are passed on through care and generosity. Together, father and mother roles balance one another—providing and sharing, sustaining and nurturing.

Through its colours and form, this artwork celebrates memory, resilience and culture. It honours crayfish divers as proud providers and guardians, while also recognising the mothers who strengthen families through sharing and care.

Kaiar Ama (Crayfish Mother) 2025

Leandra ANTHONY, Shirley BERO-GEORGE, Xavier CROSSLEY, Peggy DEMPSEY, Danielle GELA, Jaxsyn PEARCE, Shai-Tay TAHANA (Model), Sage WILLIAMS. Denim, beads, air-dry clay, cotton and polyester, recycled plastic, florist wire, glitter, pipe cleaners, button, fake flowers, paint, glue, styrofoam.



Bluewater State School & Rollingstone State School

Jewel of the Ocean

Bluewater and Rollingstone State Schools are located in the beautiful northern beaches of Townsville on Wulgurukaba Country. The beaches provide the perfect landscape for families to come together, connect with one another and cherish and pay respect to the land.

Our piece is inspired by the marine life that we often see when visiting the beach with our families. Our statement piece, a large hessian turtle positioned on the front of the skirt, features hexagonal tiles designed by our students. Each tile tells a story belonging to our students. The bottom of the skirt represents the bottom of the ocean with rich colourful displays of coral, seaweed and marine life.

The top is marked with handprints belonging to our students and hosts six lively jellyfish. The layering of prints represents

Bluewater and Rollingstone State Schools coming together to collaborate on this artwork. The northern beaches are home to the jellyfish during the hotter months of November to May.

The headpiece features a stunning piece of coral made with a doily and painted with vibrant shades of blue and green. In the centre, a smaller piece of coral made from silicone beads and pipe cleaners. To complete the headpiece is a dusty pink turtle that complements the pink headband. Our piece is a mixed-media garment. We used a variety of textiles (woven fabrics, wool, hessian, calico), acrylic paints and silicone beads to create sea life in this warm and exciting creation.

Jewel of the Ocean 2025

Leiara Dawn ABRAHAMS, Sylvie-Layne BERRA, Brax BISSON, Emily CLARKESON, Brodie CLEMMENTS ROSS, Navaeh DOTOI (Model), Toni FITE, Benjamin GILBERT, Emily GILBERT, Ryan GRANNIGAN, Coby HARDY, Lataya HUTCHISON, Starlii JOHNSON, Mia KIM, Ava LEIGH, Amaya MACKINNON, Aria MACKINNON, Brendon MACKINNON, William MCDONALD, Benjamin PALMER, Bronson SARMARDIN. Wool, woven fabrics, hessian, calico, pipe cleaners, silicon beads, doylies, denim skirt, short sleeve top, acrylic paint, twine.



Bohlevale State School

We Honour Them

The inspiration for Bohlevale State School's Wearable Artwork began during an informal conversation with our Principal, Sarah Comino, where the school's identity as a Defence School was highlighted. With many of our families connected to military service, the idea arose to create a work that not only reflects our Defence community but also honours the important, and often overlooked, contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women in Australia's military history. This was further inspired by a commemorative poster marking 75 years of First Nations Service.

We Honour Them is a symbolic tribute that blends tradition and modern design to capture themes of remembrance, resilience, and respect. Students were deeply involved at every stage of the process — researching stories, sharing ideas, and contributing patterns and textures that

would be incorporated into the final garment. Their active participation ensured that the piece carries authenticity, creativity, and cultural meaning.

The garment's design elements highlight strength, unity, and sacrifice, while also celebrating identity and pride. Colours, motifs, and symbolic patterns draw from both cultural traditions and contemporary expression, creating a striking and meaningful piece that tells a shared story.

This project has given students the opportunity to not only develop their artistic skills but also connect more deeply with history, culture, and the service of Defence families past and present. We Honour Them stands proudly as a tribute, acknowledging First Nations Service Men and Women while honouring the sacrifices of our wider Defence community.

We Honour Them 2025

Haidyn AVENELL, Ella HILLS, Harriet NONA (Model), Aniah PALMER, Emmisyn PASCOE, Marcia PHINEASA (Model), Wilow RYAN, Madaline SEAR, Kenzi TURNER, Haylee WAIGANA, Indi WILLIAMS.

Raffia, wooden buttons, camouflage material, tulle material, plastic buttons, toilet rolls, skewer sticks, acrylic paints, bush cotton (from cotton bush).



Bohlevale State School

We Honour Them

The inspiration for Bohlevale State School's Wearable Artwork began during an informal conversation with our Principal, Sarah Comino, where the school's identity as a Defence School was highlighted. With many of our families connected to military service, the idea arose to create a work that not only reflects our Defence community but also honours the important, and often overlooked, contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women in Australia's military history. This was further inspired by a commemorative poster marking 75 years of First Nations Service.

We Honour Them is a symbolic tribute that blends tradition and modern design to capture themes of remembrance, resilience, and respect. Students were deeply involved at every stage of the process — researching stories, sharing ideas, and contributing patterns and textures that

would be incorporated into the final garment. Their active participation ensured that the piece carries authenticity, creativity, and cultural meaning.

The garment's design elements highlight strength, unity, and sacrifice, while also celebrating identity and pride. Colours, motifs, and symbolic patterns draw from both cultural traditions and contemporary expression, creating a striking and meaningful piece that tells a shared story.

This project has given students the opportunity to not only develop their artistic skills but also connect more deeply with history, culture, and the service of Defence families past and present. We Honour Them stands proudly as a tribute, acknowledging First Nations Service Men and Women while honouring the sacrifices of our wider Defence community.

We Honour Them 2025

Haidyn AVENELL, Ella HILLS, Harriet NONA (Model), Aniah PALMER, Emmisyn PASCOE, Marcia PHINEASA (Model), Wilow RYAN, Madaline SEAR, Kenzi TURNER, Haylee WAIGANA, Indi WILLIAMS.

Raffia, wooden buttons, camouflage material, tulle material, plastic buttons, toilet rolls, skewer sticks, acrylic paints, bush cotton (from cotton bush).



Bowen State High School

Mother Beddock: The Grand Lady

Mother Beddock: The Grand Lady is a tribute to Mother Beddock, an ancient rock formation that rises from the Bowen landscape with silent strength and timeless grace. To the Indigenous custodians of this land, and to the broader Bowen community, she is more than stone — she is a matriarch, a symbol of endurance, strength, wisdom, and presence.

Over millions of years, Mother Beddock has stood unyielding - weathered by wind, rain, sun, and shifting earth - yet unchanged in her essence. Like a grand old woman of the land, she holds the stories of time within her layers, watching over Juru Country, bearing witness to the ever-changing world around her.

This work translates her form and spirit into wearable art. Through textured fabrics, earth-toned palettes, and layered materials, we echo her rugged surface and grounded presence. The structure of the piece reflects her silhouette: strong, dignified, and enduring. Elements of shimmer and shadow speak to the way she interacts with light - a reminder that she is not just rock, but a being alive with memory and meaning.

Creating this piece is our way of honouring her and our culture - and acknowledging the deep cultural, spiritual, and emotional significance she holds for Traditional Owners and all who call this land home. In wearing her story, we carry her strength.

She is stone, she is spirit, she is Mother Beddock - the Grand Lady of Bowen.

Mother Beddock: The Grand Lady 2025

Kala AUDA, Amahli CORA, Jamee JACOBS, Chelci JENSEN, T'Rayah SIMMONS (Model), Daisha TAMBO Sharlet TAMBO, Aaliyah TERARE, Kyah UPKETT, Tiarni UPKETT. Recycled wedding dress, stockings, wire, tape, paint, glue, beads, stencils, headband.



Charters Towers State High School

Land and Water

Our wearable artwork is inspired by our culture and relationships with land and water. We have each focussed on traditional motifs, personal stories, and colours in our contemporary designs. Our group comes from different Mobs, including Kalkadoon, Gudjula, Warumungu, Arrernte, Muwa, Windorah and the Torres Strait. Some of our totems are The Rainbow Serpent, Red Kangaroo, the Honey Ant and Wedgetail Eagle for which you will find symbols for on our different panels.

The significance of brown and blue hues in our art piece is because of our connections to land and water. The gold and metallics represent Charters Towers. Our individual cultural identity has become our theme.

The browns represent the earth and how it supports all life and allows growth. The blues represent the water which makes life flourish.

We have constructed a wearable art piece that reflects our respect for cultural heritage. We have creatively innovated a combination of all our stories and lands into one art piece.

Our artistic processes included tie-dyeing, sewing and pattern making with paint and dye. The importance of making marks/symbols in our individual storytelling becomes relevant in each individual panel and is highlighted against the backdrop of brown and blue hues which ties us all together. Our art is connected to land and water, and they connect us to each other. The land and water hold us all together.

Land and Water 2025

Maelee, Mahina ASQUITH (Model), Katerina BUSCH, Taylah DALLACHY-HUEN, Lezalia EATTS-RANKINE, Lahtahlia HILL, Shayla IRWIN, Georgia NICHOLS, Asija OWENS-EDWARDS, Kayden ROBERTSON. Calico, dye, acrylic paint and feathers.











Currajong State School

Connection to Country

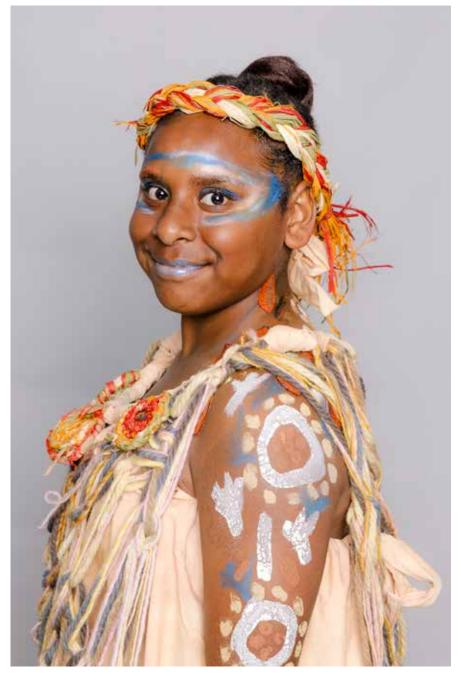
Our wearable artwork draws inspiration from the ancestral lands of the Wulgurukaba people, the Traditional Owners of Townsville, known as Gurambilbarra. The design intertwines traditional and contemporary elements to embody the deep, enduring connection between the land and its people. This connection has been the core of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's existence in Australia from the beginning of time and it continues to be a very important part of our lives today.

Our artwork uses ochre tones, river patterns, and ancestral symbols to map the places that shape us — the waterholes, walking tracks, and ceremony grounds passed down through generations. These places are more than physical spaces; they are part of our identity, our memory, and our spirit.

Through this artwork, we aim to share the profound relationship between the people and their land, fostering understanding and respect for First Nations cultures and protecting them for future generations.

Connection to Country 2025

Pyper-Lee BALLANTYNE, Myra BARAGUD, Hayley DEVINE, Alba FOWLER, Bonita HARRY (Model), Evie HUNT, Ariel LEWIS, Melody MOOKA-NELIMAN, Zoe-anne OUI, Romello, Kaylah SCHMID, Caitlyn-Ann SODEN. Fabric, PVA glue, newspaper, wool, raffia, corflute, paint, acrylic paint markers, cloth tape, onion skins, vinegar, vinyl.











Doomadgee State School

Warurrungu Dusk

Our artwork is inspired by our culture and the bushland that surrounds us. It represents the bush turkey, the Australian Bustard (Warurrungu) we hunt in Doomadgee, a tradition that holds deep meaning for us, as it is something we have shared with our families for generations and will continue to pass on. The Australian bustard holds cultural significance for many Aboriginal communities.

The Australian Bustard is one of Australia's largest birds. Their average size is 1m tall and their weight ranges from 4.5kg - 10kg. It is mainly a grey and brown bird, speckled with dark markings, with a pale neck and black crown, with a slight crest and a white eyebrow. There are bold black and white markings on the wing. The female is slightly smaller than the male. Newly hatched chicks are striped dark and light.

To create our artwork, each of us illustrated our own special hunting stories on the panels of the skirt. The feathers used were gathered from our Country and generously gifted to us by community members following a family hunting trip.

We also went on an excursion on Country to draw inspiration for the colours used in the fabric.

Thank you for allowing us to share our culture with you. We hope you enjoy and connect with our artwork.

Warurrungu Dusk 2025

Anna-Beth AH-ONE, Rhylie ARGENT, Trenice JOHNNY, Amaya JOHNSON, Jenna JUPITER (Model), Kage LOGAN, Shakayda MAHONEY, Hutley NED, Krishana NED, Alaura WALDEN, Nebraska WALDEN. Bush Turkey feathers for neck and hip piece, satin panels with textured metallic paint, faux metallic leather.











East Ayr State School

Barefoot Hunter

Barefoot Hunter represents stories told of hunting and gathering.

We had local Elders Uncle Gerald Henaway and Ian Zaro share stories with our students of their younger days hunting on the Iand. Uncle Gerald told stories of being barefoot on Country, walking the banks of the Burdekin River and Planation Creek spearing salt water and freshwater fish for food.

lan told stories of his time in the Torres Strait Islands fishing with his family who are from Murray Island. Our students used these stories as inspiration.

We represented the barefoot hunter by printing footprints of all students onto the artwork. We traced and cut food sources such as turtle, barramundi, crocodile and kangaroo from leather off cuts.

Boomerangs cut from yoga mats that were decorated using paint pens and Aboriginal symbols, were incorporated into the design, allowing students to tell their own stories. We created spears from sticks and yoga mat off cuts.

Barefoot Hunter is a representation of the stories from elders and the traditions that are carried through generations still today.

Barefoot Hunter 2025

Kallen BAR, Oliver CAVANAGH, Crystal EULER, Olivia FERGUSON, Peyton FERGUSON, Apo GHEE, Jayla HERON, Kaylee HERON, Saige LAMPTON, Hazeman MUNDRABY (Model), Ryder NASH, Dakota OLIVER, Ty PYOTT, Bethana RATTLER, McKenna Jo RUSSO, Olivia SHAW, Dakota SULLIVAN, Kiamani SUTHERLAND, Coen TRINDLE.

Repurposed materials, yoga mat, sticks, leather, rope, hot glue, acrylic paint, paint pens.











Heatley Secondary College

Lost Connections

When creating our contemporary artwork we started by designing our own CDs to represent each of our family and our families' dynamics. These CDs were then placed on top of the dress to symbolise the importance of family and belonging. We then decorated other CDs which were broken up into smaller pieces, and we placed these broken pieces of CDs in sections with matching colours, creating a stained-glass pattern.

We took inspiration from contemporary fashion and chose bright, bold, eye-catching colours for the stained-glass panels. We spoke about how they were like colourful lenses to see the world through. The small shards of CDs create something beautiful, which represents that while our families are not perfect, family ties and culture continue to play a major role in our lives.

We used a variety of Aboriginal symbols to portray what family means to us. Proudly reflecting our Indigenous culture & heritage. We also created a headpiece from wire mesh, sculpting the wire into flowers as our crowning piece, symbolically using the flowers to represent ourselves: as strong, proud and hopeful young girls.











Heatley State School

Custodian of the Rainforest

The Rainforest is the most diverse land-based ecosystem on Earth. The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' connection to Country means ongoing responsibility for caring for Country, the sharing of stories, the use of language, and the performance of songs and dances. The responsibility for, and involvement in, the maintenance of its cultural significance, sacred sites, and cultural heritage for all future generations of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.

The Custodian walks the rainforest, camouflaged like the forest floor. They protect the rainforest eco system, watching over all that live there, wearing the rainbow serpent to guide them in their mission to maintain and care for the rainforest. By wearing representations of the flora and fauna they protect and raise awareness of the diverse and beautiful rainforest.

The suit is covered in handmade leaves and insects, the torso features dense overlapping vines made from crochet. A waterfall made from fine netting, tie-dyed fabric and beads adorns the garments shoulder, from the left arm a vine covered in mushrooms links the garment to the staff. The staff features handmade mushrooms and vines.

The Custodian wears a cloak designed to represent the rainforest canopy and featuring a tie-dyed and hand illustrated carpet python to represent the rainbow serpent. The hood of the cloak is densely covered in vines made from crochet wool and completes the Custodian's camouflage.

Custodian of the Rainforest 2025

Adrian BAKONYI, Rochelle BENN-YASSERIE, Alaysia BOURNE, Aylena CLOSE, Cooper DESTAGE, Jayden FAVREAU-LEE, Hasina HERO, Xavier HERO, Apati HORNER, Jaely KEPA, Nilara-Lee LIND, Myah MASSO, Isabell STEMM, Charae STRETTON, Demro TAPIM (Model).

Calico, wool, wire, beads, pvc pipe.



Ingham State High School

Beyond the Stars

As the sun sinks below the horizon, the night sky awakens - a vast canvas of stories, wisdom, and guidance. For countless generations, our ancestors have looked to the stars as a living map, carrying the knowledge of how to navigate both land and life.

There are many Dreamtime stories about how the sky was created. Our wearable art was inspired by the Dreamtime story of The Seven Sisters, as shared by Aunty Josie Barrett which explains how part of our night sky came to be. This story has been passed orally from generation to generation across Australia.

As Ingham State High School Indigenous students, we are proud to be part of this creative process to keep our culture alive and strong. Our wearable artwork reimagines

the Indigenous solar system. A deep black base, flecked with stardust, forms the heart of the galaxy. Bamboo hoops orbit the body, threaded with silver stars and florist wire and wool gems that appear to float in space. The model holds a curtain of stars, their steady presence a reminder of the constellations that have guided us for millennia. Florist wire twists like cosmic trails, while fairy lights shimmer like distant constellations. A celestial headpiece crowns the model, completing the vision of a universe in motion.

The sky maps our way binding the land and water together, each essential to our Indigenous culture, seasons and food sources. With this work, we celebrate our sacred connection — a connection as timeless and infinite as the stars themselves.



Kirwan State High School

Country Crawlers

Country Crawlers celebrates the deep and enduring connection between Traditional Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the natural environment.

Inspired by the intricate systems of Country - where land, people, spirit, and ecology are one - this piece brings attention to the often-overlooked world of insects, whose roles in ecosystems are vital, yet fragile.

The flowing green dress represents the richness of bushland and rainforest, evoking movement, growth, and life. Scattered across its surface are sculptured bugs crafted from recycled materials, each one unique and hand-made by students. These bugs reflect both the diversity of species and the importance of sustainability, reminding us that every creature, no matter how small, has value and purpose.

In many First Nations cultures, insects are understood not just as creatures, but as messengers, pollinators, and indicators of the health of Country. By reimagining bugs through art and reclaimed materials, this work encourages viewers to reflect on their environmental impact and the wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives, that advocate for balance, respect, and care for the land and all its inhabitants.



Mount Isa Central State School

Echoes of the Earth: A Tapestry of Red Earth

Echoes of the Earth: A Tapestry of Red Earth is a wearable art piece that celebrates the deep connection between the Kalkadoon people and their land. The students discussed the unique colours found in the country around Mount Isa, including the rich reds, vibrant oranges, and striking copper tones that define the region's landscape. These colours were then used to bring the dress to life, reflecting the beauty of the local environment.

Working closely with the artist, the students learned traditional weaving techniques, which they incorporated into the design by creating the belt and other woven elements of the dress. These woven components not only enhance the visual beauty of the work but also symbolize the students' hands-on connection to their cultural heritage.

In addition to weaving, the students added copper foiling to the dress, a powerful symbol of the rich copper ore that

runs through the hills of Mount Isa. This material choice connects the artwork directly to the land's natural resources, reflecting the importance of the earth beneath their feet.

The students also decorated the cape with handprints, symbolising their personal bond with the country. Each handprint represents their connection to the land, while the animals they chose to include, such as the emu (a Kalkadoon totem), represent the spiritual relationship they share with the region's creatures.

This piece blends traditional weaving, storytelling, meaningful symbols, and natural materials, all crafted by the students themselves. It is not just a visual representation but a living story of identity, connection, and belonging - woven from both the past and present.

Echoes of the Earth: A Tapestry of Red Earth 2025

Hunai BRADSHAW-DANIEL, Kayleigha BRENNAN, Kaydence CAMERON, Ruben CRAIGIE, Crystarna DEMPSEY, Lezlee DEVERY, Marley DOYLE, Matilda MORGAN (Model), Saige NORWAY-HARDY, Fernando PEREZ, Tashaya RADCLIFFE, Larticka ROCKLAND, Joshua, Gabriel TE POHE. Recycled dress material, Hessian bags, acrylic paint, copper foil, feathers, macrame rope, raffia, recycled art pieces.



Mundingburra State School

Baidam Look to the Stars

Torres Strait Islander culture is closely linked to the stars. They inform Islander laws, customs and practices that are recorded and handed down in the form of story, song, dance, ceremony and artefacts. Torres Strait Islander people are seafarers. The sky connects them to how they live their lives. For many years, they have navigated by stars traveling among islands and they use their own constellations to direct their living practises.

Our artwork represents the shark constellation Baidam which is made up of seven bright stars in the Big Dipper, which is part of the constellation Ursa Major, also known as the Greater Bear. From July to August, Baidam appears in the North sky sitting horizontal over Papua New Guinea. This indicates the best time to plant young banana, sugarcane and casava. It is also the mating season for sharks, a warning to be vigilant in the sea. Lunar phases of the moon inform the best times to fish.

Our artwork is made up of three spheres; the sky, the sea and the land. Our headpiece represents the sky featuring the seven stars of the constellation Baidam. The sash represents the clear reflection of the stars on the sea showing what it looks like when the wind drops, it also features fish, a shark's regular meal.

The Baidam sculpture sits at waist height cruising in the sea representing all the people of the islands of the islands of the Torres Strait as sharks are found throughout. The colour of the land is represented in the zazi (dancing skirt). The model carries in his left hand the sprouting vegetables that are ready to plant around this time.

Baidam Look to the Stars 2025

Grayson BAKER, Chantyliah CASTORS-BARRY, Royaul CHATFIELD, Jaalah GRAUNER, Sahara HAYWARD, Amelia HENRY, Saphia HOLDEN, Eden LUI, Eric MABO, Samuel MAIRU (Model), Christine MOSBY, Deja SIULAI, Maliq TAPIM, Daniel WATERTON, Shannah WILLIAMS, Zaniah WOSOMO, Zanaius WOSOMO, Zskaylah WOSOMO.

Wool, raffia, palm leaf, feathers, clay, paper mâché, wire.



Northern Beaches State High School

Guardian of the Reef

This contemporary wearable art piece explores the powerful symbolism of the seafaring navigator, drawing loose inspiration from traditional Torres Strait Islander navigation by the stars. Infused with steampunk – which is a subgenre of science fiction that combines retrofuturistics technology aesthetics - and organic reef motifs, the garment becomes a vessel of storytelling - anchored in both history and imagination.

Elements of coral, fish, and oceanic textures flow through the design, echoing the vibrancy and fragility of the reef. Metallic components and intricate detailing suggest an invented past or alternate future, where ancient wisdom meets mechanical ingenuity.

The figure who wears this piece becomes the Guardian of the Reef - a protector, wayfinder, and witness to change. It honours those who read the skies and waters to survive and protect, while also raising questions about our relationship with the natural world, its beauty, and its endurance.

Guardian of the Reef 2025

Matilda ARABENA, Larita AUDA, Caydyn BROWN, Caidence COOPER, Jesse FROST, Melodi KYLE, Keira, Kallyn-Jack MURPHY, Marcus NAGAS (Model), Roselie PENNINGSON, Alierah ROSSER.

Wetsuit, wire, air dry clay, paint, mesh, foam and faux leather.











Spinifex State College

Hidden in Plain Sight

Hidden in Plain Sight pays tribute to the untold history of the Aboriginal Stockwoman. Once veiled beneath denim jeans and a work shirt, her legacy is now revealed and honoured through art.

Her skirt speaks of the stars once followed by her ancestors, guiding them as they carved droving tracks across ancient lands. The patterns on her top echo the rock art they passed, timeless messages etched in stone, reminders of where she came from, and the strength she carried within.

Her cowboy hat, draped in a delicate veil, symbolises the mystery of her true identity, kept quiet, wrapped in silence. The stock whip she holds is not just a tool, but a symbol of the labour she performed day after day, shoulder to

shoulder with her male counterparts.

Tucked close to her side, the dilly bag signifies her enduring connection to family, even as she journeyed far from home.

Through this piece, her story once hidden is now shared and celebrated. It stands as a beacon of resilience, courage, and cultural pride, inspiring future generations of Aboriginal women to walk forward with strength and unwavering connection to who they are and where they come from.

Hidden in Plain Sight 2025

Rikki-Lee BODY, Izrael BRUCE-CRAIGIE, Skye CASEY, Lily COONEY, Zahara CRAIGIE, Rhukalia DEAN, Zenneisha DEMPSEY, Jaydee DOYLE, Khazia FEWQUANDIE, Amanda JONES, Savannah MARSHALL, Labrahn PAGE, Tremaine RICHARDS, Thyleeyah RYAN, Lexi SULLIVAN (Model), Keely WILSON. Tulle, acrylic paints, canvas, fabric, hessian, recycled clothing.











Thuringowa State High School

Celebrating Diversity

Our group is diverse. We each have different cultural backgrounds. We come from different places. We look different and sound different. We are different shapes and sizes. Some of us are tall, some short. There are those differences that are obvious, and some less obvious. Yet despite being so different, we found it didn't matter. We could all work together effectively and respectfully to reach a shared outcome.

We decided to reflect our diversity, the diversity of First Nations people and the diversity of peoples throughout our community and the world. To do this we used a diverse range of techniques and media. Added to that we used a range of colours - both brighter colours, and more subtle earthy tones. These pieces have been layered and connected to bring the entire work together. Threads of varied colours, textures and lengths drape around the neck and back of the model. Larger pieces from which the smaller threads come from, decorate the cape and skirt of the work.

Each piece has been worked on as a group and as individuals. We painted, stitched and manipulated the works to not only represent the unique styles of each young artist but also to further represent the diversity of us all. Throughout the work, we have also recognised *People, Culture & Country* artists of the past and included small elements of their works with our own.

Overall, the garment is a work of diversity. It is strong, yet calming and beautiful. It recognises those many differences but also the similarities we all have.











Townsville Community Learning Centre

Tidal Threads

Tidal Threads is a wearable art piece that honours the meeting of fresh and salt water at Aplins Weir, where our school stands. This site, along the Ross River, forms a natural boundary between Wulgurukaba and Bindal Countries, a place of deep cultural and ecological significance.

For First Nations Peoples, the meeting of waters symbolises life, connection, and enduring cultural strength.

Crafted from recycled materials, the design features flowing fabrics, layered textures, and soft movement that reflect the river's journey from inland to sea. Colours and patterns are inspired by shifting currents, capturing the energy of both river and tide.

A striking element of the piece is the large woven panel, symbolising the powerful tidal pull where freshwater meets saltwater. Its interwoven strands represent strength, movement, and the interconnectedness of ecosystems and communities.

Native flora and fauna embellish the design, celebrating the biodiversity that flourishes where waters merge, from reeds and turtles to birds and fish.

Rooted in the cultural understanding of water as life, spirit, and story, *Tidal Threads* stands as a visual reminder that where waters meet, life thrives and with it, our shared responsibility to care for Country.

Tidal Threads 2025

Molly ANDERSON (Model), Matthias BACKO-LUI, Joshua BATTEN, Lincoln BLACK, Kodie BUCKINGHAM, Chloe COCHRANE, Ajay COGHILL, Mathieson CUPITT, Sinai CURLEY, Mia CUTHBERT, Ezekial DESATGE, Kyle DILLON, Taylor GRAVENER, Emilie-Jada IRELAND, Blaze LARSEN, Thor LARSEN, Jack LEONDAS, Ava LYON, Makai MARNELL, Shae MCCORMICK, Keonjay MOLL, Nathaniel NOYE, Alex OSIECKI, Molly PEACH, Adam PONTI, Cooper POWER, Jade PRATT, Glenn PRIOR, Jacob SMITH, Lachlan SMITH, Lincoln TOOHEY, Daniela VILLARUEL, Ashlyn-Rose WYLLIE. Recycled materials and plastics, Air dry clay, pipe cleaners and ghost netting.



Townview State School

Queen of Black Feathers

Queen of Black Feathers, reflects the enduring strength, vision, and legacy passed down through generations. Inspired by spiritual connections of our ancestors, this piece embodies the totem of the Kalkadoon people, whose rich heritage is woven into the fabric of our community. The black cockatoo is a bird of spirit and transformation. It is both armour and offering, a reminder that we are always guided by the wings of those who came before us.

Every element - fabric, texture, movement - is a visual language, echoing the red earth of Kalkatungu Country, the shifting skies, and the stories that live within us still.

The handprints on the bottom of the dress represent the strength of generations before us who guide us and teach us to listen deeply, to watch the skies, and to walk with intention. Furthermore, the handprints evoke the practice of back burning, an ancestral technique for land management, symbolising respect for the environment and sustainable living. The dress serves as a reminder of the collective effort and shared history that binds us to our matriarchal lineage, ensuring its continuation.

This work is not only an expression of cultural pride but a way of carrying story on the body - alive, present, and unyielding. The symbols, colours and stories represented on the cape is who we are as a community and showing we come from many different cultures and backgrounds. By doing this we honour each person which helps build our collective identity.

Queen of Black Feathers 2025

Laquade AH ONE, Shyleer ARMSTRONG, Lydia CORPORAL (Model), Kamayah CRAIGIE, Danniel, Felista DAVID, Gabrielle DECOURCEY, Lacey DONOVAN, Akeah ERNEST, Alayah ERNEST, Olivia KENT, Aaliarna KING, James LAYA, Sam MAATA, Teiayla MULLINS, Khzius-Lee PATUWAI, Frank PITT, Daphne ROSSO AMBIA, La'Tonya SAMARDIN, Lisia TANGI. Calico, paint pens, spray paint, feathers.



William Ross State High School

Reconciliation

William Ross State High School is on Bindal Country. Our students were inspired to create a piece that aligns with this year's Reconciliation Week artwork and theme, *Bridging Now to Next.*

Our artwork is grounded on a simple black dress, black representing the ashes after back burning, with references to a simple island dress in the ruffles. Students created their own stories through symbols and line work illustrated on the leaf shapes in colours inspired by the Reconciliation artwork.

Line work includes resilient plants; Lemon Myrtle, Banksia and Kangaroo Paw, highlighting their ability to endure and regenerate, reflecting the perseverance and adaptability of people and communities.

The colours are vibrant and flourish against the black background. It is reminiscent of journeys and tracks, emphasizing the importance of connection, progress and the paths created by those who came before. The leaf shapes gradually disperse up the artwork, and the colours return in the arm and head pieces. This emphasises that reconciliation is a continuous journey of strength, renewal and growth.

Reconciliation encourages reflection on the past, and a commitment to moving forward together.

Reconciliation 2025

Tiarna BROOKS, Liyah CLUMPOINT (Model), K'la FARKAS, Amy GOMEZ, Cara HURST, Sanoe MABO, Mihra MCCARDLE JANSE, Savannah MIDOLO, Valea MIDOLO, Monty O'CLOUDY, Zoe O'CLOUDY, Taleisha PARKER-SMITH, Kyrie QUAKAWOOT, Emma SANTO LYNAM. Cotton, fabric, wire, wool, cotton, tulle, beads.











Wulguru State School

After the Rain

The inspiration for our artwork came from the record-breaking rain that occurred at the start of the year, when Townsville recorded its wettest year with over 2400mm of rain in the first three months of 2025, breaking a 25-year rainfall record.

Indigenous communities recognise flooding as a natural and necessary part of our ecosystem as it helps replenish wetlands, recharge groundwater and distribute nutrients across floodplains, which are processes that are essential to the survival of many plant and animal species.

Our artwork consists of a headpiece incorporating fingerknitting and beading which represents the storm clouds and rain that sat over Townsville for several months.

The rain filled up our dam, rivers and waterways and our cloak represents the water flowing down the river on its

way out to sea, spreading water across floodplains, creeks, and low-lying areas to create temporary wetlands and billabongs.

Many native fish species and crocodiles use floods to migrate or find new food sources. We used decoupage techniques to add crocodiles and fish to our cloak and created a crocodile belt from a recycled yoga mat and air dry clay.

Dragonflies are part of the ecosystem's recovery after a flood and are a sign that the environment is stabilising and returning to balance. Each participant created personalised dragonflies by decorating shrink wrap plastic with their own unique designs. We then shrunk them down in the oven and used florists wire to make them appear to "hover" over the cloak, creating a colourful representation of recovery and harmony.

After the Rain 2025

Paul ANDERSON, Mahayla BROOKS, Eden HURST, Samantha JASPRIZZA, Kya OLIVER, Mathias PRIESTLEY, Victoria SCHWARTZ, Amity SHEMLOWSKI, Jonty SINGLETON-HAMILTON (Model), Emma, Thaybian Jack TISDELL, Tyren WARCON, Frank WILLIS. Mixed fabrics, paint, air dry clay, recycled hat, recycled yoga mat, wire, wool, beads, fishing line, shrink plastic.



Ayr State School

Students:

Leandra Anthony (Yr5) Shirley Bero-George (Yr5) Peggy Dempsey (Yr5) Daniella Gela (Yr5) Jaxsyn Pearce (Yr5) Xavier Crossley (Yr6)

Model:

Shai-Tay Tahana (Yr6)

Shai-Tay Tahana (Yr6)

Sage Williams (Yr6)

Staff:

Nicola Guilfoyle (HODC) Namoi Mills (IEW)

Community Support:

Cynthia Kylie Dempsey Karina Lima

Artist:

Bernadette Russell

Fiona Cochrane

Photographer:

Bluewater State School

Students:

Leiara Dawn Abrahams (Yr3) Emily Gilbert (Yr3) Amaya Mackinnon (Yr3) Brendon Mackinnon (Yr3)

William McDonald (Yr3)

Benjamin Palmer (Yr3)

Toni Fite (Yr4)

Benjamin Gilbert (Yr4)

Starlii Johnson (Yr4)

Mia Kim (Yr4)

Ava Leigh (Yr4)

Aria MacKinnon (Yr4)

Bronson Sarmardin (Yr4)

Brodie Clemments Ross (Yr6)

Nevaeh Dotoi (Yr6)

Ryan Grannigan (Yr6)

Model:

Nevaeh Dotoi (Yr6)

Staff:

Kate Donohue (Tch) Penelope Paterson (TA) Kym Swarbrick (TA)

Community Support:

David Schouten

Makeup:

Students and Staff

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane Sheridan Duff (Ass)

LEGEND:

CEC - Community **Education Counsellor** Ch - Chaplain

DP - Deputy Principal

DSM - Defence School Mentor GO - Guidance Officer

HoD - Head of Department IEW - Indigenous Education Worker

Bohlevale State School

Students:

Haidyn Avenell (Yr5)
Ella Hills (Yr5)
Aniah Palmer (Yr5)
Emmisyn Pascoe (Yr5)
Wilow Ryan (Yr5)
Madaline Sear (Yr5)
Kenzi Turner (Yr5)
Haylee Waigana (Yr5)
Harriet Nona (Yr6)
Marcia Phineasa (Yr6)
Indi Williams (Yr6)

Models:

Harriet Nona (Yr6) Marcia Phineasa (Yr6)

Staff:

Mel Cossor (Defence Mentor) Patricia Hochart (CEC) Tearra McArthur (Tch) Tammy Munn (TA)

Artists:

Paige Bauer Sharon Souey

Makeup:

Tearra McArthur

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane Sheridan Duff (Ass)

Bowen State High School

Students:

T'Rayah-Lee Simmons (Yr8)
Daisha Tambo (Yr8)
Sharlet Tambo (Yr8)
Aaliyah Terare (Yr8)
Tiarni Upkett (Yr8)
Kyah Upkett (Yr 8)
Amahli Cora (Yr9)
Jamee Jacobs (Yr 9)
Chelci Jensen Yr9)

Model:

Kala Auda (Yr11)

T'Rayah-Lee Simmons (Yr8)

Staff:

Tracey Edwards (TA)
Katrina Land (TA)
Greg Prior
Raylene Van Veen (CEC)

Artist:

Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Bernadette Russell

Photographer:

Tracey Edwards

SCPF - School Community Partnerships Officer

SW - Social Worker Tch - Teacher TA - Teacher Aide YSO - Youth Services Officer YW - Youth Worker

Charters Towers State High School

Students:

Maelee (Yr7)
Katerina Busch (Yr7)
Taylah Dallachy-Huen (Yr7)
Lezalia Eatts-Rankine (Yr7)
Lahtahlia Hill (Yr7)
Georgia Nichols (Yr7)
Mahina Asquith (Yr8)
Asija Owens-Edwards (Yr8)
Shayla Irwin (Yr9)
Kayden Robertson (Yr9)

Model:

Mahina Asquith (Yr8)

Staff:

Merrie Carter (Tch) Lesley Huen (CEC) Tiarna O'Brien (Tch)

Makeup:

Maelee (Yr7)

Photographer:

Merrie Carter

Currajong State School

Students:

Pyper-Lee Ballantyne (Yr5)
Myra Baragud Yr5)
Hayley Devine (Yr5)
Evie Hunt (Yr5)
Romello (Yr5)
Alba Fowler (Yr6)
Bonita Harry (Yr6)
Ariel Lewis (Yr6)
Melody Mooka-Neliman (Yr6)
Zoe-anne Oui (Yr6)
Caitlyn-Ann Soden (Yr6)
Kaylah Schmidt (Yr6)

Model:

Bonita Harry (Yr6)

Staff:

Angel Hooper (TA) Marianne Wainwright (TA) Kelley Hazell (Tch)

Makeup:

Bernadette Russell

Photographer:

Greg Hamblin

Doomadgee State School

Students:

Anna-Beth Ah-One (Yr5)
Rhylie Argent (Yr5)
Amaya Johnson (Yr5)
Trenice Johnny (Yr5)
Jenna Jupiter (Yr5)
Kage Logan (Yr6)
Hutley Ned (Yr6)
Krishana Ned (Yr5)
Alaura Walden (Yr5)
Nebraska Walden (Yr5)
Shakayda Mahoney (Yr6)

Model:

Jenna Johnny (Yr5)

Staff:

Laurel Douglas (Com Tch) Nicole Neil (Tch) Phoebe Smith (Tch)

Makeup:

Doomadgee Students

Photographer:

Phoebe Smith

East Ayr State School

Students:

Kallen Bar (Yr5) Oliver Cavanagh (Yr5) Olivia Ferguson (Yr5) Peyton Ferguson (Yr5) Apo Ghee (Yr5) Kaylee Heron (Yr5) Jayla Heron (Yr5) Bethana Rattler (Yr5) McKenna Jo Russo (Yr5) Olivia Shaw (Yr5) Dakota Sullivan (Yr5) Coen Trindle (Yr5) Crystal Euler (Yr6) Saige Lampton (Yr6) Hazeman Mundraby (Yr6) Ryder Nash (Yr6) Dakota Oliver (Yr6) Ty Pyott (Yr6)

Model:

Hazeman Mundraby (Yr6)

Kiamani Sutherland (Yr6)

Heatley Secondary College

Staff:

Kellie Lampton (TA) Naomi Lampton (TA) Emily Nash (Tch)

Community Support:

Gerald Henaway Ian Zaro

Artists:

Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Emily Nash

Photographer:

Kellie Lampton

Students:

Summa Clement-Oborne (Yr7)
Onice Lind (Yr7)
Shykeya Palmer (Yr)
Charlotte Pratt (Yr7)
Kahlia Robertson (Yr8)

Model:

Charlotte Pratt (Yr7)

Staff:

Jessica Grogan (Tch) Jasmine Lea (CEC)

Artists:

Minyaada Swan Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Minyaada Swan Kahlia Robertson (Yr8)

Photographer:

Glenn Shields

Heatley State School

Students:

Rochelle Benn-Yasserie (Yr5)
Cooper Destage (Yr5)
Jaely Kepa (Yr5)
Nilara-Lee Lind (Yr5)
Myah Masso (Yr5)
Adrian Bakonyi (Yr6)
Alaysia Bourne (Yr6)
Aylena Close (Yr6)
Jayden Favreau-Lee (Yr6)
Hasina Hero (Yr6)
Xavier Hero (Yr6)
Apati Horner (Yr6

Model:

Demro Tapim (Yr6)

Isabell Stemm (Yr6)

Demro Tapim (Yr6)

Charae Stretton (Yr6)

Staff:

Robyn Maher (TA) Michelle Rush (Tch) Demaga Warria (CEC)

Community Support:

Amelia Rush

Artists:

Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Michelle Rush

Photographer:

Greg Hamblin

Ingham State High School

Students:

Sofia Hooligan (Yr8) Krystal Taylor-Grassi (Yr9) Lily-Rose (Yr9) Bethany Dreyer (Yr10) Aaliyah Bulmer (Yr12)

Model:

Lily-Rose (Yr9)

Staff:

Claudia Gatti (Tch)
Jasmine Pearce (CEC)
Serina Pennay (Tch)

Artist:

Josephine Barrett

Makeup:

Claudia Gatti

Photographer:

Serina Pennay

Kirwan State High School

Students:

Asha King (Yr8) Caidence Collins (Yr11) Eden McKaskill (Yr11)

Model:

Asha King (Yr8)

Staff:

Laura Browne (HoD) Deb Harbour (TA)

Artist:

Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Laura Browne

Photographer:

Courtney Thompson

Mount Isa Central State School

Students:

Rubin Craigie (Yr5)
Fernando Perez (Yr5)
Larticka Rockland (Yr5)
Hunai Bradshaw-Daniel (Yr6)
Kaleigha Brennan (Yr6)
Kaydence Cameron (Yr6)
Crystarna Dempsey (Yr6)
Lezlee Devery (Yr6)
Marley Doyle (Yr6)
Matilda Morgan (Yr6)
Saige Norway-Hardy (Yr6)
Tashaya Radcliffe (Yr6)
Joshua (Yr6)

Model:

Matilda Morgan (Yr6)

Gabriel Te Pohe (Yr6)

Staff:

Dixie Sarmardin (CEC)

Artist:

Bernadette Russell

Community Support:

Martina Ah Sam

Makeup:

Martina Ah Sam

Photographer:

Joanna Giemza-Meehan

Mundingburra State School

Students:

Chantyliah Castors-Barry (Yr5)

Jaalah Grauner (Yr5)

Sahara Hayward (Yr5)

Christine Mosby (Yr5)

Deja Siulai (Yr5)

Maliq Tapim (Yr5)

Daniel Waterton (Yr5)

Shannah Williams (Yr5)

Zaniah Wosomo (Yr5)

Zanius Wosomo (Yr5)

Grayson Baker (Yr6)

Royaul Chatfield (Yr6)

Amelia Henry (Yr6)

Saphia Holden (Yr6)

Eden Lui (Yr6)

Samuel Mairu (Yr6)

Eric Mabo (Yr6)

Zskaylah Wosomo (Yr6)

Model:

Samuel Mairu (Yr6)

Staff:

Tia Baker (TA)
Heidi Cupit (Tch)
Carla Thiele (Tch)
Aimee Wockner (Tch)

Community Support:

Geoff Lui Serdonia Lui

Photographer:

Aimee Wockner

Northern Beaches State High School

Students:

Melodi Kyle (Yr7)

Keira (Yr7)

Kallyn-Jack Murphy (Yr7)

Matilda Arabena (Yr10)

Caydyn Brown (Yr10)

Caidance Cooper (Yr11)

Jesse Frost (Yr11)

Larita Auda (Yr12)

Marcus Nagas (Yr12)

Roselie Penningson (Yr12)

Alierah Rosser (Yr12)

Model:

Marcus Nagas (Yr12)

Staff:

Erin Brown (HOD) Elijah Heron-Jia (CEC) Lynda Onton-O'Shea (Tch)

Artist:

Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Lyn Onton-O'Shea Students

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane

Rollingstone State School

Students:

Lataya Hutchison (Yr5) Sylvie-Layne Berra (Yr6) Brax Bisson (Yr6) Emily Clarkeson (Yr6) Coby Hardy (Yr6)

Model:

Naeveh Dotoi (Yr6 - Bluewater State School)

Staff:

Merissa Tilberoo (Tch)

Community Support:

David Schouten

Makeup:

Students and Staff

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane Sheridan Duff (Ass)

Spinifex State College

Students:

Zahara Craigie (Yr7) Zenneisha Dempsey (Yr7) Rikki-Lee Body (Yr8) Lily Cooney (Yr8) Rhukalia Dean (Yr8) Khazia Fewquandie (Yr8) Amanda Jones (Yr8) Thyleeyah Ryan (Yr8)

Lexi Sullivan (Yr8)

Skye Casey (Yr9)

Savannah Marshall (Yr9)

Keely Wilson (Yr9) Jaydee Doyle (Yr10)

Tremaine Richards (Yr10) Izrael Bruce-Craigie (Yr11)

Labrahn Page (Yr12)

Model:

Lexi Sullivan (Yr8)

Staff:

Lynette Bambrick (CEC) Dale Bruce (TA) Jaunita Doyle (TA) Esmerelda Rankine (CEC)

Makeup:

Dale Bruce

Photographer:

Glenda McCullock

Thuringowa State High School

Students:

Verona Fullerton (Yr8) Malayla Stone (Yr9) Charlianne Booth (Yr10) Latori Stone (Yr10)

Model:

Malayla Stone (Yr9)

Staff:

Trudi Schulz (Tch)

Artists:

Kerry Lui Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Summer Fisher (Yr12)

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane

Townsville Community Learning Centre

Students:

Chloe Cochrane (Yr5) Mathieson Cupitt (Yr7)

Sinai Curley (Yr7)

Thor Larsen (Yr7)

Jacob Smith (Yr7)

Lachlan Smith (Yr7) Matthias Backo-Lui (Yr8)

Mia Cuthbert (Yr8)

Ezekial Desatge (Yr8)

Makai Marnell (Yr8)

Keonjay Moll (Yr8)

Adam Ponti (Yr8)

Jade Pratt (Yr8)

Glenn Prior (Yr8)

Lincoln Toohey (Yr8)

Jack Leondas (Yr9)

Alex Osiecki (Yr9)

Ashlyn Wyllie (Yr9)

Ajah Coghill (Yr10)

Emilie-Jada Ireland (Yr10)

Molly Peach (Yr10)

Cooper Power (Yr10)

Daniela Villaruel (Yr10)

Blaze Larsen (Yr11)

Students (cont.):

Ava Lyon (Yr 11)

Joshua Batten (Yr11)

Lincoln Black (Yr11)

Kodie Buckingham (Yr11)

Kyle Dillon (Yr11)

Taylor Gravener (Yr11)

Nathaniel Noye (Yr11)

Molly Anderson (Yr12)

Shae McCormick (Yr12)

Model:

Molly Anderson (Yr12)

Staff:

Charlie Chamberlin

Eilan Haddad (Tch)

Cassie Harris (CEC)

Paul Horrell (Tch)

Jessica Lee

Leah Nicholls (Social Worker)

Tracy Pearce (Tch)

Benjamin Samperi (TA)

Stacey Vawser (Tch)

Mikayla Zahirovic

Artist:

Bernadette Russell

Makeup:

Cassie Harris

Bernadette Russell

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane Sheridan Duff (Ass)

Townview State School

Students:

Danniel (Yr5) Laguade Ah One (Yr5) Gabrielle DeCourcey (Yr5) Lacey Donovan (Yr5) Akeah Ernest (Yr5) Alayah Ernest (Yr5) Olivia Kent (Yr5) Aaliarna King (Yr5) Daphne Rosso Ambia (Yr5) La'Tonya Samardin (Yr5) Shyleer Armstrong (Yr6) Lydia Corporal (Yr6)

Kamayah Craigie (Yr6)

Felista David (Yr6)

James Laya (Yr6)

Sam Maata (Yr6)

Teiayla Mullins (Yr6)

Khzius-Lee Patuwai (Yr6)

Frank Pitt (Yr6)

Lisia Tangi (Yr6)

Model:

Lydia Corporal (Yr6)

Staff:

Catherine Babarovich (TCH) Michaela Clauson (SCPF) Wilda Rosso Ambia (TA)

Community Support:

Renae Carson

Makeup:

Michaela Clauson

Photographer:

Joanna Geimza-Meehan

William Ross State High School

Students:

K'la Farkas (Yr7) Cara Hurst (Yr7) Valea Midolo (Yr7) Kyrie Quakawoot (Yr7) Tiarna Brooks (Yr8) Amy Gomez (Yr8) Emma Santo Lynam (Yr9) Sanoe Mabo (Yr 9) Zoe O'Cloudy (Yr9) Taleisha Parker-Smith (Yr9) Monty O'Cloudy (Yr11) Livah Clumpoint (Yr12)

Model:

Liyah Clumpoint (Yr12)

Savannah Midolo (Yr12)

Mihra Mcardle Janse (Yr12)

Staff:

Tanya Coventry (Tch) Majerle Power (CEC)

Community Support:

Shelise Scaife

Makeup:

Savannah Midolo (Yr12) Monty O'Cloudy (Yr11)

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane

Wulguru State School

Students:

Paul Anderson (Yr5)
Eden Hurst (Yr5)
Jonty Singleton-Hamilton (Yr5)
Emma (Yr5)
Tyren Warcon (Yr5)
Mahayla Brooks (Yr6)
Samantha Jasprizza (Yr6)
Kya Oliver (Yr6)
Mathias Priestley (Yr6)
Victoria Schwartz (Yr6)
Amity Shemlowski (Yr6)
Thaybian Jack Tisdell (Yr6)

Model:

Frank Willis (Yr6)

Jonty Singleton-Hamilton (Yr5)

Staff:

Shanade Singleton-Hamilton (TA) Richard Fischer (YW) Tammie Jones (Tch)

Community Support:

Vicki Jessica Singleton

Artist:

Bernadette Russell Minyaada Swan

Makeup:

Bernadette Russell Students

Photographer:

Fiona Cochrane

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists

Josephine Barrett

Multidisciplinary Practice

Aunty Josie is a Warrgamyan, Nywaigi and Bandjin Elder of the Ingham district. She weaves, paints and occasionally works with ceramics alongside her fellow Girrigun artists.

Aunty Josie loves to share her knowledge of Country through storytelling. Being part of *People, Culture & Country* is very rewarding for her, as it gives her the chance to meet Ingham State High School students and art teachers. With her support, they were able to prepare a wonderful design to go with her stories about Country.

It is because of the students' imagination and skills that Aunty Josie's stories come alive on the model. She expresses her deepest love to them and hopes they will always hold on to their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity in the future. She loved the way they worked together to create something so unique and spectacular.

Paige Bauer

Sculpture / Textiles

Paige Bauer is a proud young Aboriginal artist who has lived on Thul Garrie Waja and Gurrumbilbarra country since her birth.

Paige deeply values her traditional skills and continues to develop them alongside her art practices in sculptural and textile works.

All throughout her life, her art acts as a means of connecting herself to country and culture.

Through the *People Culture & Country* Art project Paige hopes to help students find connection, community & healing through engagement in both art and culture.

Kerry Lui

Weaving / Textiles

Kerry Lui is a Torres Strait Islander artist whose practice spans weaving, wearable art, and cultural storytelling. Born and raised in North Queensland, Kerry draws deeply on her Torres Strait heritage, embedding traditional knowledge, family stories, and community values into her creative work. Her artistry is grounded in ancestral practices of weaving and textile design, yet she brings a contemporary lens that reimagines these traditions for modern audiences.

Kerry's background extends beyond her creative practice; she is also a strong advocate for community development and women's empowerment. Her work often bridges art with education and wellbeing, creating safe spaces where women and communities can share, learn, and strengthen cultural identity.

Kerry continues to champion creativity as a vital tool for preserving heritage and inspiring future generations.

Bernadette Russell

Multidisciplinary Practice

Bernadette Russell (nee Henaway), was born in Bowen, Queensland and is part of the Juru clan from the Birri Gubba Nation on her father's side.

As a child growing up in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, she had the privilege of watching Elders demonstrate how to create art using natural resources.

At the age of 14, Bernadette worked as a junior florist for Scotts Florist in Innisfail where she learnt how to arrange flowers, and assisted her employer who was a florist, seamstress and milliner. As an adult, Bernadette finally returned back to her love of Art when she attended a local oil painting class in Spain.

Bernadette shares her knowledge and passion for art with students, and incorporates floristry techniques in her workshops to help the students create their artworks.

Sharon Souey

Multidisciplinary Practice

As an Aboriginal artist from Far North Queensland, Sharon's art is deeply rooted in culture, community and storytelling.

Working with acrylic on canvas, her works are inspired and influenced by memories and experiences of growing up in the Laura and Cooktown area.

Sharon obtained her Diploma in Visual Art from Barrier Reef TAFE, participating in group and solo exhibitions at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery and the Eddie Koiki Mabo Library.

Sharon enjoys working with both students and adults in community spaces, especially during NAIDOC Week and cultural programs. Her goal is to pass on her knowledge, inspire pride in identity, and create spaces where people feel empowered through culture and creativity.

In her first year with the PCC project, Sharon is finding it to be a great experience and hopes to continue sharing her knowledge with students.

Minyaada Swan

Multidisciplinary Practice

Minyaada is a proud Kamilaroi, Gugu-Badhun, and Mitakoodi woman. Minyaada's art work is a unique perspective and voice on her personal expression and experiences on how she navigates this world.

Minyaada completed a Diploma in Visual Art at Tafe Queensland in 2024. She has exhibited in Canberra and Townsville including commissions. The media she works with included printmaking, digital, sculpture.

This is Minyaada's first year with PCC and this has enabled her to share her knowledge and experience of Art practices with students in creating dynamic wearable artwork.

