

Charters Towers State High School

Rainbow Royalty

'Rainbow Royalty' is inspired by the story of the rainbow serpent in dreamtime stories.

Our students brainstormed, researched, and discovered that the rainbow serpent embodies the cycle of the seasons and the creator of life. The power the rainbow serpent holds, replicates a royal leader looking over all life it has created across the nation and constantly travelling from one water hole to another.

The cape showcases the serpent travelling upwards and following behind are the riverways, mountain ranges, animal footprints- including the Emu totem of the Gudjala people of Charters Towers- meeting places, yarning circles, rain clouds and later on human tracks as it has travelled over centuries. A range of recycled materials, sequins, beads, flowers, buttons, jewels, glitter, fabrics, ribbons, and lace were used across the cape to add different textures to the 2D painting of the serpent, making the piece as

bright and colourful as possible. The serpent is shown to travel over our model's arm that rests upon the ruling sabre where the colours and creations of the rainbow serpent leader continues to fall and create new life and landforms as time goes on.

The headpiece includes several coloured water lilies that float along the water holes, rivers, billabongs, creeks, and lagoons where the rainbow serpent rests and travels, continuing its legacy as the protector of peace.

In collaboration with Aunty Tania Ault, alumni of the school and Gudjala contemporary artist, we were inspired by her range of artwork that utilises bright colours that create vibrance, positivity and diversity across the artwork. The bright colours in our artwork represent the vivacious personalities and characteristics of all students who painted, sewed, stencilled, glued, and contributed their own style to this contemporary piece for 2023.

Rainbow Royalty 2023

Te'Quan JACKS, Myhtia KENNEDY, Jade MENDEZONA, Louisa MILES, Shnola MILLER (model), Chenece NELSON, Samara PEHI, Tia THOMAS.

Sequins, buttons, jewels, flowers, linen, air dry clay, wooden stick, yarn, rope, ribbon, glitter, body paint, velvet.

