

Kirwan State High School

Our Story

Our Story represents the connection First Nations people have to culture and country. Each student's totem animal has been incorporated into the design to represent connection to culture and to bring awareness of the significance that totem animals have to First Nations peoples.

All totems have been represented in a cohesive land and sea design. The sea represents the connection the Torres Strait Islander peoples have with the ocean and the land represents the connection Aboriginal peoples' have with place and country.

Our artwork has four main sections. The headdress, shirt, cape, and skirt. The headdress represents the reef/ocean and has a large Sea Hawk at the top with other marine totems. The headdress and Sea Hawk were made using ghost netting, wire, shells, and other marine based items.

From the headdress, the ocean flows down onto the shirt with a ghost netting sash made in marine colours.

The sash was created by untwining ghost netting and gathering them into small bundles which were sewn together. The shirt then transforms into land at the bottom half through the representation of bird totems in an array of feathers. From the shirt, land continues onto the skirt through the depiction of cultural dot paintings of totem land animals and other First Nations symbols depicting land journeys and gatherings.

The cape represents many of our sea totem animals with a Hammer Head shark, turtle, and stingray. This sea design transforms into the land at the bottom of the cape where a sandy beach represented using sand and First Nations symbols.

Our Story 2023

Shemyliah AHMAT PEARSON, Eammonn DEAN, Teniqua DEMPSEY, Amelia EVANS, Nyquiesha HARRIS, Peter HARRISON, Jasmine HOLDEN, Keara HOOKEY, Tanika KIRK, Shyakelle LAMMON, Mya LEONG, Zhanaiah LEVI, Lyzarah MAIRU, Jahntae MARA, Atima MORGAN, Cooper PEARSON, Cleo POWER, Colby SHERWOOD, Tarna STEWART, Elijah TAPAU-TAYLOR (model), Brianna WALTON-ATFIELD, Charlee WHARTON.
Wire, fabric, acrylic paint, sand, feathers, ghost netting, wool, beads, shells.

