

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.



