

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, Danniell, 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.



