

# 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 finger-knitting 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.



