

Currajong State School

Traditional Knowledge Holder

For over 60,000 years Australia's First Nations people have cared for Country using a traditional practice of land management called 'Cool Burning'. This practice of looking after Country (using traditional and cultural knowledge systems) is now becoming a well-recognised, sustainable, and very sophisticated science within modern day Australia.

'Cool Burning' is very important because it prevents unwanted plants from taking over the land, promotes the new growth and rejuvenation of plants we do want, and encourages biodiversity. This type of controlled burning has a lower heat intensity than hazard reduction burning or wildfires, hence giving our wildlife a chance to climb high in the trees, bounce, slither, crawl or fly away to safety.

Our Wearable Art piece has been created to represent traditional 'Cool Burning' returning to Country as a sustainable land practice. The skirt represents the undergrowth that is burnt by a low and slow controlled fire which leaves a black ash on the forest floor giving nutrients to the new plants. Our model wears a top, hand dyed in olive green, this and our head piece represent the canopy of the trees (a safe place for the animals to retreat to) that are unaffected by this type of burning. Our model also adorns a stick to symbolise 'fire stick farming' which is a synonym for 'cool burning'.

Traditional Knowledge Holder 2023

Isabella BIN DORAHOWEDRAT, Matilda BOTTING, Linkin CAMPBELL, Sarai CLUMPOINT (model), Cassandra DEL ROSARIO, Jovi EATON, K'la FARKAS, Patricia GILLET, Alkira HAYNES, Leearna HAYNES, Azzara-Rose HUNT, Violet KENAI, Bonnie MULHALL, Chantel MURU, Ida MUSU, Heather PAIWAN, Meah-Rose SCHMIDT, Taylah SCULLY, Elayna WHITE.
Calico, dye, floristry wire, tape, flowers, paint, beads, dye, natural materials, raffia, rope, paper.

