

Heatley Secondary College

New Skin

New Skin draws inspiration from First Nations life in the Missions and loss of identity. Combining both Aboriginal students and Torres Strait Islander students we reflect on traditional lands and the journey we have taken to recognise our culture and identity.

New Skin represents the juggle of living in two worlds. The totems represent our spiritual connection between our ancestors, who we look to for guidance. We carry the knowledge from our past and Elders as we forge our own paths into the future. As we walk through the land, we take with us teachings and knowledge to create a better tomorrow.

The suit represents the colonial world. The delicate landscape, embroidered on the suit jacket illustrates the traditional land and Totems that represent our culture.

The reflection in the mirror reminds us of who we are. The suit pants and clay on the feet represent the long journey travelled. Whilst we have come so far, there are still mountains to climb with the final piece the lap-lap, making reference to our traditional life of hunting and ceremony.

New Skin means stepping into our new selves from who our people were from the past on the missions and creating a new skin that our ancestors can live through and pass on the traditions and cultures to us. Showing our strong culture and resistance from assimilation and erasure.

New Skin 2023

Kenneth BROWN, Jennifer-Joyce DONALDSON-STEVENSON, Serita DONALDSON-STEVENSON, TK KENNEDY, Zina JAMES, Quenno LIMERICK, Ashton SMALLWOOD (model), Bessie SULLIVAN, Sophie WHEELER.
Fabric, CD, plaster medium, acrylic paint.

