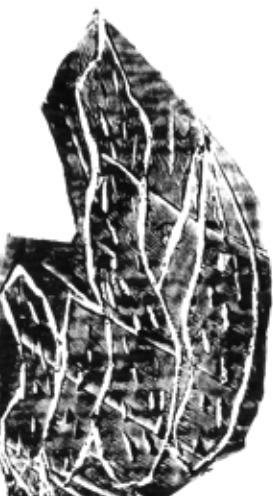
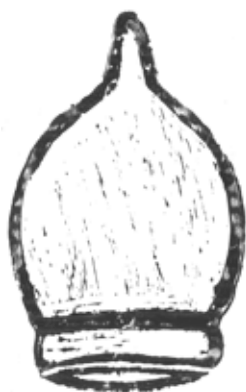
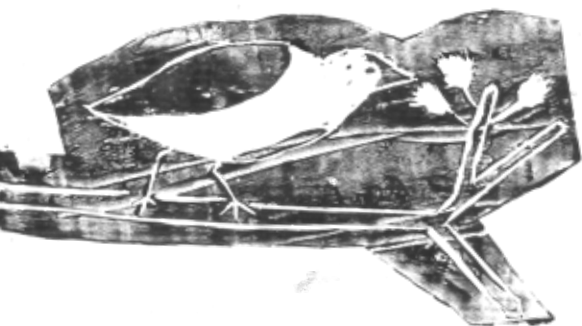




Ngalang Koolangka
Dyarlgarro-ngat Wangkiny







ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAN, City of Melville and Moodjar acknowledge the Noongar people of the Bibbulmun nation as the traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the First People of this nation.

We are proud to work with people from all cultures, but we do so on the understanding of First Peoples, first.

**Kalyakoorl Kwadja Be, Kalyakoorl Boorda Be
Always Was, Always Will Be**

WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this publication may contain images and names of people who are deceased.

SPELLING

We acknowledge that the spelling and interpretation of Indigenous language can vary greatly from community to community. We honour differences in individuals' preferred spellings of the word *Noongar* and consequently its spelling may vary within this program.

Ngalang Koolangka Dyarlgarro-ngat Wangkiny

OUR KIDS NEAR DYARLGARRO TALKING



PLACE
NAMES
MELVILLE

+



BRENTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ngalang Koolangka Dyarlgarro-ngat Wangkiny took place as part of Place Names Melville, a two-year Noongar-led project decoding the meanings of ancient Noongar placenames found in the Melville area.

Over a ten-week period, students from Brentwood Primary School were guided by Traditional Owner and knowledge holder Aunty Geri Hayden and Noongar artist Zali Morgan to create eco-dyed textiles combined with lino prints.

Centred on the placename *Dyarlgarro*, meaning *Many Jarrahs*, this project saw the students immerse themselves in Blue Gum Reserve, gathering plants for eco-dyeing and sketching the natural surroundings.

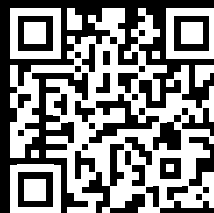
These sketches were then transformed into intricate linocut designs and printed onto silk, which the students eco-dyed using the plants they had collected. The residency culminated in a collaborative artwork which brought together all the students' prints. This artwork was exhibited at *Doontaboro Kura*, an immersive exhibition held at Yagan Mia – Wireless Hill Museum, which showcased the outcomes of the Place Names Melville project.

This cross-cultural project wove together art, Noongar knowledge, and a deep connection to Country, offering the students a rich, hands-on exploration of culture and nature. The project's name *Ngalang Koolangka Dyarlgarro-ngat Wangkiny (Our Kids Near Dyarlgarro Talking)* was formulated by Zali and Auntie Geri and perfectly summarises the ten week engagement with the students.

During this collaborative art-making process, students from all backgrounds learned about First Nations Culture while also sharing their own stories. The focus was on creating a safe and inclusive space that encouraged students to learn new art techniques and skills, work collaboratively, and ultimately produce unique and exciting pieces of art that celebrate the placenames of the Noongar people.

To learn more about Noongar placenames in the Melville area via an interactive map, please scan the QR code.

placenamesmelville.com.au









Geri Hayden

As Chairperson of CAN's Aboriginal Advisory Group and Cultural Advisor to CAN's project management teams, I use CAN projects as a **wandjaneen** (healing) for schools and communities. If every child has a **moorditj koort** (strong heart), then each child will have a **moorditj kaartadjin** (strong mind), to focus on having a **moorditj wirrin** (strong spirit). Every child of every nationality needs to know that this Country has a culture that is alive and going strong. The projects that are delivered by CAN staff help to share this awareness of that living culture.

CAN's projects are about healing oneself, strengthening one's mind, strengthening one's heart and strengthening one's body and soul through the arts, language, music, dance, songs and storytelling. This reflects the cultural values in our lore, which I'm happy to share with everyone.





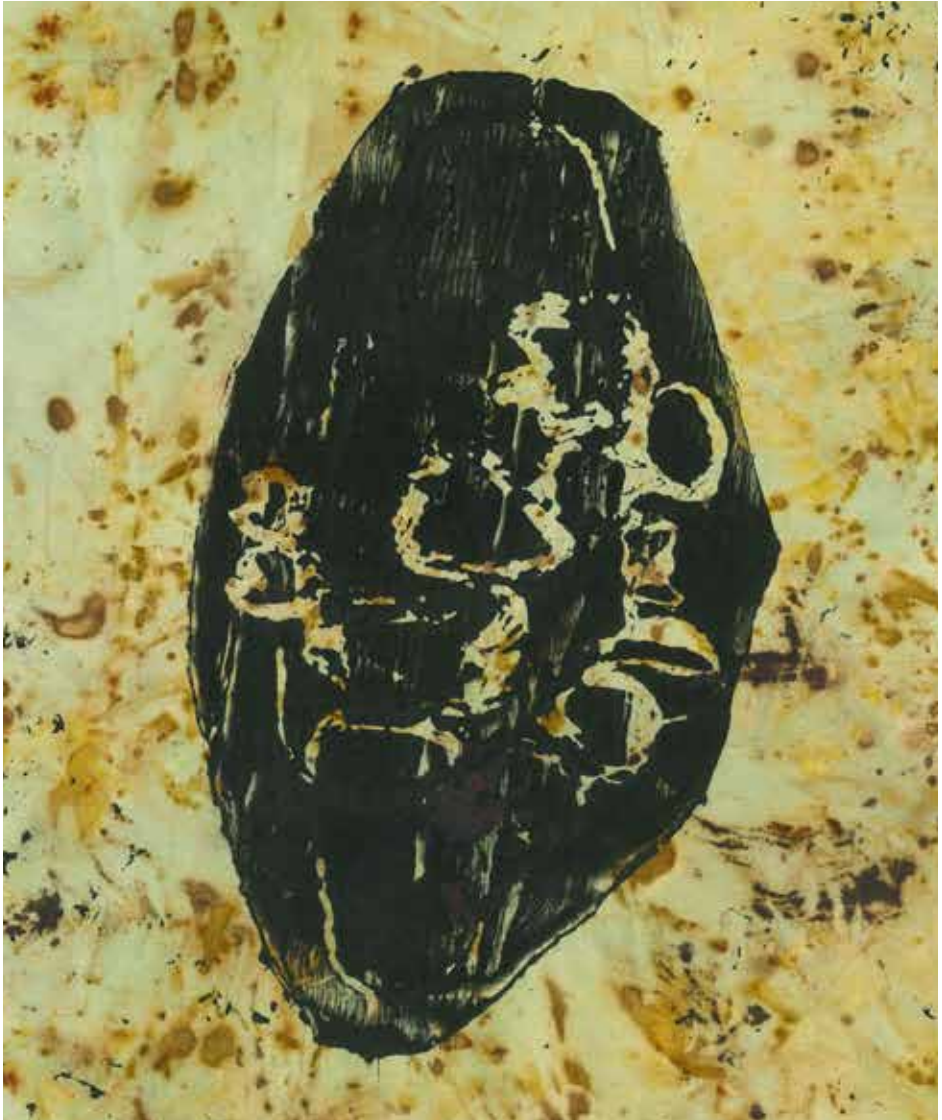
Zali Morgan

Over ten weeks, Noongar Traditional Owner Auntie Geri Hayden and I had the privilege of working with students from Brentwood Primary as part of a residency that intertwined art, Noongar language and cultural knowledge. Auntie Geri and I guided the students in creating eco-dyed textiles layered with lino prints. Centred around the placename *Dyarlgarro*, meaning *Many Jarrahs*, the project invited the children to connect deeply with Blue Gum Reserve, a site near their school. They collected plants for eco-dyeing, sketched what they observed, and later transformed their drawings into linocut designs that were then printed onto silk.

This project was about more than art – it was about grounding Noongar kaartadjin (knowledge) in places that the children could explore and understand. Auntie Geri shared the cultural and ecological significance of local plants, teaching the students how to extract their colours for dyeing. This hands-on learning allowed the children to engage with Noongar culture in a tangible, meaningful way, fostering a sense of respect and curiosity.

For me, this residency was a small but significant step toward reclaiming and sharing Noongar language and culture with young people of all backgrounds. Projects like this are vital for building understanding and connection. By embedding Noongar knowledge in physical places and creative processes, we honour the enduring relationship between language, land and people. Through this collaboration the students not only created beautiful artwork but also took part in an essential dialogue about culture, Country and community.





Aiden Chaingam

I think that Blue Gum is important because it holds important natural wildlife that is exclusive to only Australia.



Aiesha Eades

Blue Gum is important to me because it is calming with all the plants and animals. I picked my flower because it was pretty and interesting.



Alex Jong

Blue Gum Lake is important to the environment because it is a habitat for native species and plants. I chose these mushrooms because they looked interesting and fun to do.



Amber Machein-Schumann

Blue Gum is special to me because it is such a calming place and I often go for walks through the area to look at the animals and plants. My art was a gumnut and it reminded me about the series of gumnut babies like Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie. I usually play with them and decorate them at home too.



Amelie O'Brien

We need to preserve Blue Gum Lake because it is a home for our native birds, animals and plants/trees. Blue Gum Lake provides fresh air and shelter for our local wildlife. Native plants and animals have evolved for thousands of years supporting one another to survive.



Arion Neo

I think we should preserve Blue Gum Lake because it is home to many animals. I chose this design because it's a sapling and you should plant more of them for a better Earth.



Christelle Corbett

Blue Gum is important to me because I grew up around it and is a home for many native species. My art piece reflects the lines and shapes found in nature and I chose my leaf because it's a beautiful piece from Blue Gum.



Cooper Collie

Blue Gum Lake - I like this lake because it is home to a lot of animals and different types of species and native plants.



Elyse Farrell

Blue Gum Lake is important because it is animals' homes. It also is part of a very important ecosystem to help keep all animals alive and wildlife in Blue Gum Lake alive.



Ethan Canty

We should reserve Blue Gum because it would kill the native animals and native trees.



Ethan Collie

Blue Gum is good to the native animals and the ecosystem.



Irene Choi

Blue Gum is special because of all the plants and animals that are native to the area. I chose this leaf because of the pattern in the leaf and because of the banksia nuts.



Jaiden Annakin

It is important to me because we need fresh air and I want to keep all the native animals safe. I think we should preserve Blue Gum because we need to keep the animal cycle and we need lots of fresh air!



Joseph Adewuyi

Blue Gum Lake is important because of the native animals there and the native plants including banksias and turtles. We should keep Blue Gum because if we don't the species go extinct.



Luka Pratt

Blue Gum is important because life can't flourish without it. If we just got rid of the lake the ecosystem would slowly die, so we need to preserve Blue Gum and take care of it together.



Marcus Tan

We should keep Blue Gum Lake because it affects the ecosystem and affects many insects, animals' habitats and the plants that live there.



Nicole Yap

Blue Gum is important because it's a native place to Brentwood and there are animals and plants there that we need to protect and look after. I chose a bird because it's my favourite animal at the lake and to make sure everyone knows it is important to look after the animals.



Olive Derada

Blue Gum Lake should be preserved because it is the largest attraction for wildlife and if it goes, the native animals will go too.



Olivia Yu

Blue Gum is important because native animals and plants take this location as their home and grow up in their habitat. In order for them to survive, this natural place has plants and grass to eat.



Raiden Chan

We need to preserve Blue Gum Lake because of the native animals and plants that live there has adapted to its environment and has no other place to inhabit. Why I chose this animals is because ibis are native to Australia that live in particular places like Blue Gum and has a unique beak.



Robin Paul

Blue Gum is a favourite place of mine in the local area because of all the native plants and animals. My plant represents this and I chose it cause of the cool bristle pattern of the leaf. It was also my favourite leaf from Blue Gum.



Ruby Canty

Blue Gum is special for native species and for the ecosystem to do its thing. I respect nature and I don't want any extinctions of plants and animals.



Ryan Dong

It was great to walk through the bush and see all the plants up close because I am new to Australia. I chose the leaf because it reminded me of games I play and I liked the look of it. I really liked walking through the bush and seeing the plants and animals.



Samuel Ebrahim Pour

We should preserve Blue Gum Lake because our ecosystem will be ruined and extinct. If we don't take good care of our reserve it will be gone forever and we won't see native animals again.



Tarush Jayasekera

Blue Gum is a natural wetland that holds life and needs to be protected. When I noticed the leaf in the bush I really liked the lines and texture so I chose it to reflect how Blue Gum is special to our neighbourhood. Walking around Blue Gum was a highlight for me.



Teresa Zhou

Blue Gum Lake, one of the most fantastic places with a variety of plants and animals, is important because it needs to be preserved of all the nature inside. It has animals like the willie wagtail and the chita chita. If we destroy this place, our ecosystem will get ruined.



Tessa Pellat

It is important that we look after Blue Gum Lake because it is full of nature. Plants are classified native because they originate here, if we were to clear land that is home to native wildlife, that wildlife decreases. We need Blue Gum.



Vienna Cheung

Blue Gum is an important place because it has many native plants and animals living there and if Blue Gum was never here then many of native things would not be here to continue growing and keep the ecosystem going.



Violet Newman

Blue Gum Lake needs to be preserved because there is a lot of native animals and plants. There is a variety of animals such as chitti chittis known as willie wagtail. If we destroy Blue Gum Lake, it will ruin our ecosystem.



Will Ke

Blue Gum is a local favourite of mine because of all the native flowers and animals. The lake is a special place for the animals to gather. I loved cutting out the lino and chose the gumnut because I found one on the ground and held it in my hands.



William O'Loughlin

We should preserve Blue Gum because of the animals who live there. If we knocked it down we would be killing them.













THANK YOU

The Place Names Melville project team would like to thank Brentwood Primary School for opening their doors to us and allowing us to engage with your Year 5 and 6 classes and share Noongar culture, history and stories that are relevant to them and the places they live.

The students were such a joy to work with. They produced incredible art that enlivened the *Doontanboro Kura* exhibition, and brought invigorating elements of intergenerational and intercultural exchange to the show.

We believe that this residency will have a profound and lasting impact on the preservation and celebration of Noongar culture and will serve to increase awareness and understanding across cultures.

We hope that this experience is a source of pride and accomplishment for all participants and creates lasting memories of a unique and rewarding journey of collaborative art-making.







