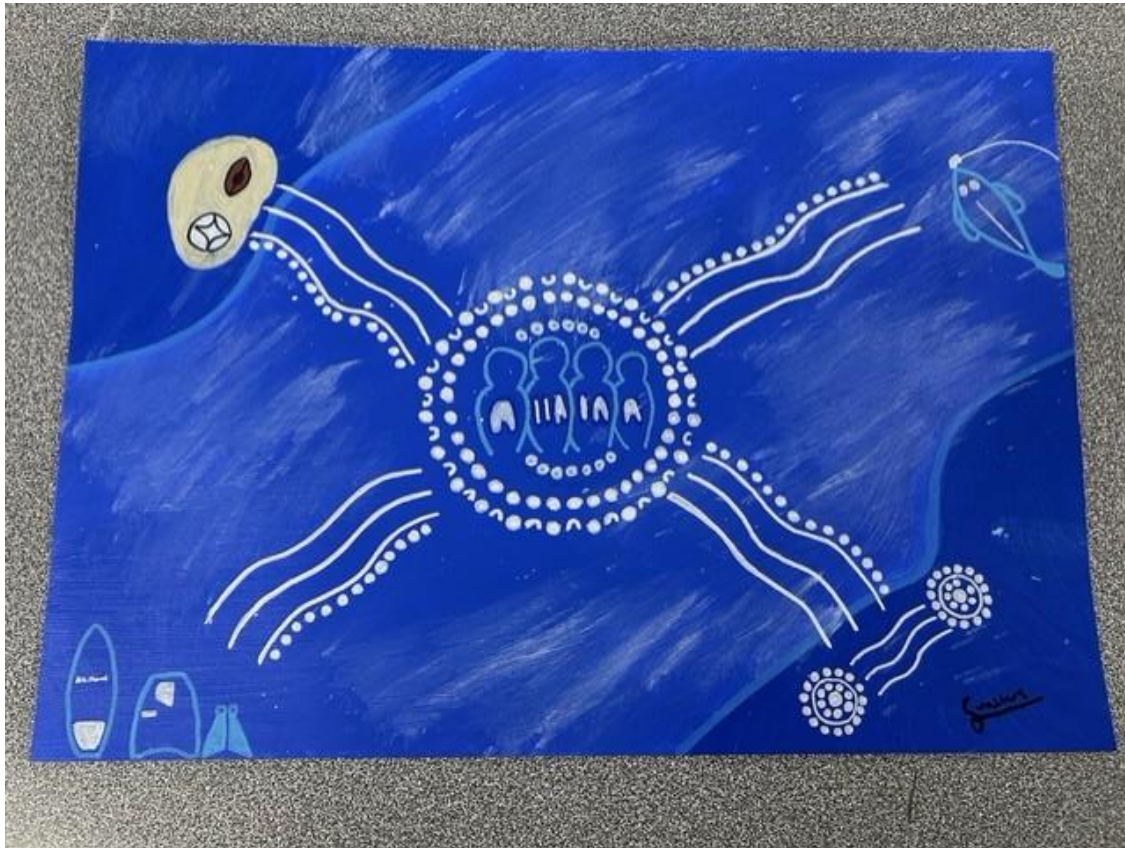


AT2 – Visual Arts

Sketch Walters – How my Family is connected to the Ocean and how it brings us together



What is your Artwork about?

My artwork displays how my family and I are connected to the waterways especially the ocean. As a family we share much of our time in the ocean and this one way that brings us together. We know that belonging and connection to water can be important for health especially wellbeing. Salt water in particular brings my family together and is where many good memories of my family, extended family and mates often are. This is commonly through surfing, swimming, fishing, and kicking the football or footy at the beach. This artwork also shows my heritage and people/mob, Darkinjung and Kuring-Gai, the who are water people along line the coast line of the Central Coast and Hawksbury.

What art form and materials did you use, and why?

The art form I used to create this artwork was Papunya. This form of art consists of dots which have different symbols containing different meanings. I used this as reflects some of my Aboriginal background and symbols common to my family and the land on which I live. The ink I used were Posca markers (paint pens), different paints ("born." and "Jasart"), as well pencils which were used to outline and create the shapes needed. The colours I used were different shades of blue (representing the ocean and changing tides), little bit of beige and brown (land and home), as well as black. I started off with a darker blue for the corners (posca pens). Then I used 2 paints to create a light-dark blue (paint). After this, I went back to using posca which was

a light blue. When I was drawing all of my symbols and details, the colours I used was mainly light blue, mostly white, and a little bit of beige, brown and black.

What symbols, colours, shapes, or patterns did you use and what do they represent?

Throughout my painting I had many symbols, colours and shapes. When I started painting my artwork, the colours I used consists of dark blues, lightish-darkish blues, light blues, white, and a bit of beige, brown and black. These colours symbolised the ocean (changing colours to represent changing tides), sands, footballs and footies (represent connection to the land and the sports that tie us together) and other symbols linked to shapes and patterns of common Indigenous art. Some of these symbols were people (my family), these were shown as U's, some with a line or two (1 line – woman, 2 line – man, no line – Boy or Girl). Another symbol was a fish with a line attached to it. This symbolises fishing with my family and the many animals of the oceans that connect to fish and life. The waterways and blue ocean represented swimming, surfing, traveling and grounding with my family. Next, was a surfboard and a body board with flippers showing another activity I like to do with my family especially my dad and brother. Lastly was a splodge of beige, a football (soccer), and a footy symbolising kicking the ball with my family in the sand. Both these sports tie us together and connect to the importance of team, others and community Around the whole artwork there is multiple white lines and dots showcasing the connection between my family and what is important to me and them.

How did Aboriginal art and artists inspire your thinking?

I was inspired by how the Aboriginal art and artists use their colours and symbols to create a story representing something personal about themselves or others. There was no direct Indigenous artwork that I copied, there was some symbols that I did use, this was from the website "Red Kangaroo". This consisted of the people symbols, waterway symbol, the gathering place symbol, and a type of fish symbol. An artist that I got some inspiration from for the background of my work was Grant and Russel Moloney and Jason Goulding. I used the way they portrayed the colours of the water with the lighter and darker blues. I like how Aboriginal art can have lots of meaning through symbols and other things, I tried doing this by making sure the symbols I used related to I and my family and how it brings us together.