

# Daniel Church

Proud Darug Man of the  
Hawkesbury River Clan

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## This is My Story

*Artworks & Poetic Text* Daniel Church

*Photostory* Laura Brearley

*Images* Terry Melvin  
Werner Theinert  
Ursula Theinert  
Laura Brearley



# Acknowledgment of Country



We honour the  
Boonwurrung/Bunurong  
of the Kulin Nation who have  
cared for this Country for  
thousands of years.

We recognise First Peoples'  
continuing connection to  
lands, waters, and  
community.

We pay our respects to the  
Ancestors and Elders who  
carry the memories,  
traditions, cultures, and  
aspirations of First Peoples,  
and who forge the path  
ahead for emerging leaders.



## Contemporary Aboriginal Art

**Daniel Church John**

**Darug Yellow Mundie** (storyteller)

**This Is My Story**

Exhibition 24 January – 5 March

Official Opening Saturday 28 Jan 1-3pm

All Welcome

Visions of beauty, song lines and storytelling from Daniel's ancestral family connection to the ocean and country. These creative expressions and stories are revealed in highly skilled paintings and wood carvings. Daniel shares his art as a necessary form of cultural continuation for First Nations People.

With artworks exhibited in the National Gallery of Victoria, this is an opportunity to purchase original and unique paintings and wood carvings by Daniel Church.





## Special Thanks

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

ArtSpace Volunteers

Kent Morris

Susannah Day

Bianca Baldwin

Tarsha Davis

The Torch

<https://thetorch.org.au/>

Uncle John Crocker

Morwell Art and Framing

Karin Ellis (Catering)

'For Our Future' Project

Bass Coast Shire Council

## 'This is My Story' Exhibition Curators

R. to L. Ursula Theinert, Daniel Church, Susan Hall and Karin Ellis



# Bunjil's Wings



Bunjil the Creator

Tribal patterns in Bunjil's wings

The tribes and clans of my people

Many generations

Bunjil's story

Passed down to this day



## Songlines

Rivers that flow

Meeting places

Colours of the land

The Tree of Life

Trees and animals

Songlines flowing through Darug Country









Fay Stewart Muir

00:01



mute



keypad



speaker



add call



FaceTime



contacts



## Nine Tribes

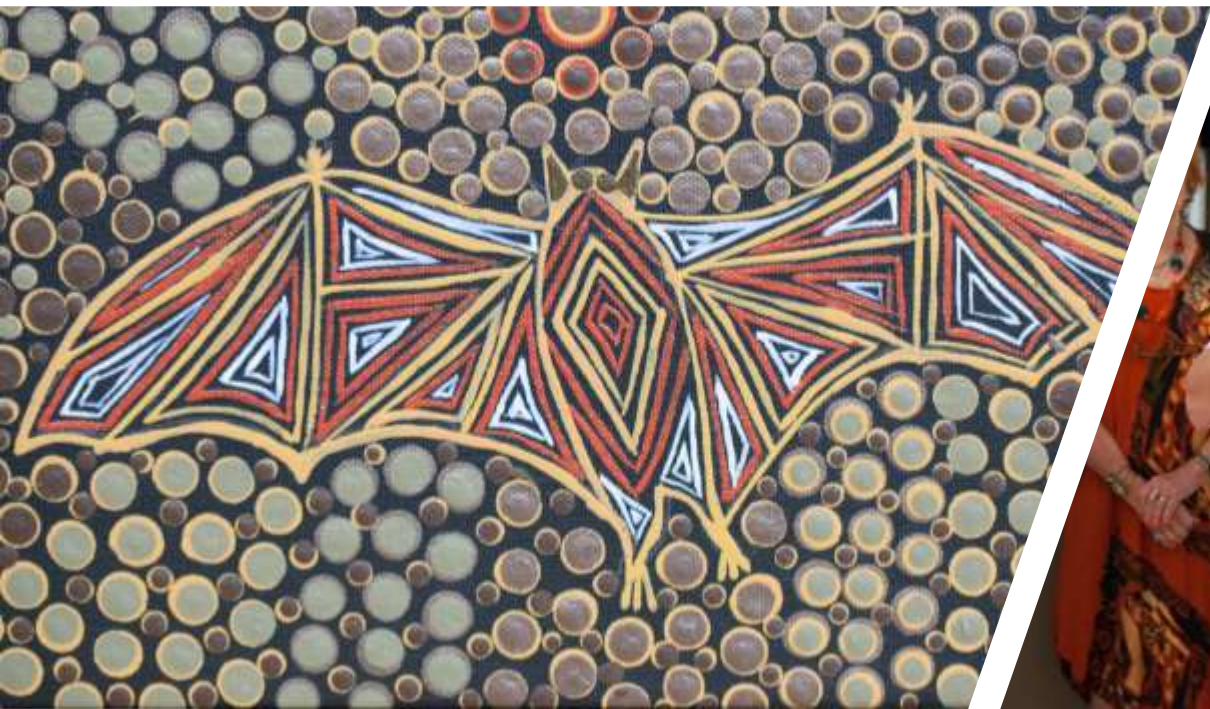
Nine tribes of the Darug

Everlasting cultural ways

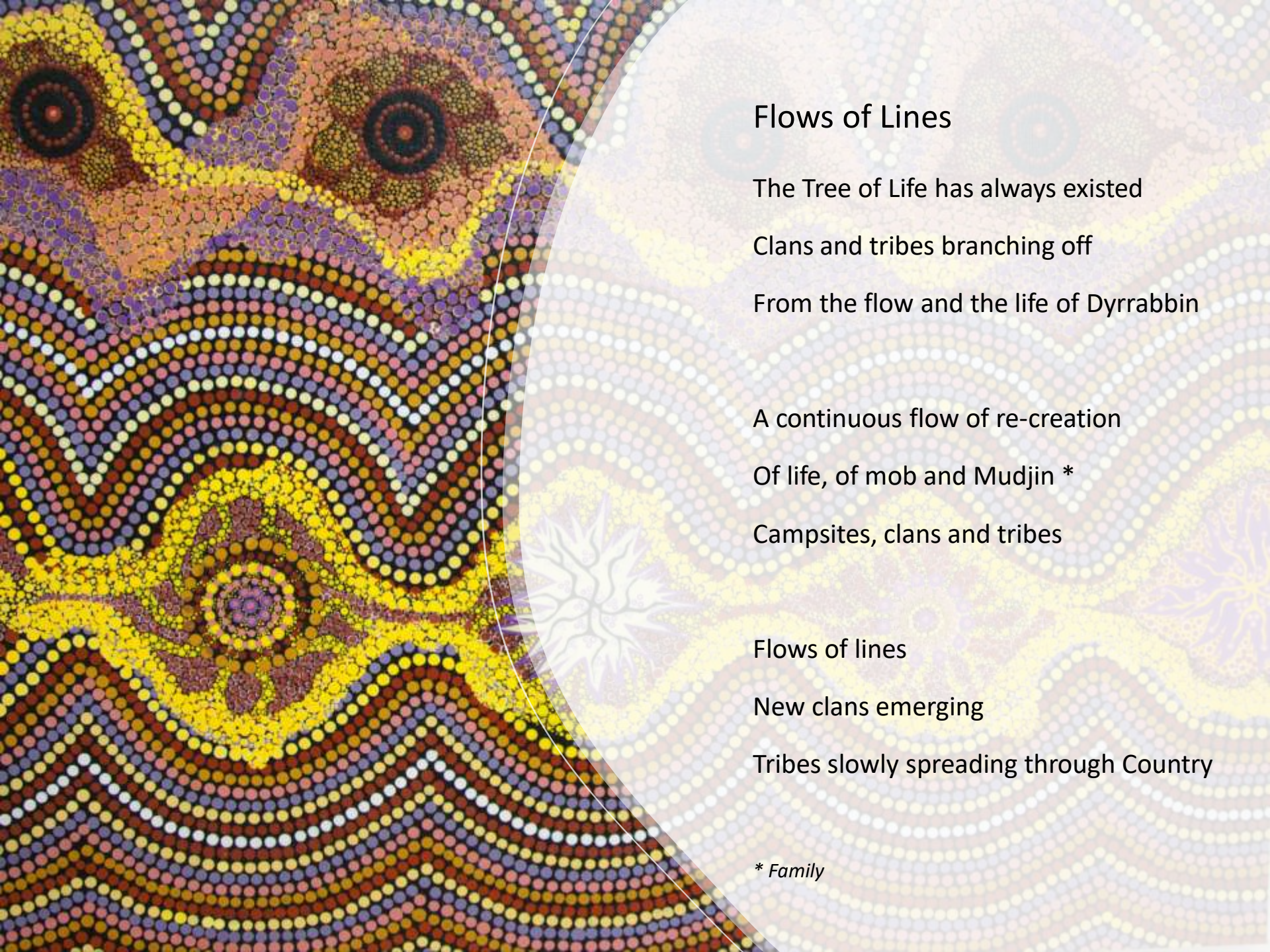
Passed down for generations











## Flows of Lines

The Tree of Life has always existed  
Clans and tribes branching off  
From the flow and the life of Dyrrabbin

A continuous flow of re-creation  
Of life, of mob and Mudjin \*  
Campsites, clans and tribes

Flows of lines  
New clans emerging  
Tribes slowly spreading through Country

*\* Family*





Kangaroo and dolphin

Totems of Country

Kangaroo never moves backwards

## Totems of Country

Always standing up

Standing strong like my Ancestors

For generations and generations

Dolphin never swims backwards

Always moving forwards

All along the coast









## Shadows in the Sky

Kangaroo and Sea People

The Darug

Meeting on the land and sea

Feasting and Corroboree

All along the coast of Country

Travels of my Ancestors

Like flying foxes

Shadows in the sky

Ancestors

Always watching over us

Even when we can't see them

They're always there

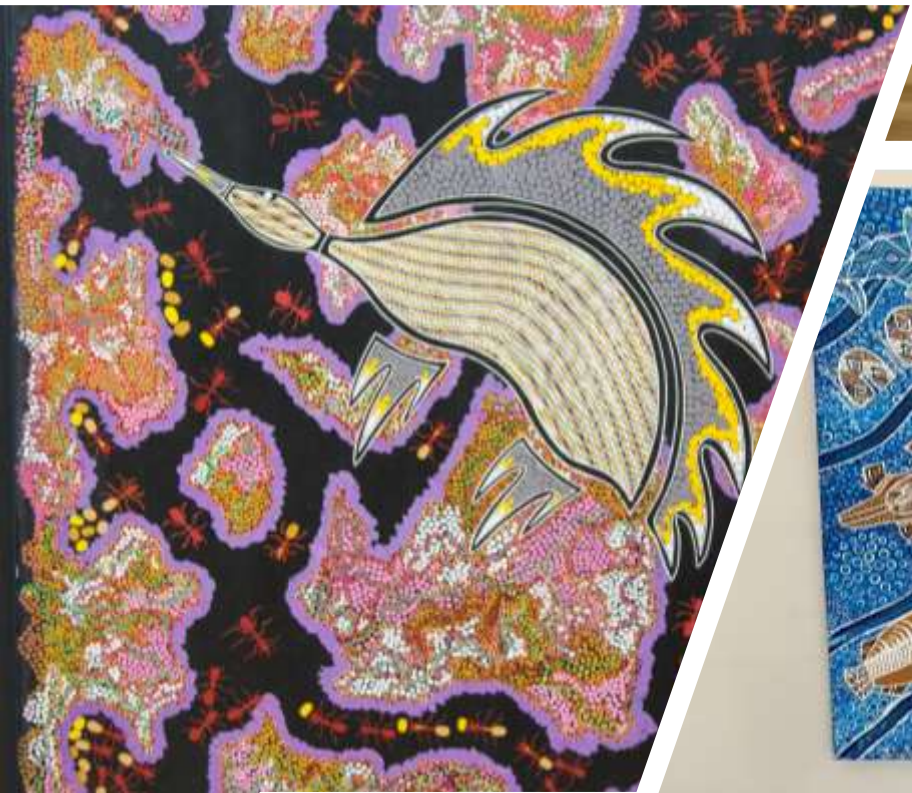














# Legend Warrior

Pemulway

Legend Warrior

Darug Country

Bidjigal Clan

Fierce warrior

Resistance fighter

Keeping our land and culture strong

Fighting slavery and injustice

Sending calls to his Ancestors

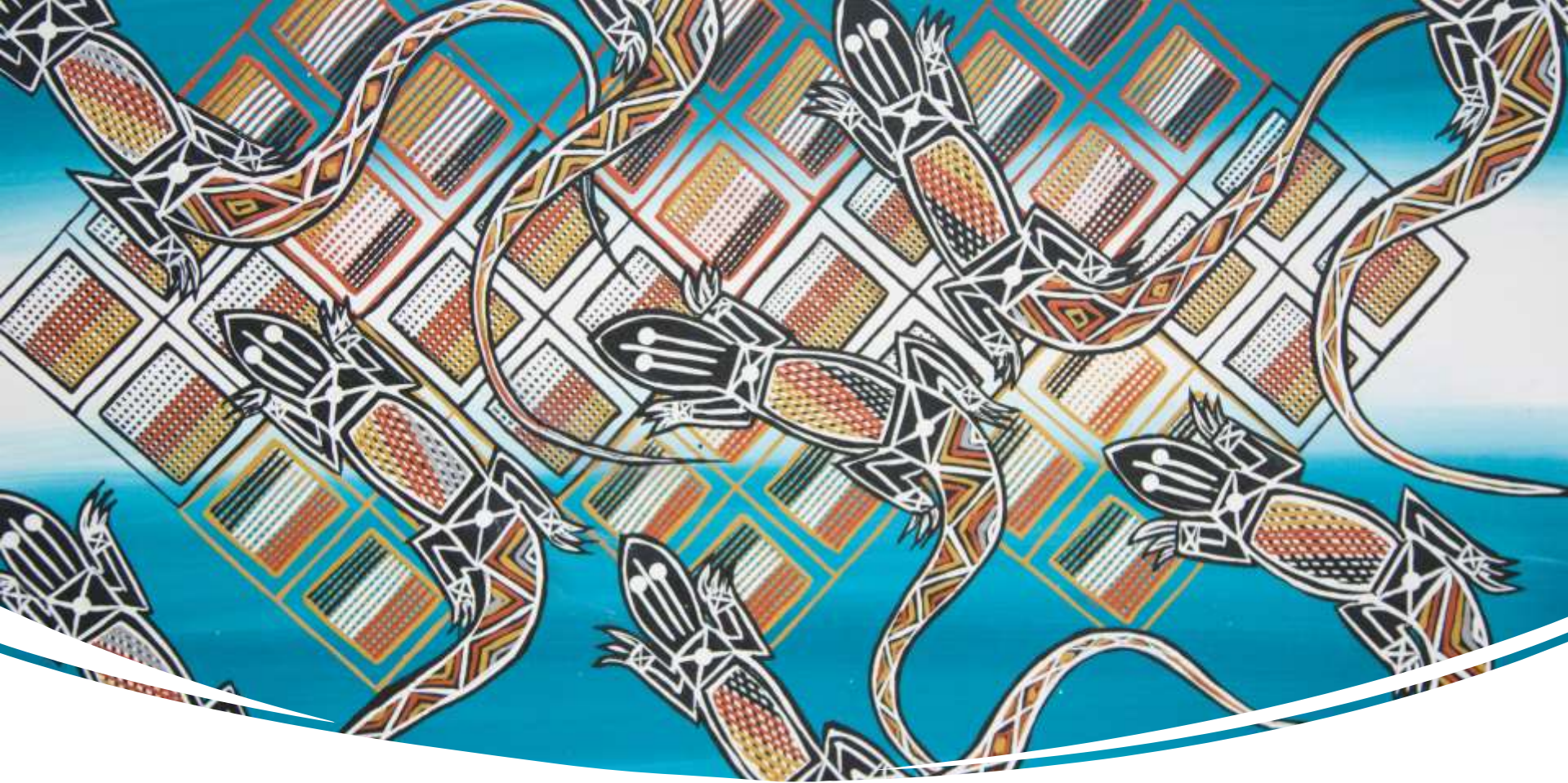
To help and guide him

Twelve years alongside the Oyster Bay Clan

Resistance fighting for our Country







Heartbreak

Colonial times

Wiping out 90 percent of our people

Heartbreak of many lives



Family

Family ties

Brother and sister

Broken hearts

Along the way









## Life on Earth

The cycle of life

Always spinning around

Has always been

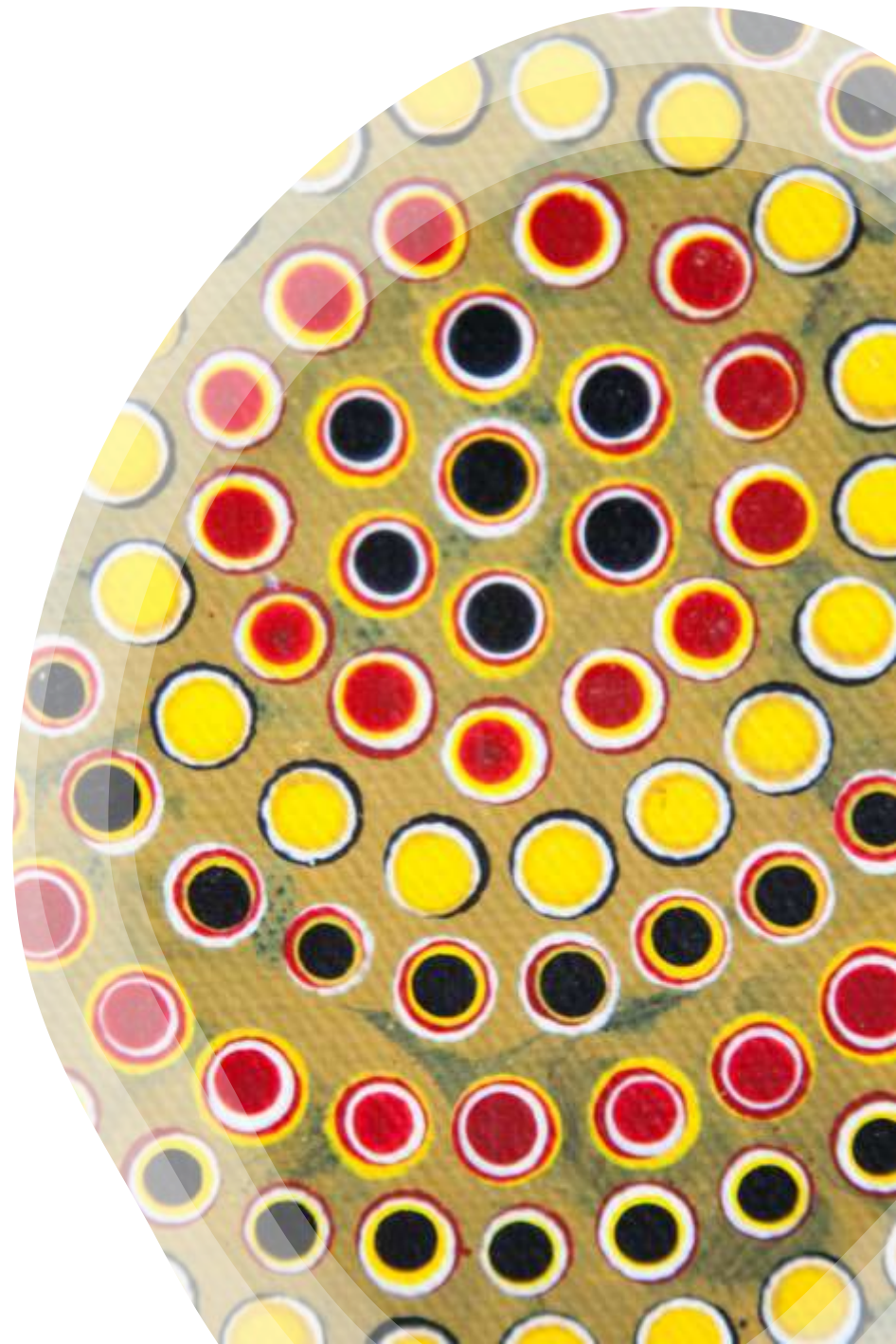
And always will be

A vital necessity

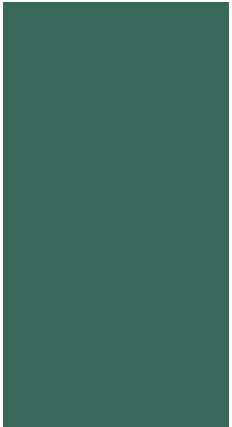
For all life on earth

Look after Mother Nature's creations

As she has always done for us











## Knowledge

Elders teach the young

What fish there were

What spear to use

Making hooks from shell and bone

Knowledge passed down

Generation to generation

The eternal tribal band

Continuing



## Unconditional Love

Baby boy becomes a man

Leaves home

Makes his own tracks

Remembers what his Wiyanga\* taught him

How to be a true man

Wiyanga comforting and understanding

Wiyanga ways of knowledge

Wiyanga ways of life

Culture and unconditional love

All the protection a Wiyanga can give a son

\* *Mother*









Freshwater Saltwater

Where the fresh water meets the sea

The culture of my Darug people is there

Hunting and gathering

Trapping turtles and fish

Freshwater fish

Saltwater fish











## Power of Life

Women's ceremonies

Connection with the land

Meeting

Telling stories

Dancing and singing

Trading with other tribes

Reproduction and growth

The power of life





## Dyrrabbin Hawkesbury River

Darug country

River systems

Feeding the Dyrrabbin

The life it feeds

Since the Dreamtime

It's creating still









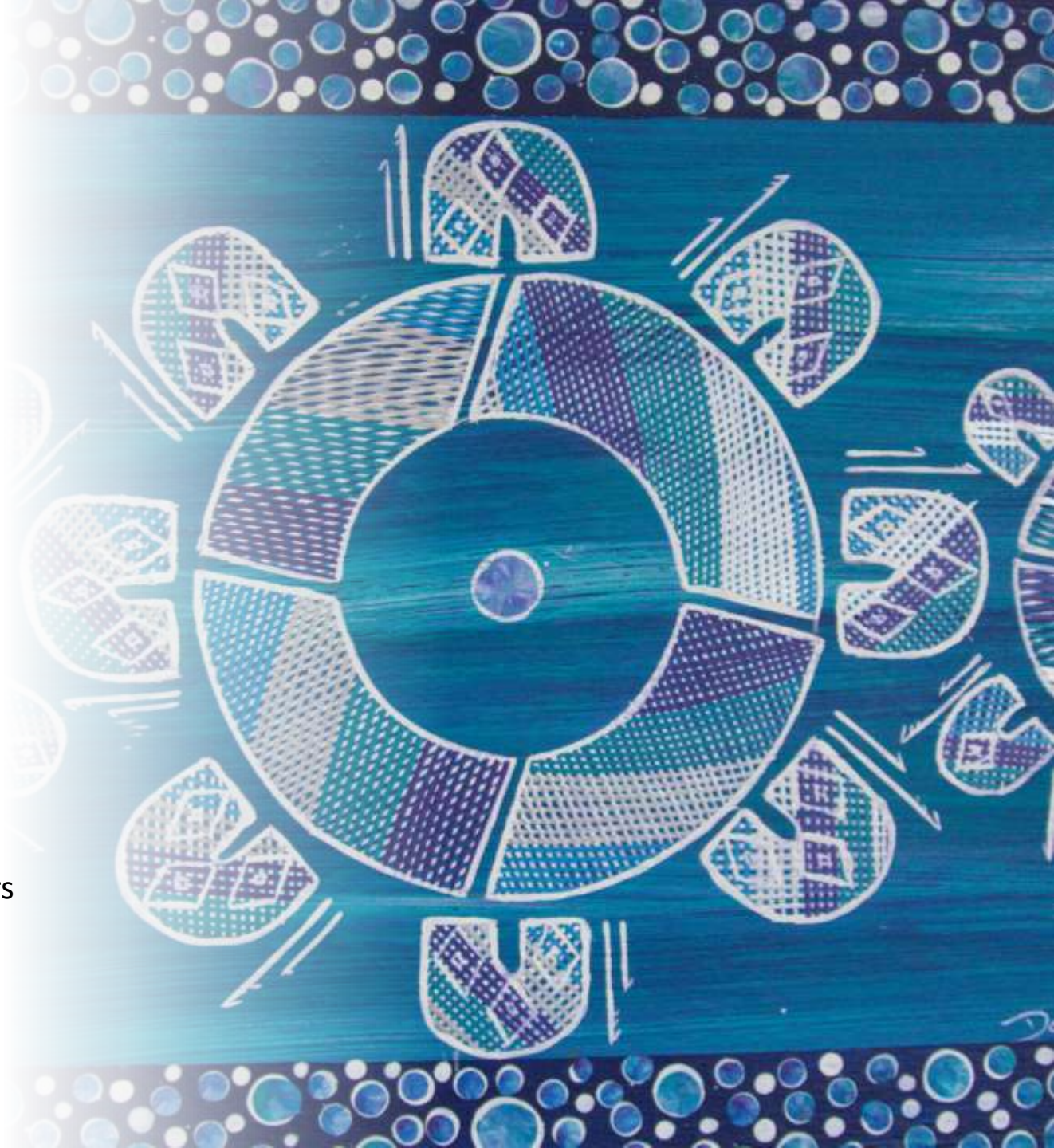


## Calling

Calling through this art  
Connecting back to culture

Brothers and father reunite  
Family and forgiveness

The journey continues  
The Dreaming of our Ancestors







## True and Strong

Goanna and Crow

Totems of Darug Country

The Tree of Life

Our culture

Eternal love

True and strong

Flowing forever

Like the oceans

And the tides