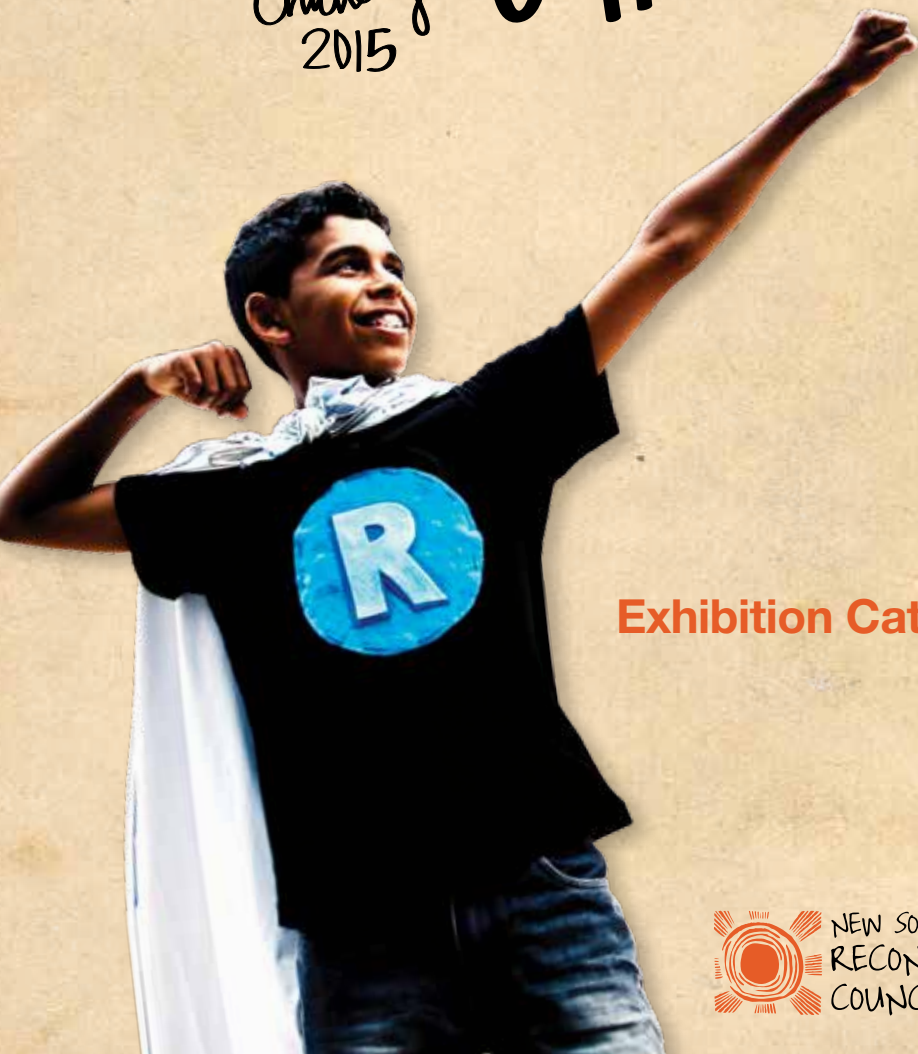


# Homegrown HEROES

Schools  
Reconciliation  
Challenge  
2015



Exhibition Catalogue



NEW SOUTH WALES  
RECONCILIATION  
COUNCIL



The New South Wales Reconciliation Council is delighted to bring you another year of reconciliation inspired artworks for the 2015 Schools Reconciliation Challenge. The project is in its 6th year and this year's theme, 'Homegrown Heroes' has proved to be a popular way for young people to express their vision for a reconciled Australia. I would like to thank all of the teachers, principals, schools, parents and students who have taken the time to create and enter artworks this year.

Whilst there can only be a handful of winners, we were astonished by both the quantity and quality of artworks we received. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our judges: Rebeckah Mooney, Stephen Imlay and Zachary Bennett-Brook for their time and consideration in selecting this year's winners and placeholders. I am sure it was no easy feat.

This year we received hundreds of entries from across the state, from everywhere from Punchbowl Boys High School and Reddam House in Sydney, to Moruya High School on the South Coast and Moree Secondary College in the North-West. As part of this year's competition we ran a number of art workshops in various schools in the Riverina, Newcastle and Central Coast regions. These workshops, facilitated by artists Bibi Barba and Jessica Birk, gave us a tremendous insight into how schools across NSW are working towards building a more unified and reconciled nation.

Congratulations once more to all those students and schools whose artworks have been selected to form part of this exhibition. We have been inspired, amazed and delighted by the quality of the art and the clarity with which our students express their understanding of the role reconciliation plays in creating a better Australia for us all.

We look forward to what next year holds!

**Gilly Dempsey**  
Director, NSW Reconciliation Council



Reconciliation grows and nurtures the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Australia. It also builds a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This act is powerfully expressed through the 2015 NSW School's Reconciliation Challenge.

It is my privilege as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to support this fantastic event in which over 190 schools participate, allowing them to showcase this year's theme *Homegrown Heroes*. We have a lot to learn from young Australians, who have the ability and capacity through

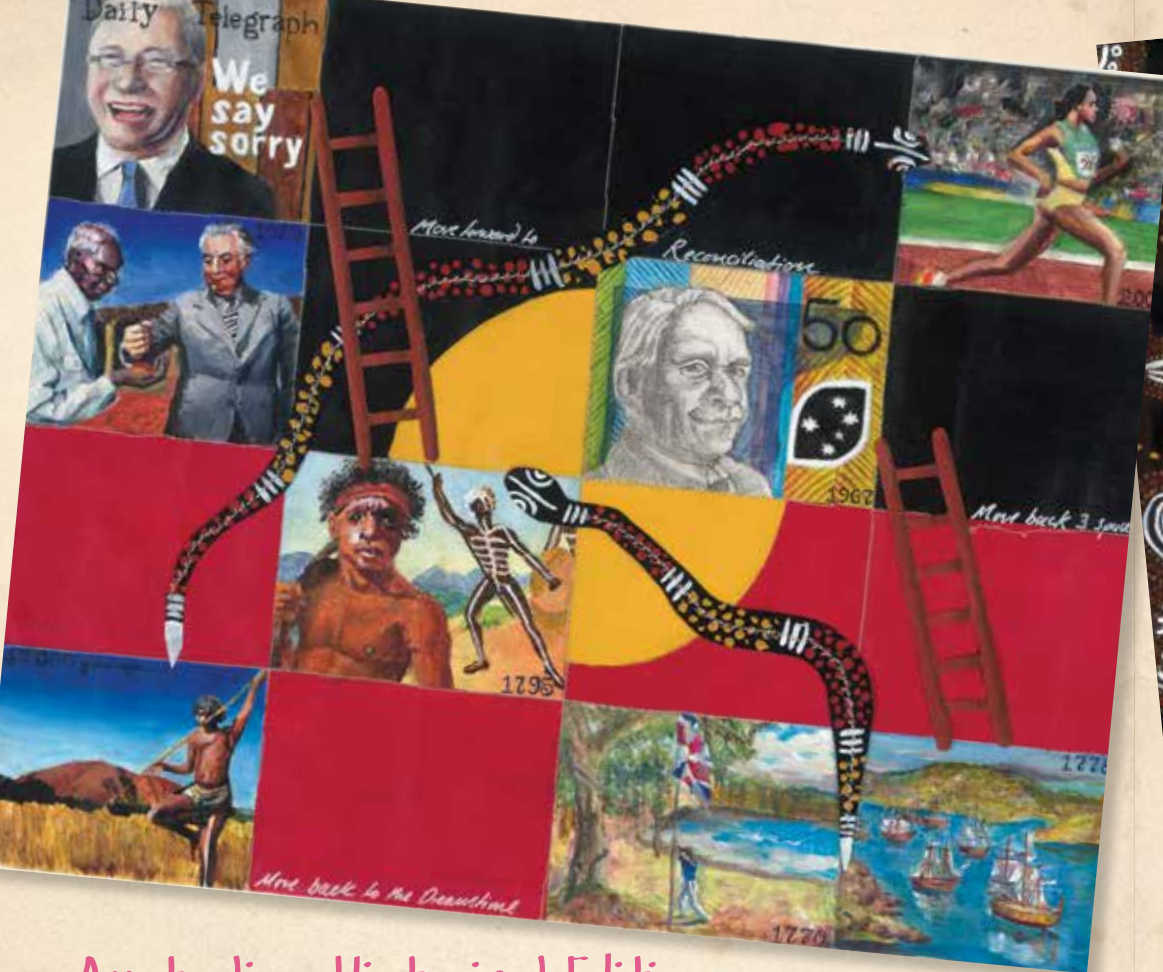
various mediums to demonstrate what practical reconciliation is and how we as individuals make everyday contributions to this important cause.

Art and artistic expression is not only critical to the survival of Aboriginal culture, it provides young people with an opportunity to connect with each other and share stories.

Everyone knows a *Homegrown Hero* who works tirelessly towards reconciliation. Whether it be a local community volunteer, parent or student who on a daily basis are making a positive contribution to create a better society.

Thank you to the students for your inspiring contributions and thank you to NSW Schools for providing this opportunity.

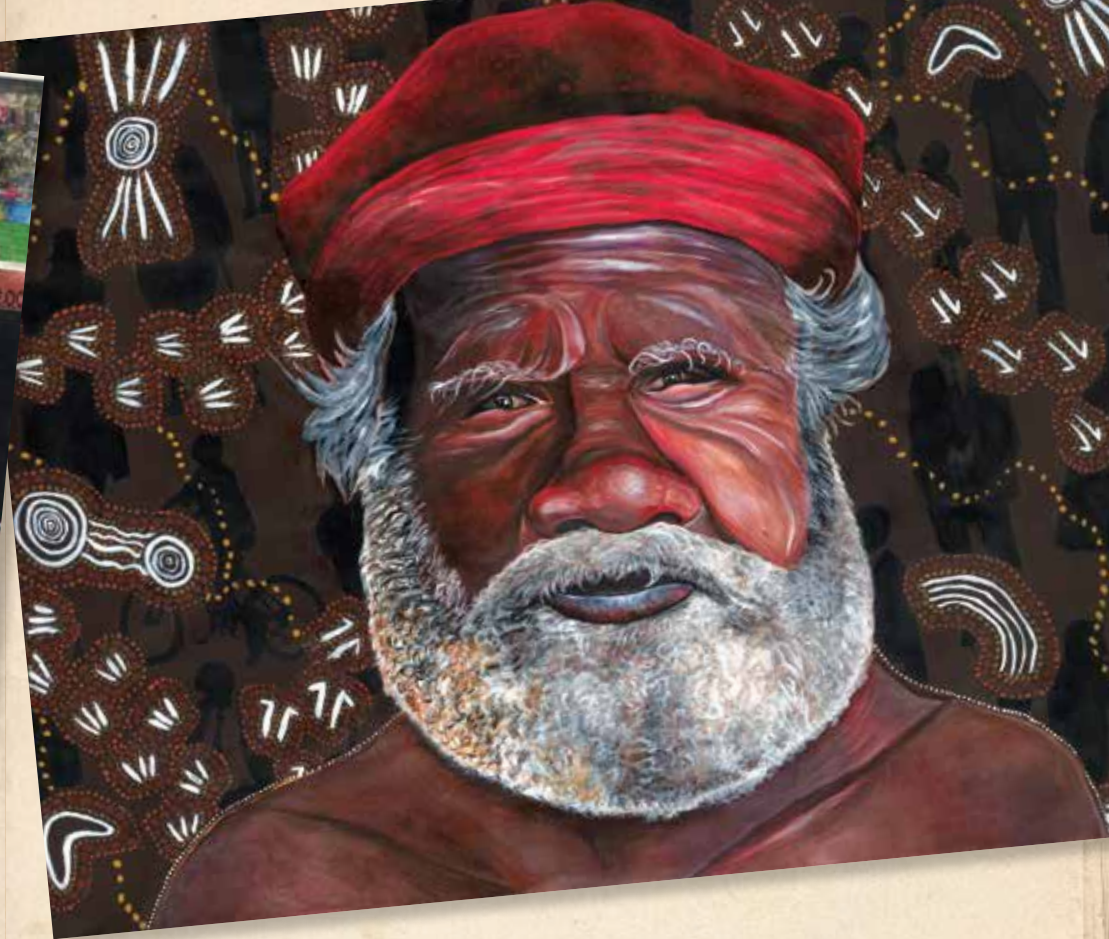
**Hon Leslie Williams MP**  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



## Australian Historical Edition of Snakes and Ladders

Mikayla Li  
Reddam House  
**First Prize, Secondary School 2015**

My artwork is an adaptation of the board game Snakes and Ladders. The spaces symbolise homegrown heroes progressing through Australian History. The snakes represent Aboriginal dreamtime serpents and the ladders are the industrialisation of Europeans coming to this nation. Traditional painting methods such as dot painting and weaving and stitching have been incorporate along with a European understanding of painting. This shows the two cultures coming together to form their own unique perspectives of history. Each homegrown hero looks at important milestones throughout the times and looks at acknowledging our important past moving forward to reconciliation.



## Kwop Wirrin

Georgia Moore-Garland and Elizabeth Williams  
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School  
**Second Prize, Secondary School 2015**

Our artwork is entitled 'Kwop Wirrin' which translates to 'Good Spirit'. The Indigenous elder is a good spirit, trying to live in a modern/European world. This artwork relates to reconciliation by showing the Indigenous elder, with passion for his culture being forced to live in the modernised civilisation. The background also shows the mutual relationship between Indigenous/non Indigenous. It's sending a message that we have come a long way but we still have further to go. It also relates to the theme homegrown hero by the Aboriginal elder trying to hold onto his culture and traditions yet trying to survive in today's modern society.



## The Stolen Generations

Jessica Larkin, Emma Jackson and Selena Ledbrook  
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School  
**Third Prize, Secondary School 2015**

Our artwork deals with the impact that the Aboriginal children suffered when forced from their families into institutions. The female Aboriginals were taught to think and act 'white'. Our heroine in this artwork is silenced through her hands covering her mouth – yet her culture and heritage still remain a dominant force that is shown through the Aboriginal flag painted on her hands. The work is about how these Indigenous people are trying to fit into today's society and how they are an important piece of the puzzle.



## House of Australian Heroes

Oliver Rice  
Reddam House  
**Fourth Prize, Secondary School 2015**

My artwork, 'House of Australian Heroes' is about how anyone can become an Australian Hero. This is shown through the ladder and open door, as well as the 'All Welcome' sign. This artwork relates to reconciliation as the tree on the left represents the European (as seen through the colours of the roots) side and the right side tree represents the Aboriginals (as seen in the colours of the roots). The weapons are buried under the ground showing how we have acknowledged our mistakes and put aside our differences and are now working together for peace, as shown through the treehouse, supported by both trees. My artwork relates to the theme 'homegrown heroes' as the focus of the artwork is the two trees, displaying literally the 'homegrown' idea. I also included faint photos of classic Australian heroes, adding to the 'House of Australian Heroes' idea. Finally, I included the Australian Desert within the treehouse, symbolising endless possibility for Australian heroes.



## The Happiness of Connection

Noah Ricci  
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School  
**Highly Commended, Secondary School 2015**

My artwork expresses that we all come from different countries and families but we can all still rejoice and connect as one in peace and harmony. The orange tracks represent all our different paths and choices leading to one spot – where we come together in unity. I have used cardboard to represent a European ‘throw away’ society and to represent how the Europeans treated the Indigenous people – happy to throw away and discard their culture and heritage. The homegrown hero is the Indigenous girl celebrating culture and diversity in today’s society.



## Brooke

Class 8P  
Hunter River High School  
**Highly Commended, Secondary School 2015**

Brooke is our Aboriginal Education Officer. This artwork is about him. Brooke is a hero to many of our students. He is an amazing man who has a great capacity to share culture in our school, the local community and in the Worimi Land. He looks after kid’s wellbeing. Brooke is available to everyone in the school. He is a great leader to show culture in a positive and informative way as an educational leader. We all learn about culture (students and staff) from Brooke.



## The Lost Soldier

Lara von Oertzen and Ava Turnbull  
Reddam House

**Highly Commended, Secondary School 2015**

Our artwork explores the Aboriginal soldiers who gave their lives for their country during WW1. As this year marks the centenary for the ANZACS, we recognise the contribution so many made to our history and Australia. Over 1000 Indigenous Australians fought in WW1 and many experienced equal treatment for the first time in their lives. This relates to the theme homegrown heroes as we acknowledge the lost Indigenous that fought so that we could be free. We have acknowledged 'country' in the background and created a new coat of arms for these homegrown heroes.



## A Night of Two Laws

Chloe Zou  
Reddam House

**Highly Commended, Secondary School 2015**

This artwork looks at Pemulwuy and his contribution to Australian history as he was one of the first Aboriginal heroes to fight for his people. Throughout his lifetime he fought for his people and his land, attempting to show the Europeans through action that the Aboriginal people were in fact the first, rightful owners of Australia. The piece highlights Pemulwuy's courage seen through the appropriation of the 'superman' symbol and the postmodern interpretation of Van Gogh's Starry Night to reflect a new Indigenous perspective. Here we see both European Culture and Indigenous Australian Culture combined.

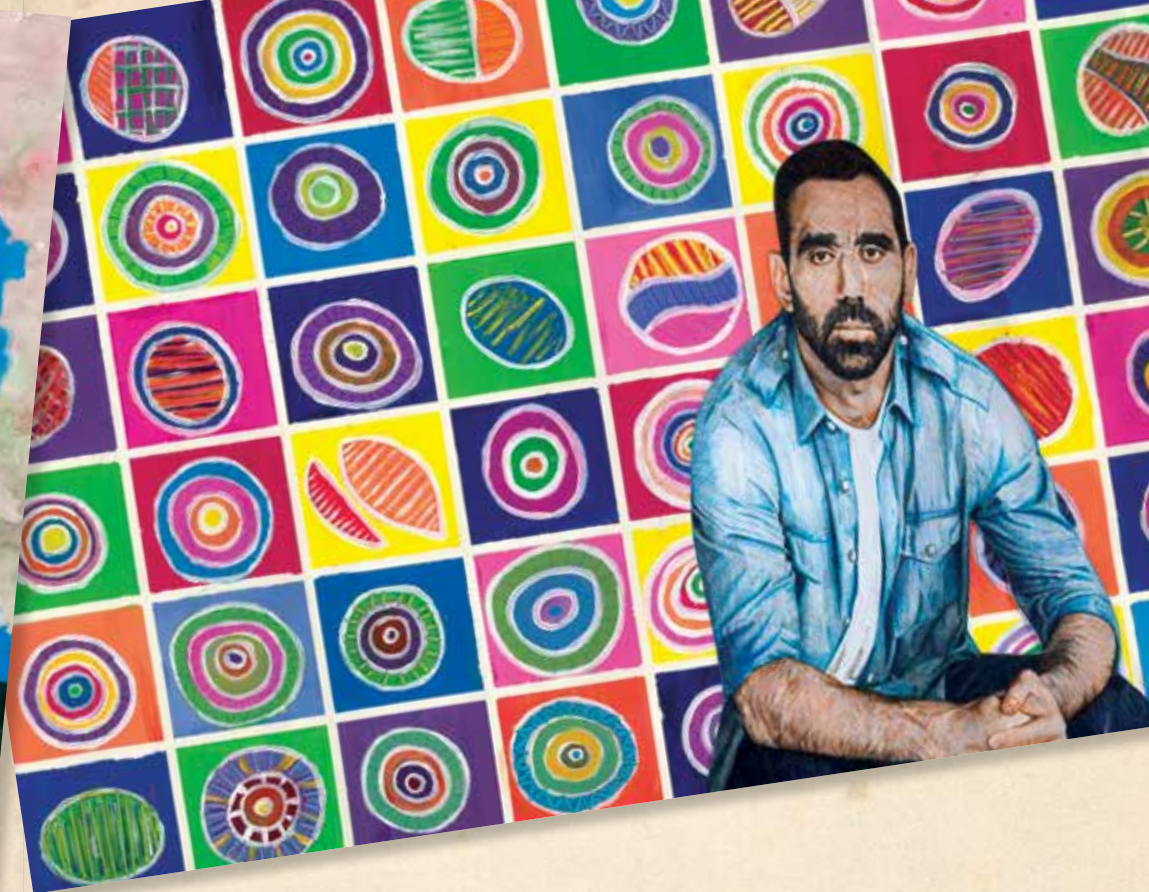


## Shared Remembrance

Ella Burke  
Moruya High School

**Highly Commended, Secondary School 2015**

My artwork is about the recognition that Aboriginals also went to war along with people of non-Aboriginal backgrounds. It represents a shared respect as the two hands give one another a poppy and some rosemary. It represents reconciliation as the hands are coming together to share the two items of remembrance. They have green sleeves like that of the soldiers who went to war before us, representing Australia together in an act that's given our home the ability to be safe and free for us all.



## Making a Mark

Classes 5S and 6G  
Cronulla Public School

**First Prize, Primary School 2015**

The artwork was inspired by Aboriginal artist, Bronwyn Bancroft. Students studied her work and researched her life story thus far. She uses her artwork to express her identity and history. Her use of non-traditional, bright colours are what appealed to Year 5 and 6. Bancroft uses a series of circular lines within contemporary coloured squares to express her ideas and feelings. Just as heroes come in all shapes and sizes, so too were the coloured circles painted by the students. Each square represents students' attempts to capture their own feelings and ideas on reconciliation. The artwork relates to reconciliation in many ways. Just as reconciliation relates to the unification of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, so too did we, as a school, combine Year 5 and 6 to work collaboratively on the artwork. Students clearly identified with the well-respected athlete and 'Homegrown Hero', Adam Goodes. As 2014 Australian of the Year, he continues to remind Australians about taking responsibility for their own actions and the importance of stopping racism. This served as an encouragement to aspiring young students within our school.

## Indigenous Soldier

Mary Bradhurst  
Avalon Public School

**Second Prize, Primary School 2015**

My artwork is about recognising the Indigenous soldiers that fought in the war. Something that inspired me to do this is the sculpture in Sydney that has 5 bullets standing and 2 fallen, it is the first sculpture in Sydney that recognises the fallen Indigenous soldiers that fought in the war. In my artwork there is an Aboriginal flag on the face of the soldier to show that the Aboriginal people were the first to be in Australia. This is what my artwork is about.

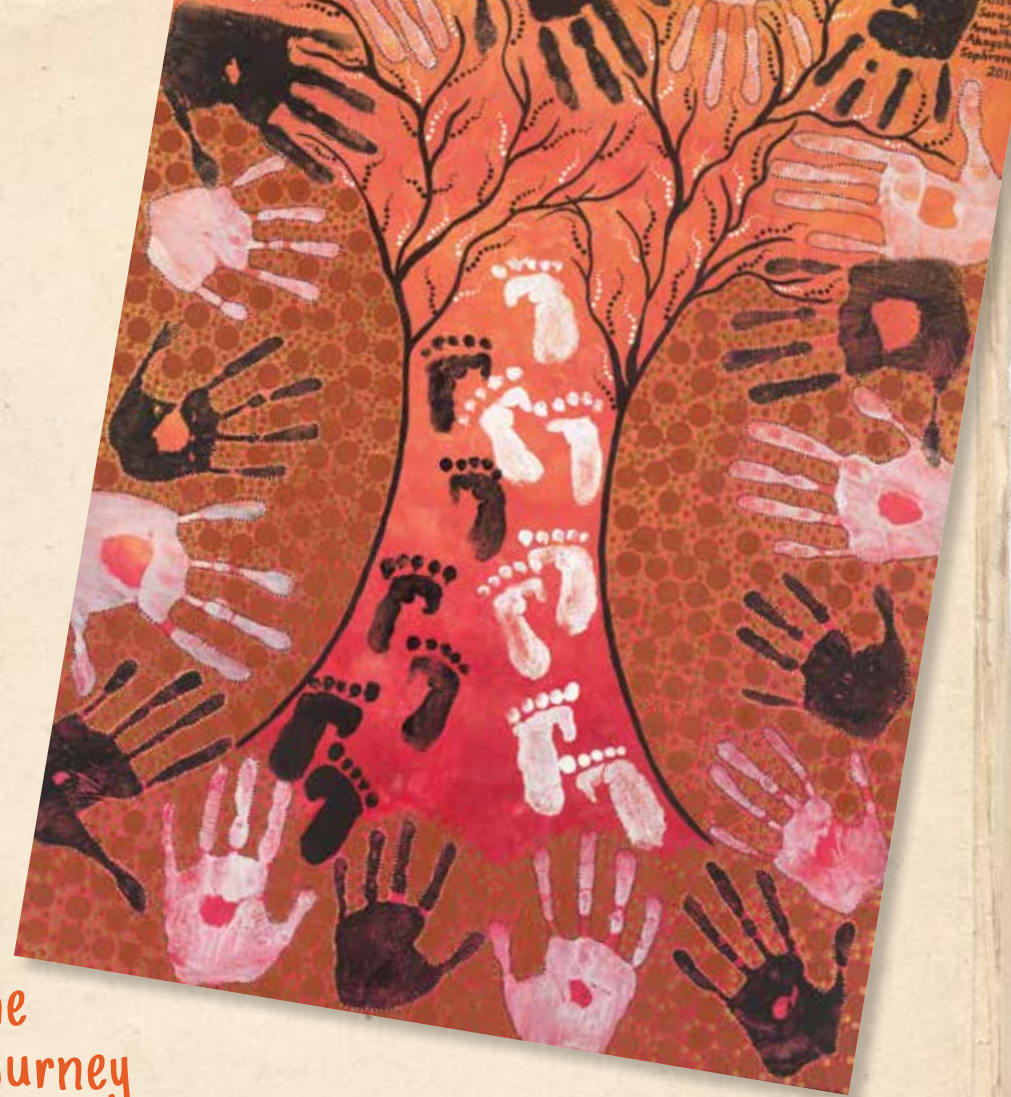


## The Journey

Annalise Mitchell, Akaysha Manning-McGuire, Saraya Agus, Disha Santosh,  
Sophronia Kahui and Alisa Selivanova.  
Thomas Acres Primary School

**Third Prize, Primary School 2015**

The earthy colours represent the sun reflecting on the outback dust, rising on a new day. The tree shows how we are growing together as one all working together, especially our Homegrown Heroes (strong branches) spreading the word for equality. On our road to understanding we are taking twists and turns promoting inclusion. The helping hands border the artwork as we come together like a family to raise awareness and keep growing into a stronger country. We didn't paint any leaves on our tree because there is still work to be done, closing the gap to rights of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The footprints represent our journey, walking together and helping one another. Many cultures in one land coming together, stepping towards our future together as one. Our artwork is expressing the past to the future known as 'The Journey'.





## They've Grown on Us

Years 5, 6 & 8  
Hastings Primary School and Hastings Secondary College,  
Port Macquarie Campus

**Fourth Prize, Primary School 2015**

Our artwork is about the homegrown heroes we have learned about. These people are important in letting people know that we want a referendum to change our constitution to recognise Aboriginal people as the First Australians. Our artwork relates to reconciliation because it takes everyone to recognise what our homegrown heroes are saying so we can be equal and share a future together. We chose a homegrown hero to study and then painted them in a seed so their ideas will hopefully grow.



## ANZACs are Heroes

Makayla Battams  
Barrington Public School

**Highly Commended, Primary School 2015**

My artwork is about fighting for what you think is right, like the ANZACs did in World War 1. The two flags were the Aboriginal and Australian flags put together in a slouch hat from the war, it's to show we came together and put our differences aside and are now one. The ANZACs were the Homegrown Heroes in my artwork, they fought for what they thought was right and I think that's great.



## Feeling Fearless and Free

Aidan David, Veronica Oley, Emily McPhail, Gabrielle Zamora,  
Jasmin Fairweather, Scarlett Kevin, Amelie Hood and Scarlett McNamara  
Orange Grove Public School

**Highly Commended, Primary School 2015**

We were inspired to create this unique artwork of one of the Aboriginal homegrown heroes we studied and felt connected to. We feel that Cathy Freeman was and is an iconic hero of our nation. Her determination, focus and humility should be admired and we feel she is such a great role model for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. The colour evolution from greyscale to full colour shows the progression of reconciliation as the puzzle pieces come together just like our nation will if we stand up for a united Australia. We painted Cathy Freeman with an Aboriginal flag as a cape because we feel it is her heritage which inspires her and her continued work towards closing the educational gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children directly relates to us, our friends, our school and our community. We want to be a homegrown hero for reconciliation just like her!



## Kicking For Pride

James Grant, Sam Bennett, Kyanah Goddard and Ethan Corless  
Point Clare Public School

**Highly Commended, Primary School 2015**

Our artwork was inspired by rugby league player Preston Campbell who is our 'homegrown hero' for his service both on and off the field. We used an environmental artwork using elements of nature to link the roots of his Indigenous heritage to reach out to the masses. The coloured petals symbolise the lights and people in the grandstand. We used the seeds as players that bring forth growth, amongst the constant change of leaves and branches, and ultimately blossom into a living, breathing, harmonious whole.

# The Reconciliation Cycle

Aidan Dellaway, Chelsea Fraser,  
Joey Mott, Caitlyn Atkinson,  
Jordan Thoroughgood and  
Bailey Metse  
Booragul Public School

**Highly Commended,  
Primary School 2015**



Our artwork was completed in multi-layers as people in the Australian Community are at different stages within the Reconciliation process. The bottom layer has the Aboriginal symbol for Fire, the words around the fire are the old thought patterns that divided Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people within Australia. As fire stick farming was used by Aboriginal people in the past to rejuvenate the land, this layer represents the cleansing and rejuvenation of Australia's prejudice. The middle layer is of a brick wall with ants climbing all over it. The bricks and words within the bricks represent strength and what makes a strong community. The ants represent the heroes in our community that being our parents, teachers, coaches and caregivers that lead and teach us right from wrong. Like an ant colony they all work together and have a job to do to plant the seeds for us to grow into strong and collaborative people within our community (Australia). The top layer has five stars that represent the Southern Cross. The Southern Cross is entwined by gum leaves and gum nuts. The gum leaves and gum nuts represent new growth and the words represent where we want to be as a country looking forward. The Southern Cross has always been used by Aboriginal People to find their way around our vast country. The Southern Cross is there to show us the right direction to travel to achieve these goals so Australia can be a strong, resilient and united country. Final, we have put a foot print between the layers to show the journey it will take to get to our end goal of RECONCILIATION.



## The House of Heroes

Auraiha Hewens and Billie Brennan  
Tacking Point Public School

**Highly Commended, Primary School 2015**

Our artwork represents Indigenous heroes and how they are "homegrown". Our artwork relates to Homegrown Heroes by showing Eddie Mabo and Vincent Lingiari emerging from a vegetable patch as they are "homegrown heroes". They are heroes because they fought long and hard for their rights and lands. It shows that Indigenous Australians can make a big difference. To be a hero, you don't need a cape, just a bit of love, and most importantly, courage.



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