



# our Journey

Schools Reconciliation Challenge 2014

**Exhibition Catalogue**



NEW SOUTH WALES  
RECONCILIATION  
COUNCIL





# School's Reconciliation Challenge 2014

The New South Wales Reconciliation Council is delighted to bring you another year of reconciliation inspired artworks for the 2014 Schools Reconciliation Challenge. The project is in its 5th year and this year's theme, 'Our Journey' has proved to be a popular way for young people to express their vision of/for reconciliation in Australia.

I would like to thank all of the teachers, principals, schools, parents and students who have taken the time to create and enter an artwork this year. Whilst there can only be a handful of winners, we are grateful for the variety, creativity and effort gone into each entry. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our judges- Kate Brennan, Luke Briscoe and Yatu Widders Hunt- for their time and consideration.

This year we received hundreds of entries from across the state from everywhere from Cabramatta High and Reddam House in Sydney, to Calare Public School in Orange and Willans Hill School in Wagga Wagga.

Many schools also took the opportunity to share with us the work that is being done every day in their own schools towards building a more unified and reconciled nation. These included ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are flown and that welcome to country's are conducted in schools along with greater participation by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in school life.

Both the art entries and the steps taken for greater recognition and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content at the school level are a great cause for encouragement for the future.

We look forward to what next year holds and to bringing you another year of reconciliation through the eyes of young people through the 2015 Schools Reconciliation Challenge and accompanying teaching kit.

Sincerely  
**Kirsten Gray**

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It gives me great pleasure to offer my support for the 2014 Schools Reconciliation Challenge, which is now in its fifth year.

The School Reconciliation Challenge Art Showcase has been very successful in engaging young people from all cultures and walks of life in an important dialogue regarding reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and this year's theme 'Our Journey' is particularly apt.

When we look at our reconciliation journey over the years in NSW, we can see that the art plays an important role in helping people connect through shared experiences and stories.

Art has also allowed us to challenge peoples' thinking and perceptions about Aboriginal people and the history of Australia. It also provides us with an opportunity to view something from a different perspective – through someone else's eyes and experiences.

Art provides a great opportunity to motivate and inspire. I hope that the students' artworks, created for the School Reconciliation Challenge, inspire more Australians to become involved in local reconciliation initiatives or to become more aware of Australia's shared history. Sharing stories through art is a powerful way of increasing community awareness, creating opportunities for new understandings and, most importantly, creating a space for healing.

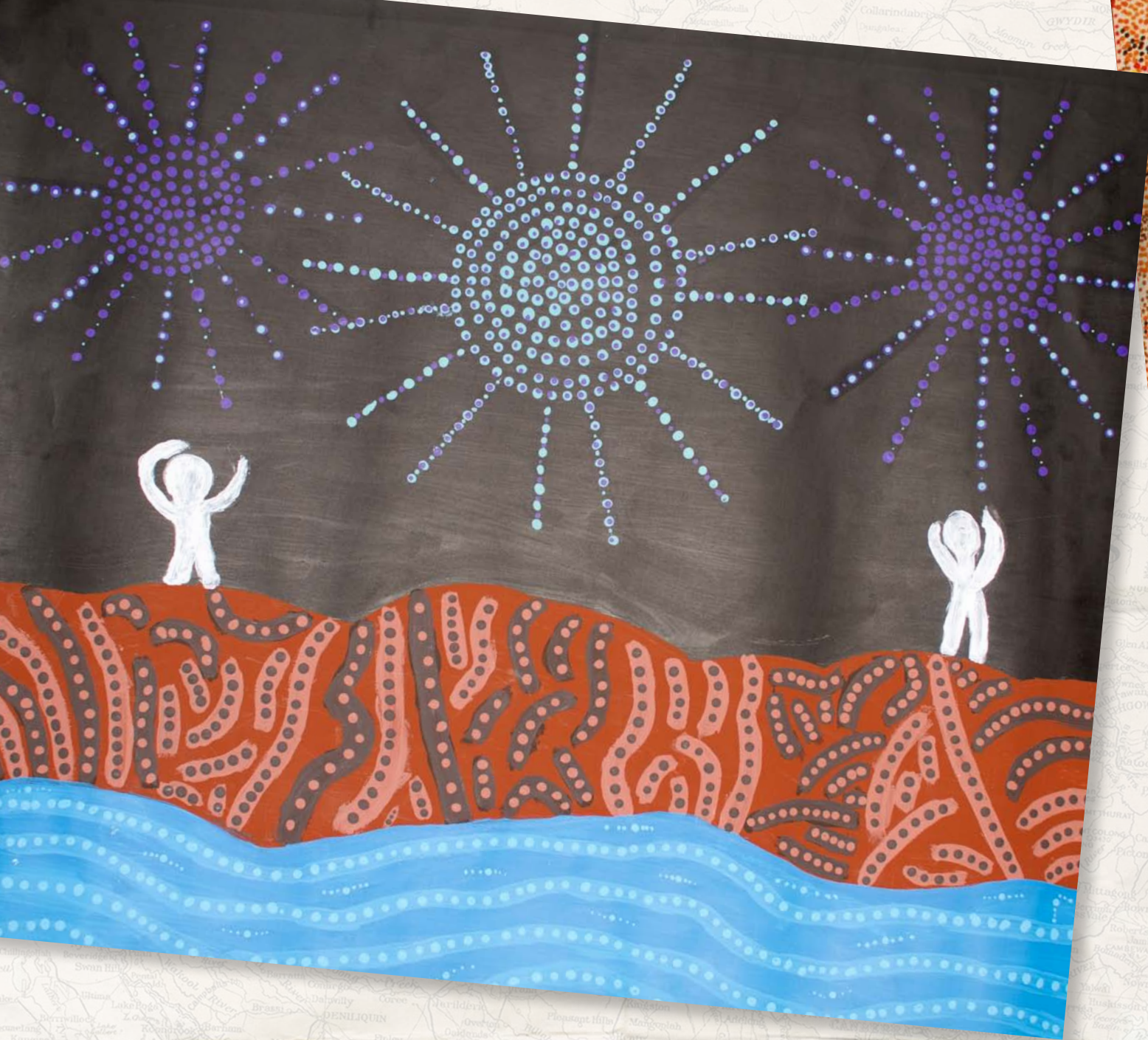
I know that the young artists involved in this Exhibition will have learnt a great deal about themselves and the reconciliation journey.

I congratulate all students involved for their commitment to reconciliation and I look forward to this event's continued success.

**Hon Victor Dominello MP**  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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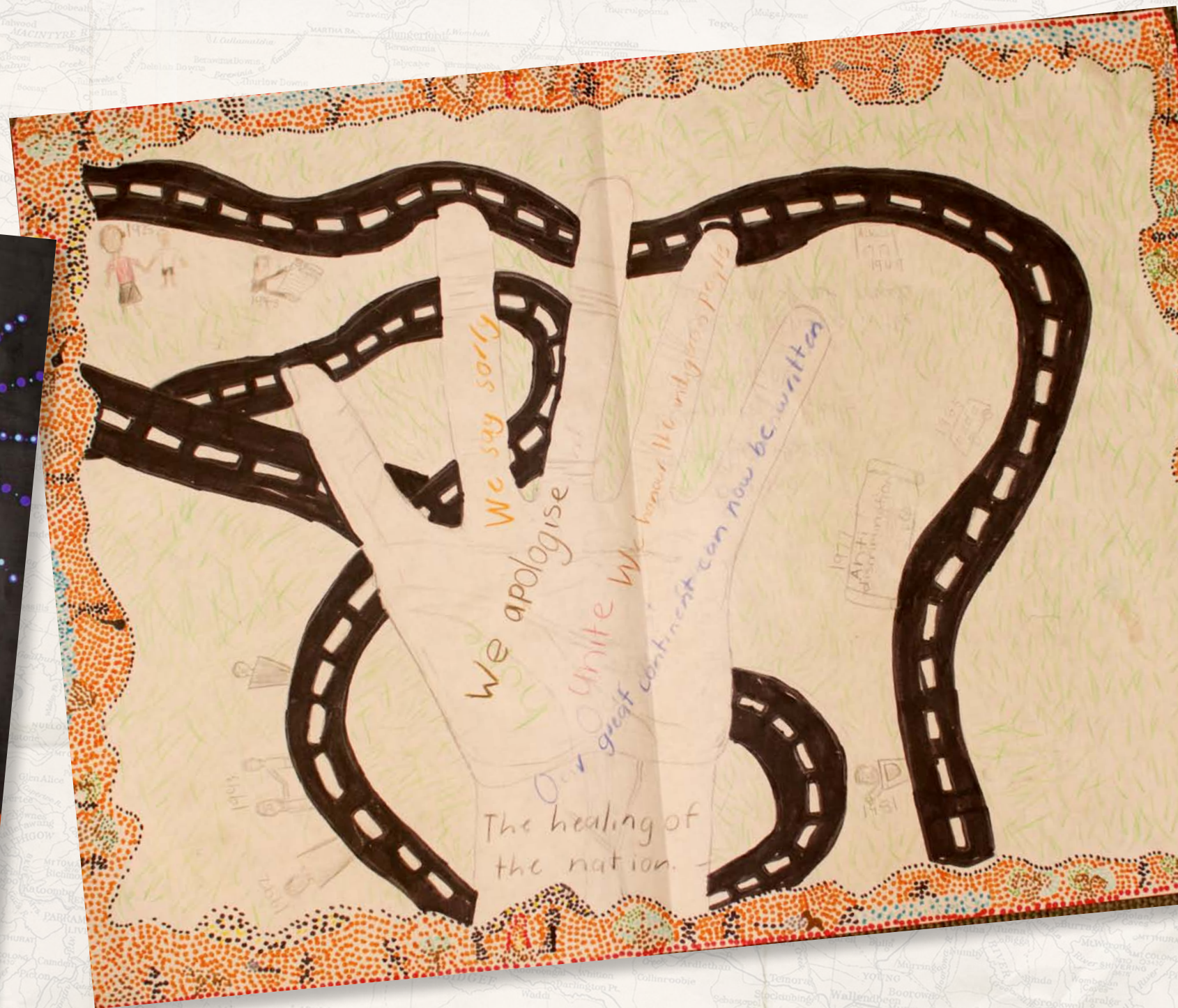




## Min Min Lights

Tuncurry Public School  
Year 5 & 6 Class  
**1st place, Primary School**

Our artwork is about the min min lights that appear in the night sky. The different colours mean we have brought traditional and modern ideas together. We decided to paint green and purple min min lights. We think these colours represent changing in society about closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.



## Reconciliation Is In Palm of Our Hands

Tacking Point Public  
Ben Brennan and Alexander Horder  
**1st place, Primary School**

Our artwork is about our difference and how we have united as a country. It relates to reconciliation because it shows how things along the timeline change and it brings people together. It relates to our journey because the road shows the twists and turns on life. The grass has many different sizes showing our diversity. The hand is a sign of power telling a story.





## Patchwork: n- Something made of various bits

School: Leura Public School  
Year 5 & 6 Class  
**3rd place, Primary School**

*This artwork is a patchwork of decorated squares that represents the diversity of our individual life journeys. Different materials and images were used to symbolise aspects of our lives. Each journey is unique, living side by side, yet connected. The connecting yellow, red and black threads represent how we strive to recognise the importance of unity and Reconciliation. These connections form a network that promotes mutual understanding, respect and equality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.*



## The Journey Outside the Line of Vision

Tacking Point Public  
Carlos Bovey-Mendez, Charlie Cuttell, Sarah Langstaff  
**Highly Commended, Primary School**

*Our artwork represents the freedom bus along a road going through different stages of the land, reconciling the races that have quarrelled in the past.*





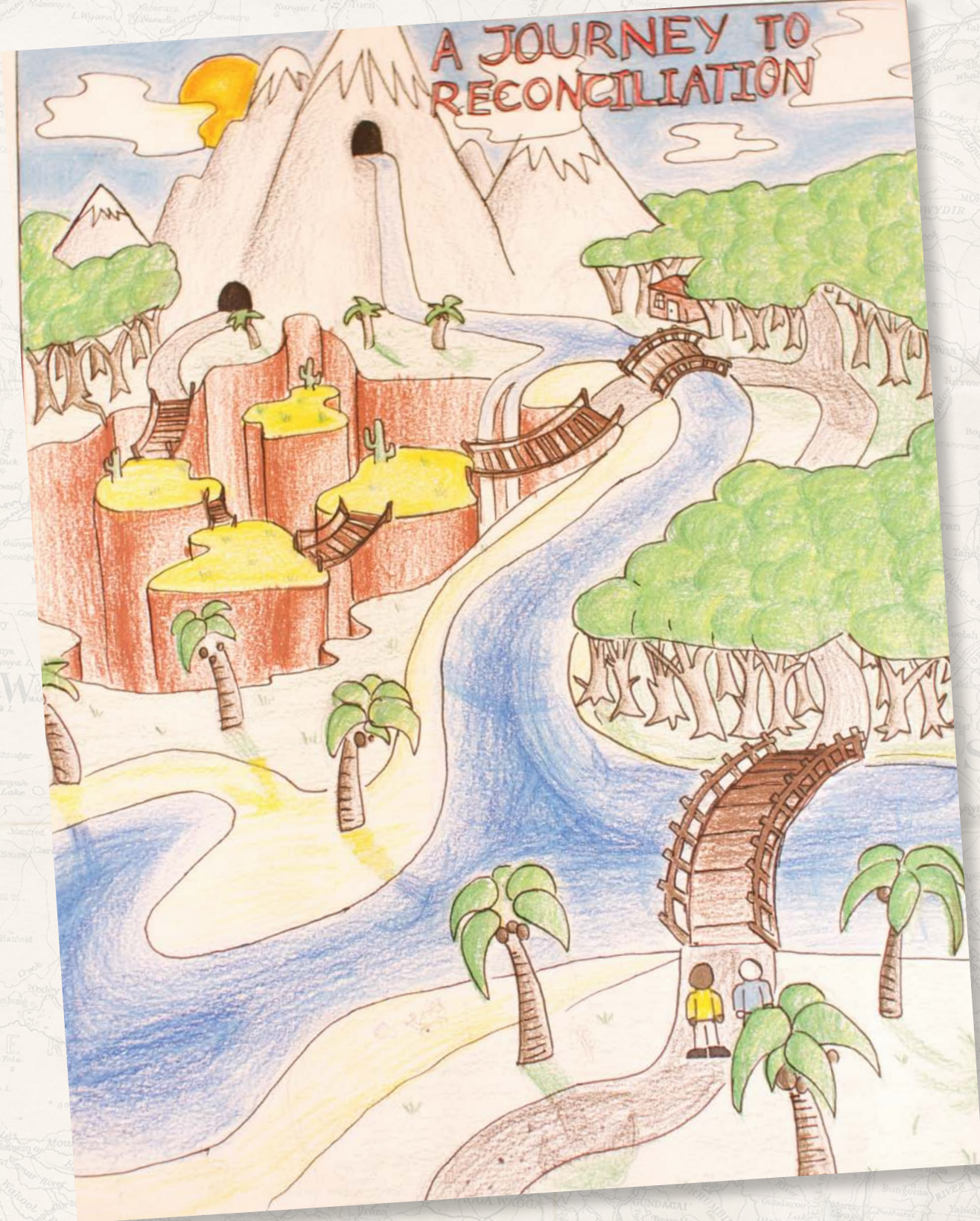




## Operation Refugee

Reddam House  
Max Moran  
1st Place, Secondary School

My work explores the idea of refugees and the journey of hardship that people have gone through. I have juxtaposed ideas of the First Fleet as 'refugees' with today's constant debate on 'boat people'. The labels refer to government policies on refugees and explore the idea of seeking asylum as a human right. Here the past becomes part of the present as we as Australians try to work towards a solution for this issue and find reconciliation



## A Journey to Reconciliation

Newtown High School of Performing Arts  
Callum Worsfold  
2nd Place, Secondary School

My artwork, A Journey to Reconciliation, represents the fact that reconciliation is a very possible concept but it will take a long and difficult walk to achieve. It features an Indigenous Australian and a man of a different background working together to achieve a better future. Our Journey is represented in the long path that the characters must take to achieve reconciliation.





# Murrumbidgee

Williams Hill Special Education School  
Kristian Martin Gibbs  
**3rd Place, Secondary School**

Our journey of learning. In our class we have learnt there are some students of Aboriginal descent. We have also learnt that other students are from India. We have learnt about our river, listened to the didgeridoo, spoken some Aboriginal words and listened to a Dreaming story. We learn together. Our class is the best.

# Twisted Branches

James Meehan Public School  
Daniella Dazman  
**Highly commended Secondary School**

Twisted Branches is about my family tree and not knowing my relatives. This connects with Reconciliation and the branches of Aboriginal's family trees twisting to find who they are and their families' backgrounds. It is my journey of my parents moving to Australia and not having any family and the impact it has on my life and my search for identity.





# Terra Nullius

Reddam House Middle School  
Jessica Altit  
Highly commended Secondary School

The issue of Aboriginal land rights dominates my artwork. I explore the issue of terra nullius as a European approach to Australia and the journey we have gone through from the Captain Cook landing in 1788 to the Mabo decision in 1992 and more recently Rudd's apology speech. These have been represented through the passport stamps of important dates throughout our history and the combination of maps showing the importance of land from both parks and the idea of all these ideas coming together to a new future

# Happy Reconciliation Time

Cabramatta High School  
Luke Leota and Chris Trinh  
Highly commended Secondary School

Our artwork symbolises the journey the world (now separate) will go through to reach equality. Also that black and white are nothing but shells as we are the same inside – humans. The woman represents the pain the races have been through. The cracks on her face represent a lifetime of tears.





**NEW SOUTH WALES  
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