

NAIDOC WEEK



(Glen Park PS 2025)



**Unit plan for 'Our Dreaming' and 'The Quinkin' for students P-6
for NAIDOC Week 2025 by T. Shaw**

Our Dreaming

By Kirli Saunders and Dub Leffler



Goodjagah, little one, walk with me ... I want to tell you our Dreaming as the Elders told it to me. Award-winning storytellers, Gunai woman Kirli Saunders and Bigambul man Dub Leffler explore a deep love and respect for Country and all her spirits ... past, present and beyond.

About Kirli

Kirli Saunders (OAM) is a proud Gunai Woman who rarely stays in her lane. She's an award winning multidisciplinary artist, an author to nine books, singer-songwriter and consultant. Kirli creates, to connect, to make change. She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to the arts (2022). Kirli has partnered with global organisations including Google, Fender, Sydney Opera House, Qantas and Spotify, Mecca and Aesop on visual art and writing projects.



Kirli's webpage

<https://kirlisaunders.com/shop/p/our-dreaming>

About Dub

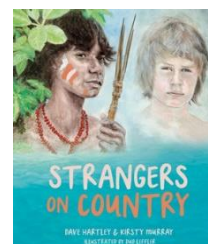
Dub Leffler is an illustrator, writer, animator and mixed media artist, working in the arts through books, film, television, muralism and art education. He has taught and workshopped illustration in Australia, Scotland, Indonesia and the United States. He is a prominent children's book illustrator and author, collaborating with Sally Morgan, Banksy, Coral Vass and others, and is known for his soft realistic portraits and emotional landscapes. He is descended from the Bigambul and Mandandanji people of southwest Queensland as well as being of French, Syrian and Irish heritage. He lives with his daughter and family of chickens on the Central Coast of New South Wales in Darkinjung country. His award-winning bestseller picture book *Once There Was A Boy* (2011) received international recognition, was acquired by the Library of Congress and was featured several times at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. More recently, Leffler illustrated *Sorry Day* (2018), written by Coral Vass, which won the 2019 Eve Pownall Award for Information Books from the Children's Book Council of Australia. Dub has created 25 books.



Dub's webpage

<https://www.dublefflerillustrator.com/about-1>

Dub illustrated the excellent 'Strangers on Country' which I have also used as the basis of NAOIDOC Week activities



- Reading of the book on Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loGZHHXe1eM>
- Notes from Scholastic
https://resource.scholastic.com.au/ResourceFiles/100101453_105034.pdf
- Book review
<https://paperbarkwords.blog/2022/12/23/our-dreaming-by-kirli-saunders-dub-leffler/>

Investigations after reading the book

- Which indigenous people are the traditional custodians of your local area? Do you know the words that would be used for such things as mountain, river, earth or gumtree in your local language? If you do not live in Gundungurra Country, as a class, research your local language, and learn the local words for the places, acts and ideas that are explained in the wordlist in the back of the book
- What do you think is the most important message in Our Dreaming?
- Visit a wildlife park such as Ballarat Wildlife Park or Healesville Sanctuary.
- Go for a bush walk in your local area. What native plants and animals can you see? Do you see any plants or animals that also appear in the story? Choose one of the creatures that appears in the book and find out more about them.

About this unit

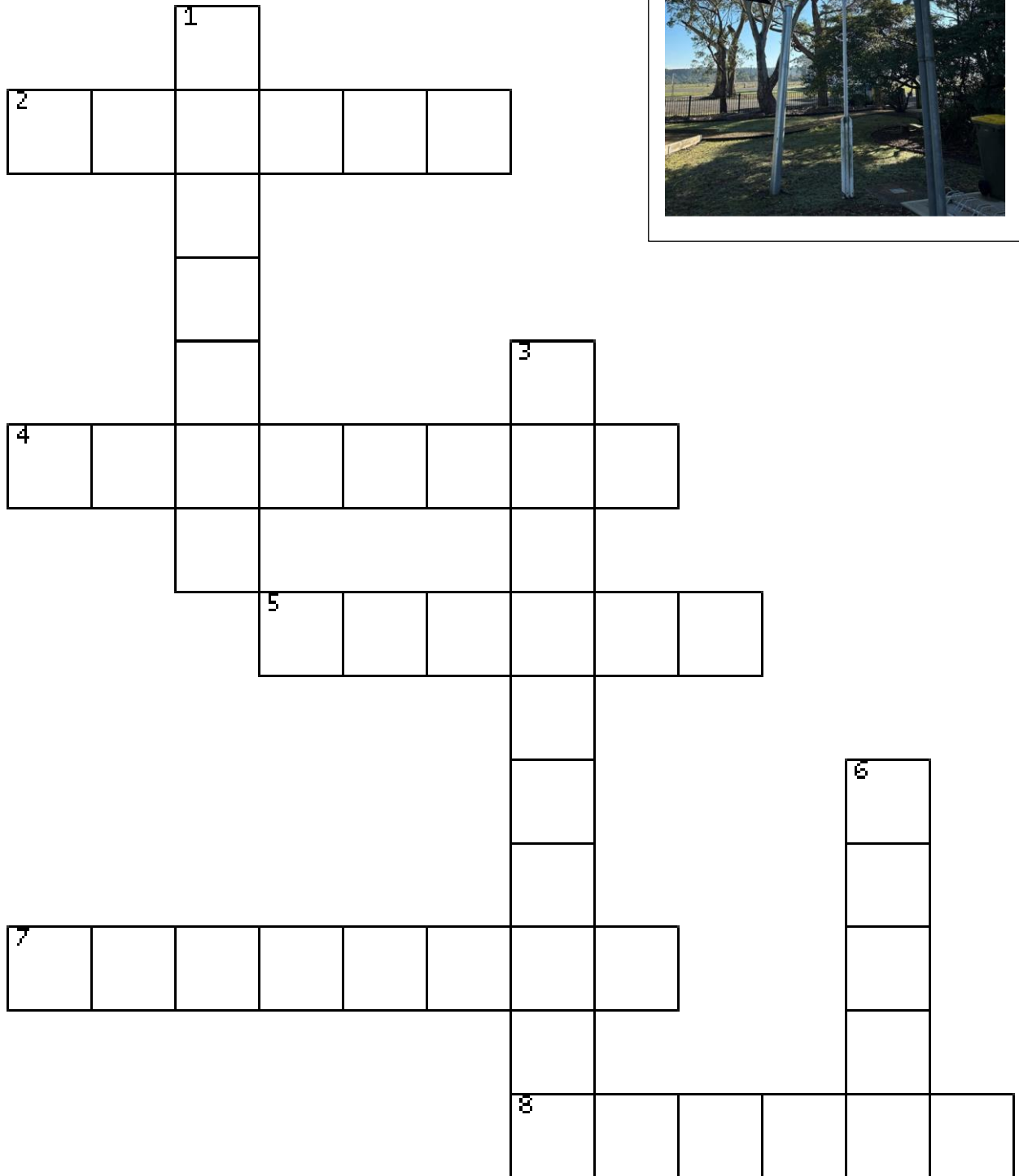
I for purchased copies of this book and The Rainbow Serpent (Dick Roughsey Angus and Robertson) for all students to refer to while completing tasks in this book. This unit is designed primarily for grade 4-6 but some tasks can be undertaken by grade 1-3.

Our Dreaming

Matching

Gundungurra words	English words
Burringilling	earth
daore	Small child
darrambyang	dreaming
dhuulu	ancestors
goodjagah	walk/work together
gunar	walk
Gunyunggalung	today
maarang	river
ngununggula	gumtree
Yana	Mountain top
yangoo	talk

Crossword

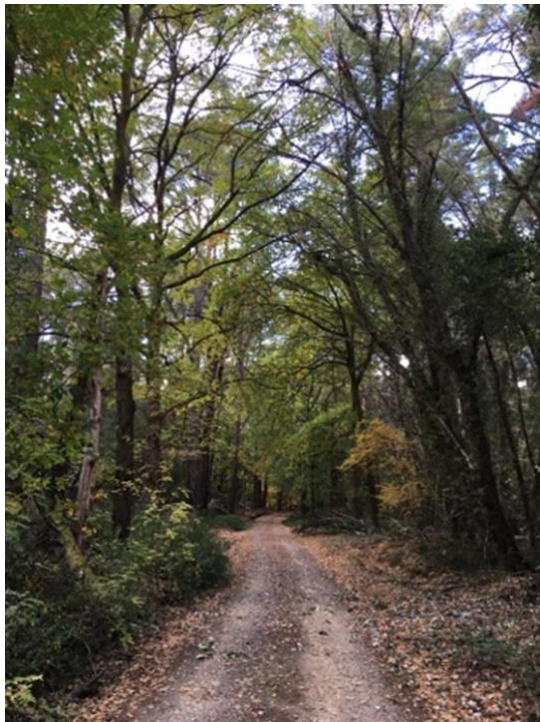


ACROSS

2. Dreaming is timeless, it is our
4. Our dreaming tells us of the
5. We learn about other dreaming as we sit and yarn and patiently.
7. Each nation has their own
8. sites were formed by the creator spirits.

DOWN

1. Our dreaming lives in, songs and art.
3. Our journey is our path, with laid down.
6. Dreaming reminds us that we are never



Bush and pasture around Glen Park PS

Our Dreaming

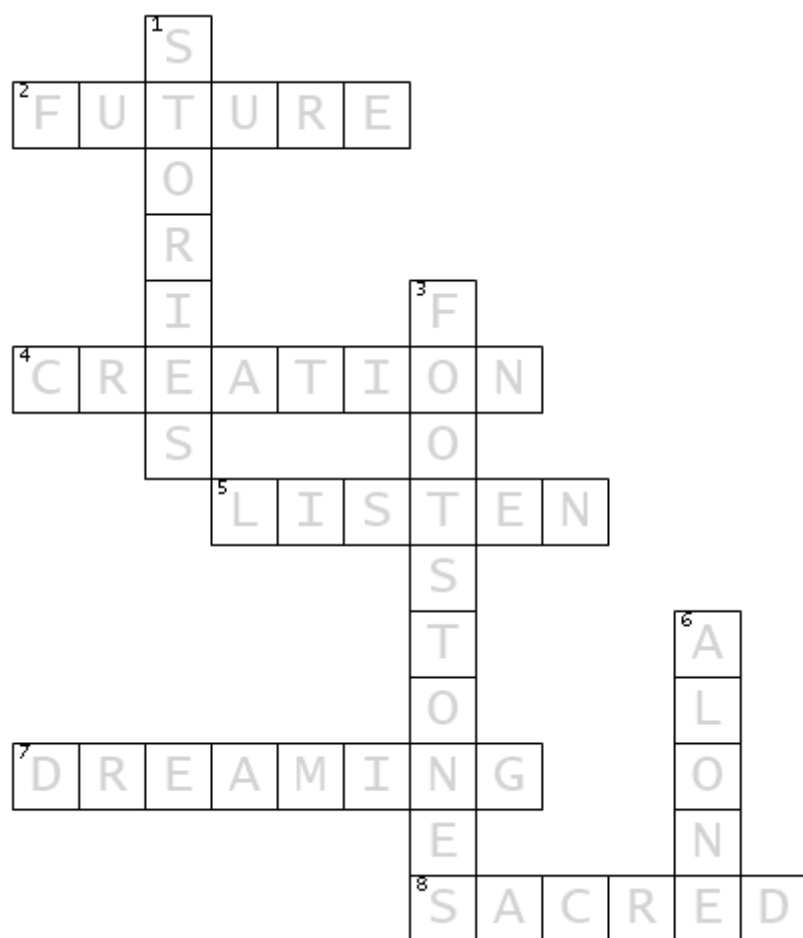
Wordsearch

S G G S N A T I X K A Q
E O N U A J M W Y S L W
N O I D V C N U E L O X
O D M O R R R I M F N K
T J A J A S R E F H E R
S A E Y M O M U D U G J
T G R G T T T H Y M X V
O A D S B U N E T S I L
O H R D R E C H I D N A
F X D E R P N R J B N Y
A R R U G N U D N U G E
R A C U C R E A T I O N

alone	creation
dreaming	echidna
footstones	
future	goodjagah
Gundungurra	listen
sacred	stories
yarn	



Answers



S G G S N A T I X K A Q
 E O N U A J M W Y S L W
 N O I D V C N U E L O X
 O D M O R R R I M F N K
 T J A J A S R E F H E R
 S A E Y M O M U D U G J
 T G R G T T T H Y M X V
 O A D S B U N E T S I L
 O H R D R E C H I D N A
 F X D E R P N R J B N Y
 A R R U G N U D N U G E
 R A C U C R E A T I O N

Our Dreaming

List and illustrate 8 of the animals depicted in the book

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Native bees

Our Dreaming

We have been lucky to have had visits from echidnas to our school in the past. (refer photo below) Unfortunately, we couldn't observe them much because they roll up into a ball for protection, especially with noisy children about.

Create your own poster project about echidnas.

What type of animal is an echidna, its size, diet, threats, life span?

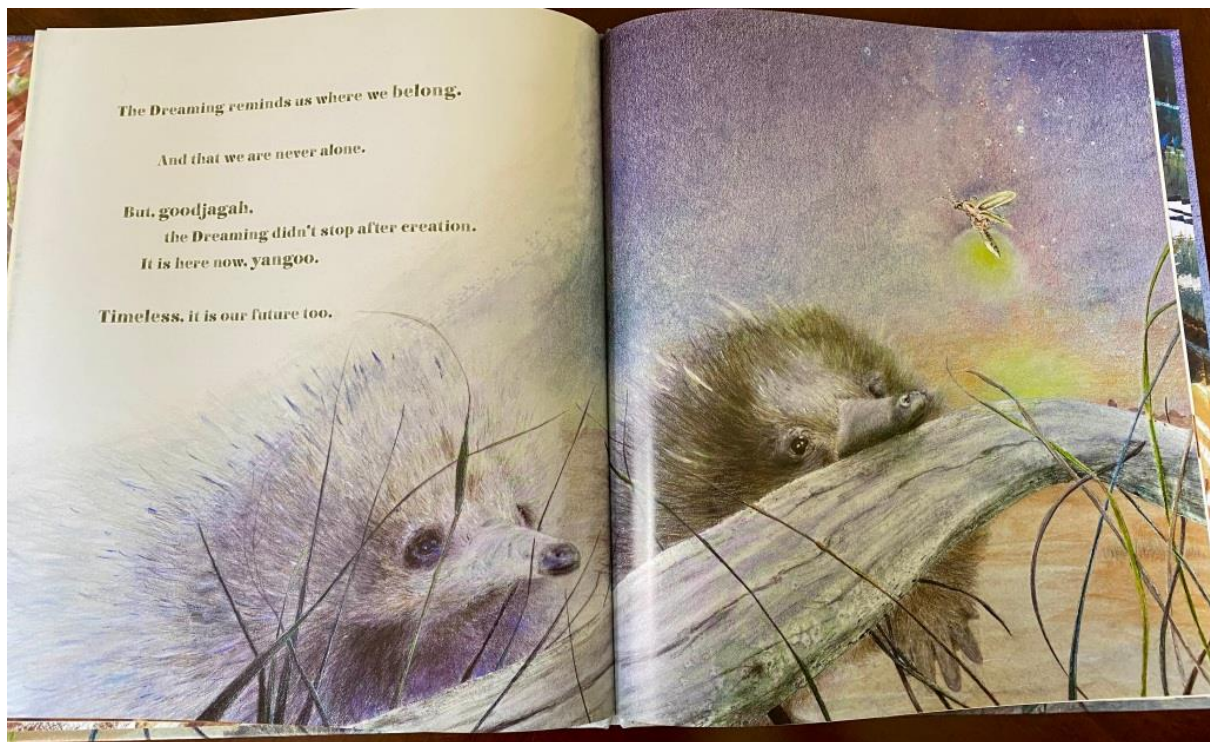


Photos above of native animals in and around our school.

Consider researching one of the other animals depicted in the book

Our Dreaming

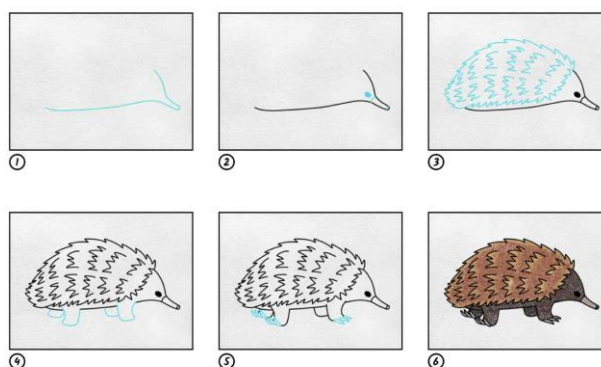
Refer to the end papers of this book. Note the mixture of water colour paint, coloured pencil and crayon. Create your own background in Dub Leffler's style in this book as the background for an illustration of a native animal such as an echidna



Refer <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/learn-to-draw-aussie-animals>

Steve Parish book: <https://www.qbd.com.au/how-to-draw-australian-wildlife/steve-parish/9781740218030/>

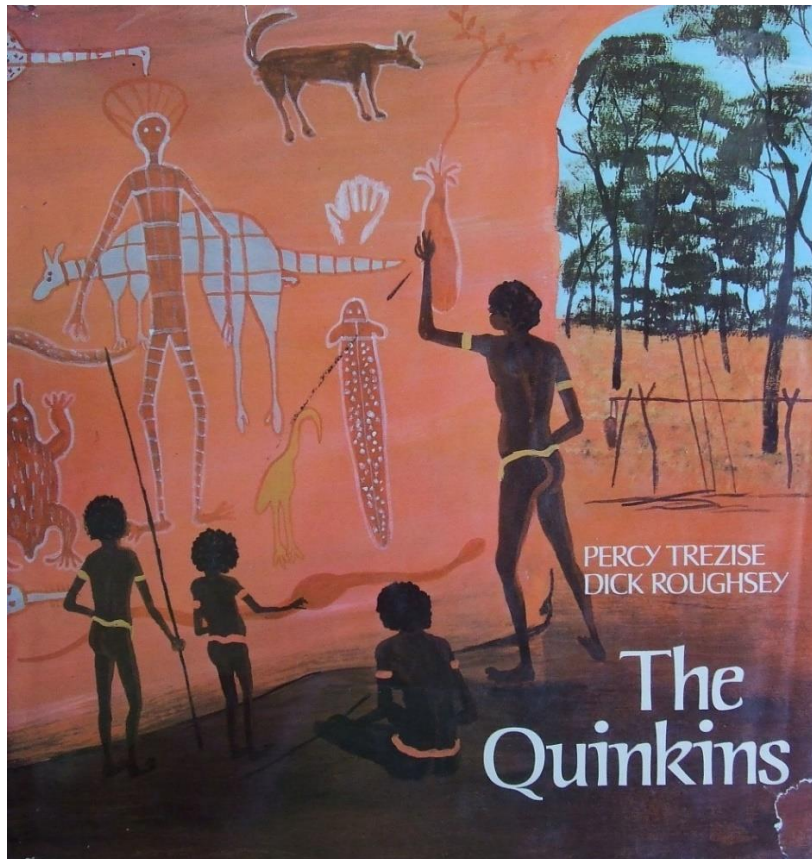
How to Draw an Echidna



From: <https://helloartsy.com/how-to-draw-an-echidna/>

The Quinkin

Aboriginal Dreamtime inspired art and creative writing lessons



'The Quinkins' is written by Percy Trezise and Dick Roughsey.

By T. Shaw

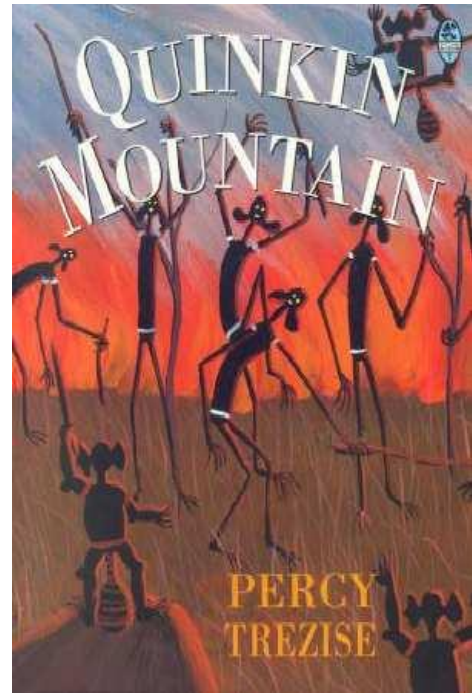
About this unit

This unit was originally developed in 2022. (I emailed Lauren Bowyer, renowned indigenous artist and received a response from her and some added information and made some alterations.) All students completed the craft task and creation story in 2022. Older students created megafauna PowerPoints/poster projects. Most of our students will be new to this unit in 2025.

The Quinkin

The Quinkan's names were "Timarra" the tall black figure who lives in the rock crevice's, he is a mischievous spirit, but he looks after the people & often ensures that "Imjim" the evil Quinkan (The one in Lauren Bowyer's painting) does not lure the children away to his cave to be eaten.

These spirit people are depicted in rock paintings in Queensland, especially around where Laura lives/works.



About the author

Link to a fascinating story about Percy Trezise and his passion for Aboriginal rock art and his particular interest in Quinkin.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-31/quinkan-rock-art-percy-trezise/5255960>

Imjim Quinkin by Lauren Bowyer

This painting was the original inspiration for this craft/writing/research unit.



Lauren Bowyer

Yuku-Baja-Muliku Traditional Owner / Ranger

Born in Mareeba Qld in 1985, my family moved to Cape Flattery Silica Mines where my Parents both worked for the Mitsubishi Mining Corporation.

As a child growing up, I did School of Distance Education and enjoyed fishing, beachcombing, swimming, dancing & singing.

In 1997 I went to boarding school in Charters Towers & later completed my high schooling in 2002 at Mareeba State High.

I never had much interest in painting and often opted to follow my father around in his job as Mine Supervisor, when asked I would tell people that the artistic gene was used up on my older Sister.

In 2013 at a Traditional Owner camp, I sat down for the very first time & painted Burnie Beans with layered dots in bright colours which people seemed to show interest in.

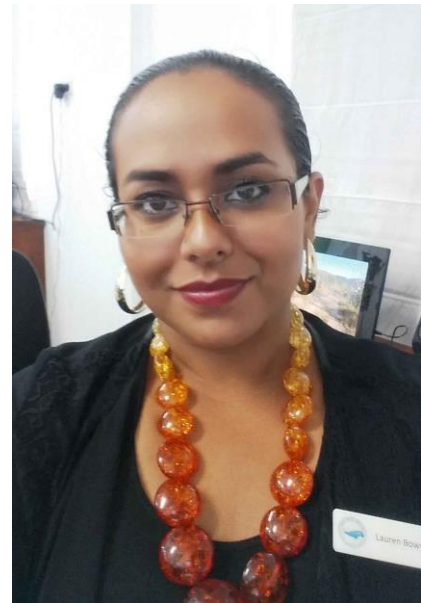
In 2014 at 29 years old I began painting for the first time ever on canvas & have found it to be a form of relaxation after work.

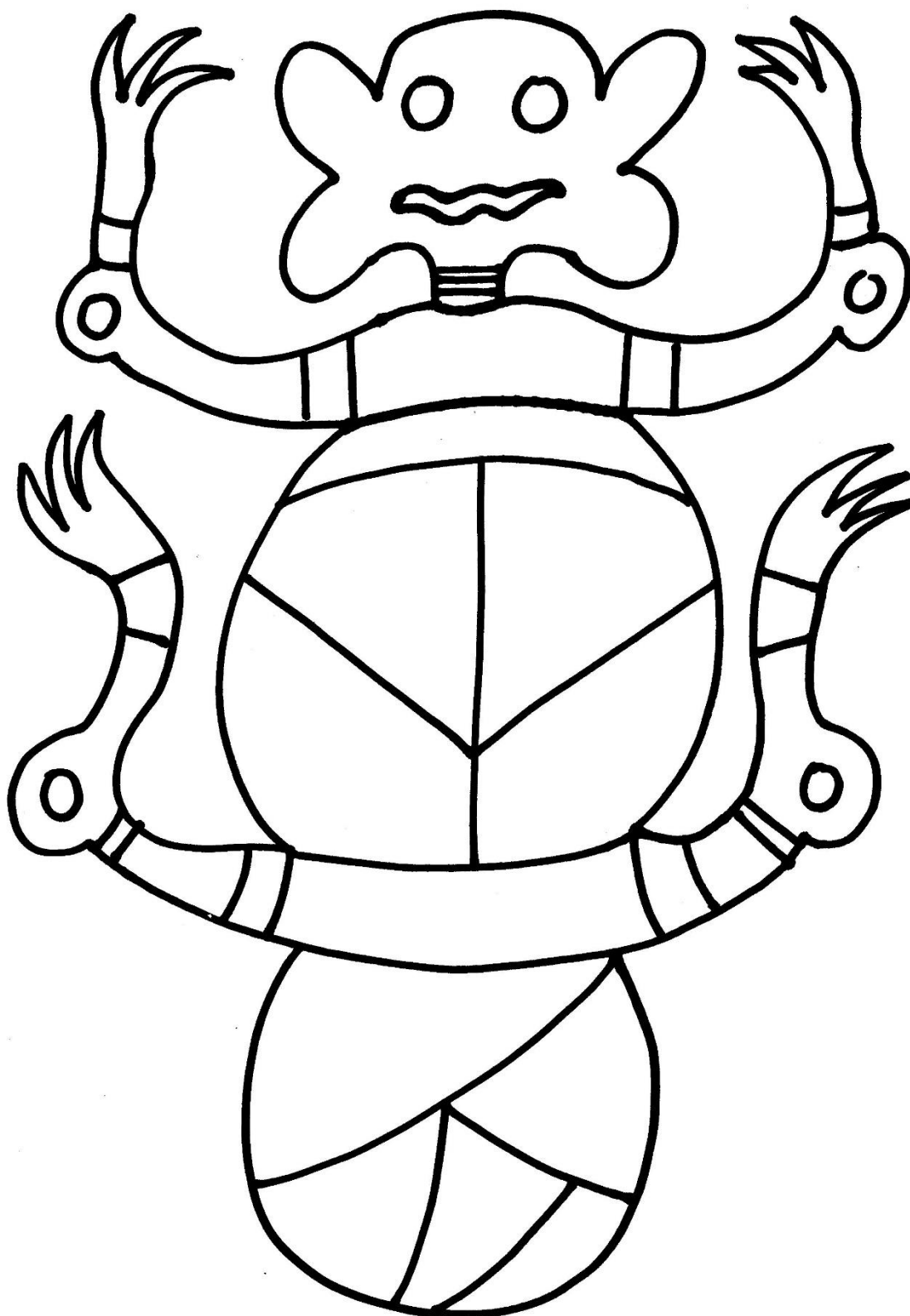
My family is a very large well-known family from Cape York, my Grandfather Jack Doughboy was an Annan River / Archer Point Traditional Owner.

My Grandmother Louisa Banjo was from the Laura area.

(Right) Tamara Quinkin by the same artist

<https://kukubulkaway.com.au/artist-works.php?artistId=286420&artist=Lauren+Bowyer>

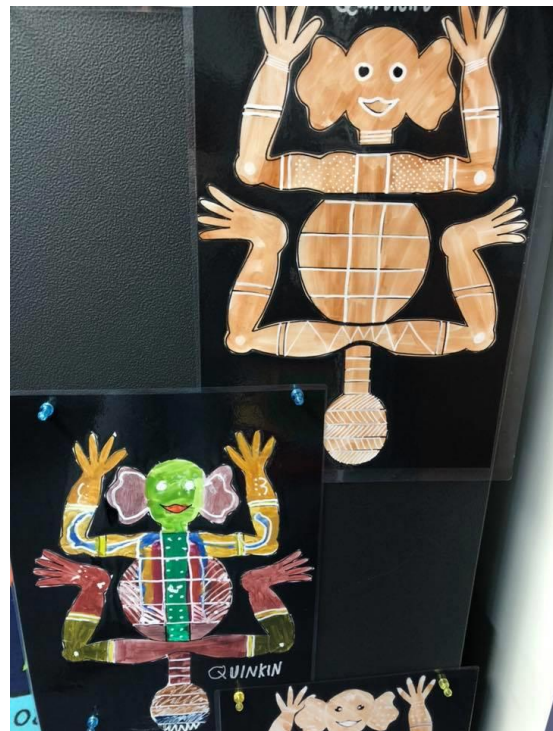




Print A3 size on cover paper. Paint over the Quinkin with a brown wash and paint over the lines in white. Cut it out into sections and paste it back together on black cardboard leaving a small space between each section.



Quinkin's created by students in 2022.



Writing

Have children write their own aboriginal Dreamtime style story (Maybe about the Quinkin?) or retell an old favourite like *Tiddalik* or *The Rainbow Serpent* (refer to some of the books below)

Write your story on the 'bark' outline and add a brown wash to it (or photocopy it on brown paper)

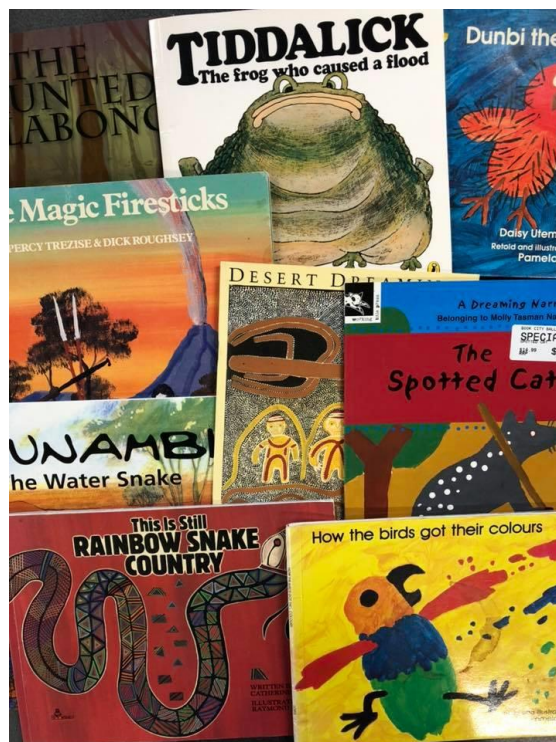
Add aboriginal symbols and imagery around the border. There are X-Ray style aboriginal art templates you can find online.

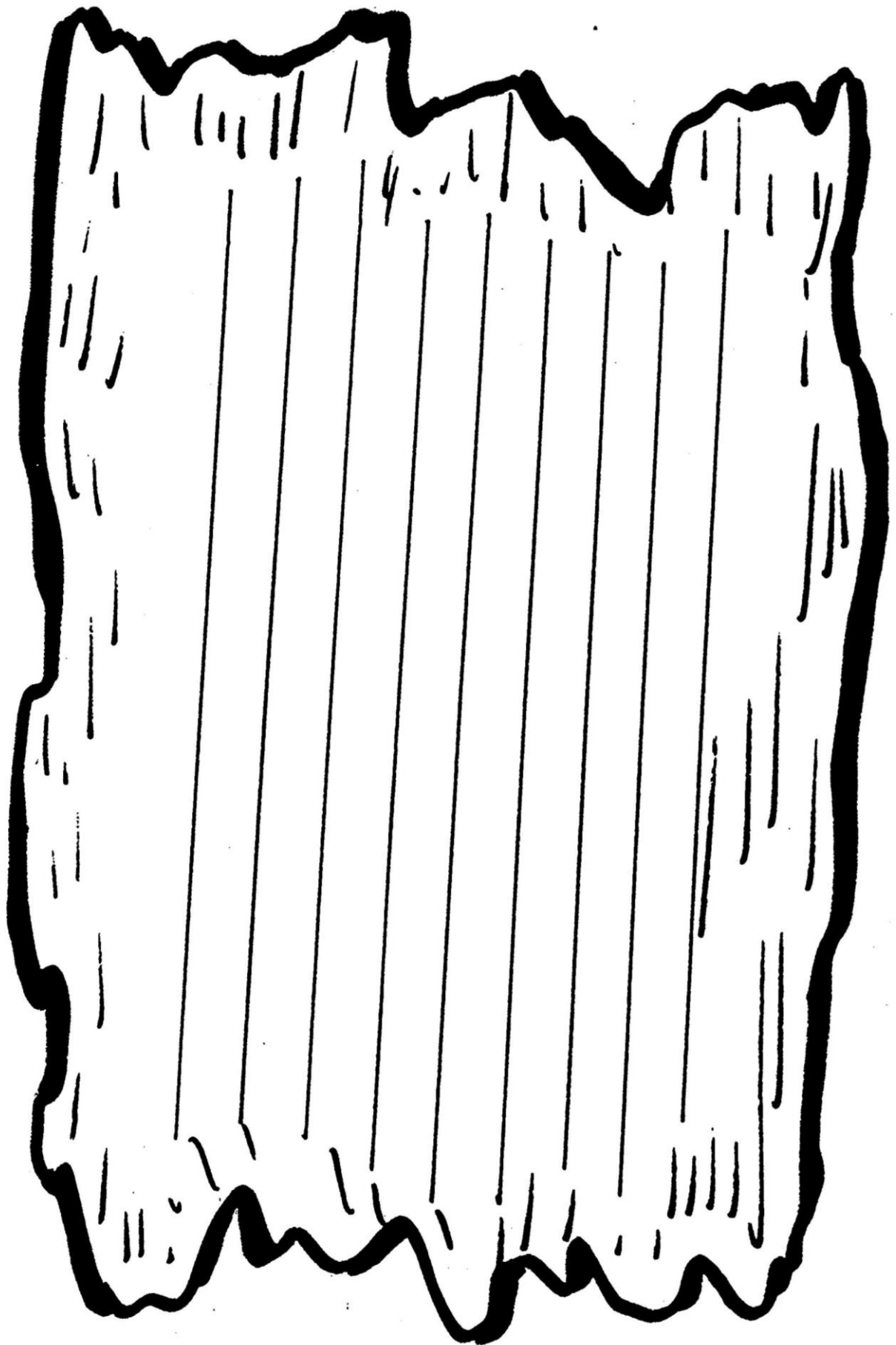
More information about the Quinkin:

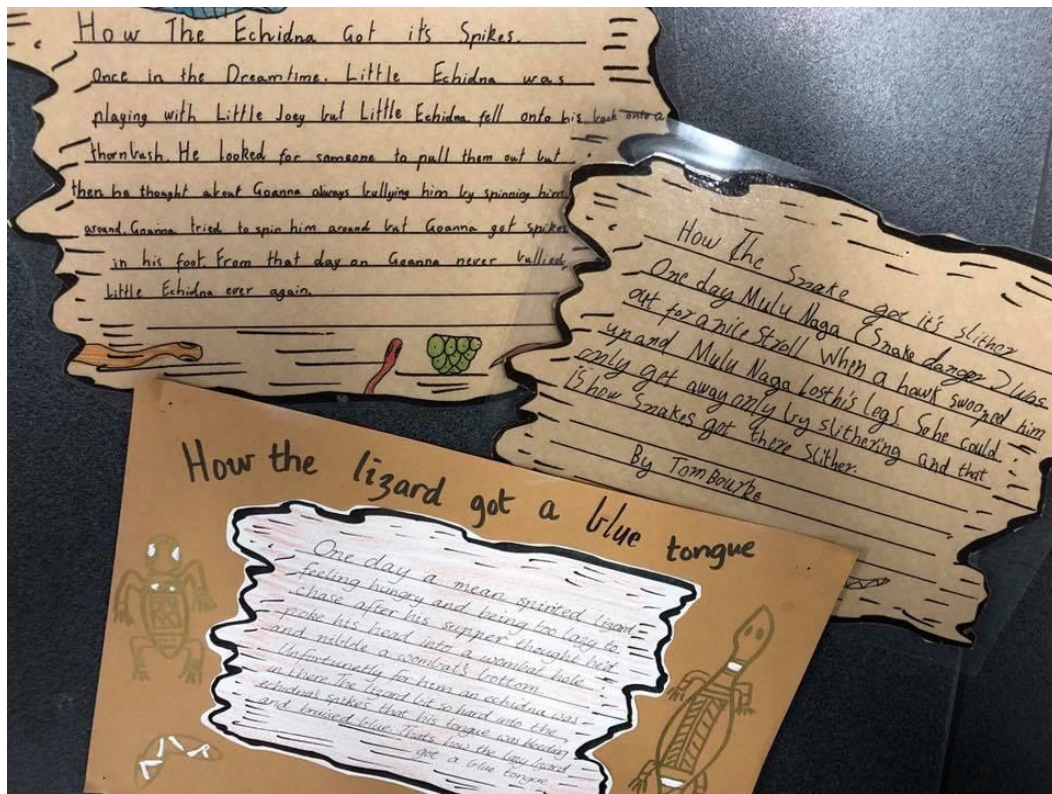
<https://mcccagora.com/2020/10/02/cryptid-corner-the-quinkan/>

About the illustrator Dick Roughsey

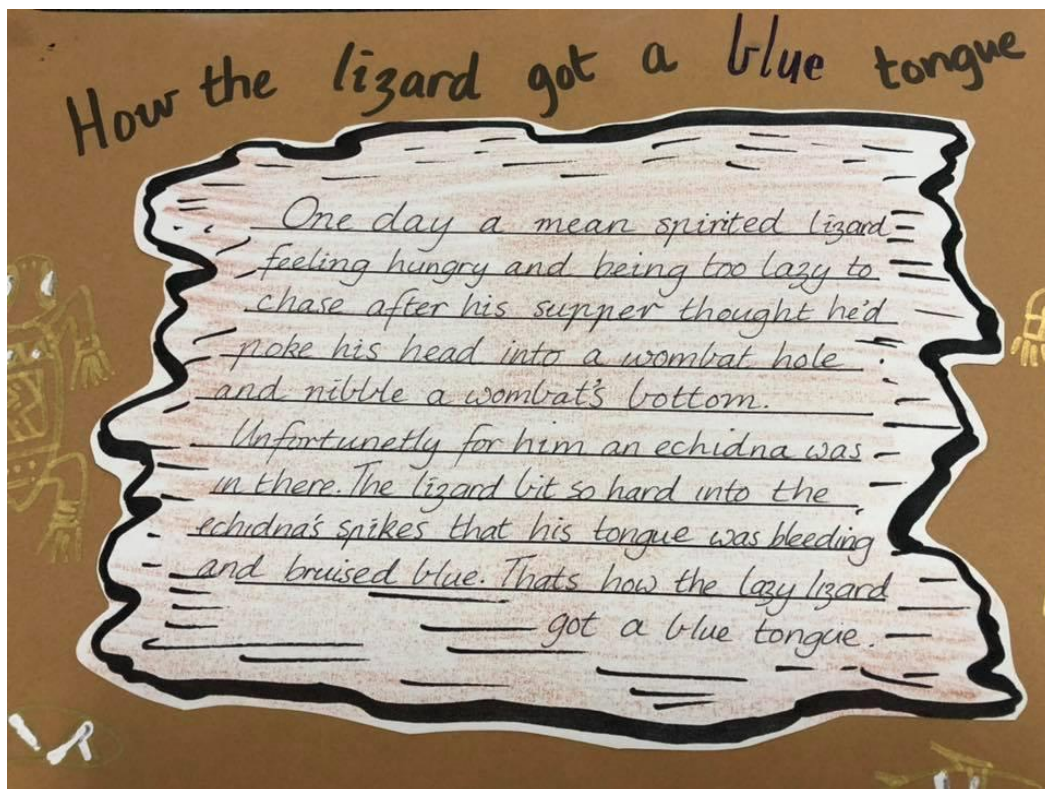
Aboriginal artist, Dick Roughsey, who he described as a 'gregarious, wonderful bloke', and together they penned several award-winning books for younger readers, including *Turramulli the Giant Quinkin*, *Quinkin Mountain* and *Gidja the Moon*. Roughsey also wrote another favourite of mine, *The Rainbow Serpent*, which won the Children's Book of the Year Award in 1976.







Creation stories written by students in 2022.



Examples of our 2025 work will be included on our School Facebook page.

Megafauna

Student Project Sheet

Imagine walking through the Australian bush and coming face to face (almost) with a 3-metre-tall kangaroo with a distinctive squashed muzzle or a wombat type creature



the size of a small car. You would be standing in Australia in the Pliocene era (30 000 years ago) confronting a Diprotodon and a giant short-faced kangaroo. (refer image)

Australians have probably heard of sabre-tooth tigers and woolly mammoths but probably not our own megafauna or the debate that rages about their extinction. Find out when megafauna lived in Australia, what they were like, how we know what we know about them and what may have caused their extinction.

Create a *PowerPoint* project about Australia's magnificent megafauna.

- Slide 1: Title slide
- Slide 2: Contents
- Slide 3: Introduction sentence
- Slide 4: On a map of Australia, indicate and name locations that are significant in the study of the Australian megafauna.

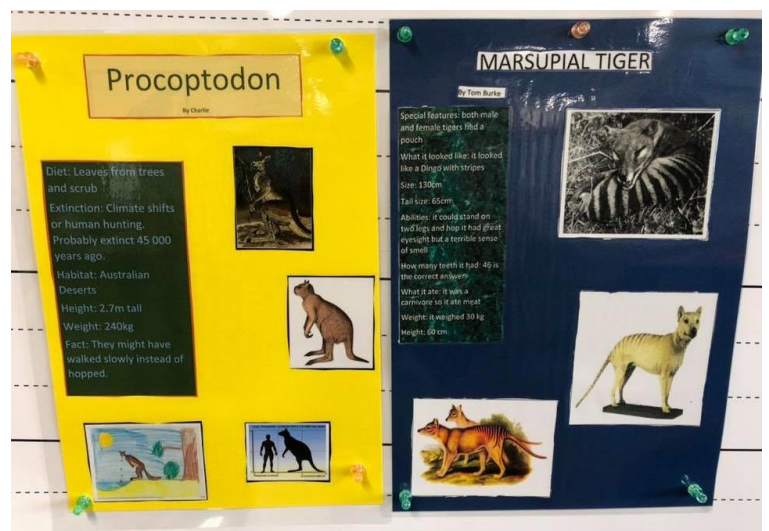
- *Slide 5-7: Complete a profile of 3 different varieties of megafauna.*
- *Slide 8: Your choice – timeline, information about Australia’s climate or vegetation, information about the arrival of aborigines to Australia? (No more than 2 slides)*
- *Slide 9: Outline current theories regarding the extinction of the Australian megafauna. (Your last slide should be a bibliography. You can also include an ‘image’ page. But no more than 12 slides)*

Alternatively create a poster on an example of Australian megafauna or an extinct native animal. Include information about:

- when it lived
- when it became extinct
- why it possibly became extinct
- its size (compare it to a human)
- what it ate
- its habitat
- its modern-day ancestors
- any other additional facts.

Investigate mega-fauna in Australian literature: (*Beyond the Dusk, The Nargun and the Stars, A Little Fear.*)

Image (right) poster projects about Australian mega-fauna from 2022.



Email from Lauren Bowyer 2024

Good morning, Anthony,

Apologies for the very late reply, I have been off ill & no one had given me the heads up about this email (it had gone to my spam folder for some reason). Thank you for reaching out regarding the Quinkan & my strong cultural connection with them; I have had a look at the work that you forwarded, it looks good the only thing I would mention is that the Quinkan's names were "Timarra" the tall black figure who lives in the rock crevice's, he is a mischievous spirit but he looks after the people & often ensures that "Imjim" the evil Quinkan (the one in my painting) does not lure the children away to his cave to be eaten.

As a proud Quinkan country woman, I am honoured that you have chosen to teach our stories to the children in your class.

Kind Regards,

Lauren Bowyer

TUMRA Coordinator

Baya Waju Carbon

Manager Director



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