



David Dunn

SHARING CULTURE, ONE PAINTING AT A TIME.

*This book is dedicated to the boys at Tirkandi
Inaburra Culture and Development Centre who
provided the inspiration for this publication.*



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Compiled by Owen Dunlop and David Dunn.
Designed by PeeKdesigns.

COVER ARTWORK

This mural artwork was commissioned by the Burumbuttock Preschool to raise awareness of the animals and birds that live in the area and how staff, students and the community can use the Wiradjuri symbols to educate the next generation. Some key features of the artwork include echidna (Guwandiyalan), kangaroo(Wambaay), goanna(Googar), white-faced heron or blue crane (Gandaru), banjo frog (Gurulgan) and dragonfly (Galin-Balgan-Balangang).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Owen Dunlop
Petaurus Education Group Inc.
603 David Street, Albury NSW 2640
Phone: 02 6023 5608

Facebook: [@DONEbyDUNNART.daviddunn](https://www.facebook.com/DONEbyDUNNART.daviddunn)



Who is David Dunn?

David Dunn is an award winning, international selling artist with thousands of art pieces distributed around the world. He uses contemporary techniques, based on Indigenous stories built around silhouettes. David's painting style is simple, colourful, intelligent and he is an artist who respects his culture.

Born in Trangie, a small town west of Dubbo in central NSW, David was taught from an early age how to paint using "hobbytex" painting from a tube of paint, by his creative mum. She also taught him basic living skills including how to sew and cook. His dad taught him how to hunt, fish, drive and maintain cars and tractors. David's dad was also a good artist and taught him the skills of drawing.

As a young boy David learnt the basics of his culture from his aunt and uncles; however he learnt more about his culture when he went to Gaol for some misadventures.

Honestly, you wouldn't have wanted to know me if you had been around me when I was a young man.

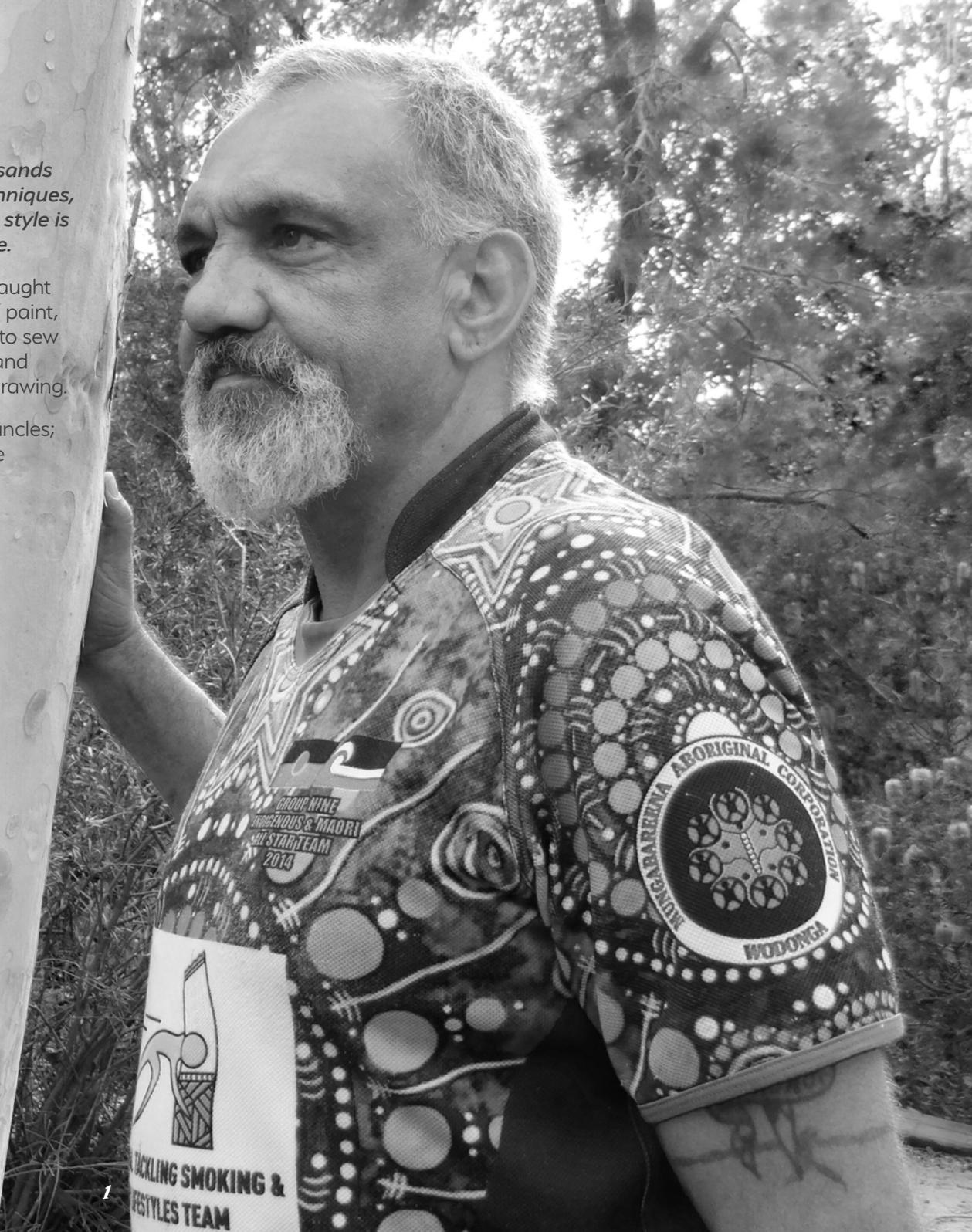
This is why he supports young people so they don't make the same mistakes he made when he was younger.

Learning about your culture is extremely important to David as he didn't know much about his own culture until he was a teenager. He wished he could relive his life knowing what he knows now, as learning about his culture has had a huge impact on his life.

*I didn't know who I was until I found culture.
Culture helped me become who I am today.*

He had the skills from his mum and dad but it wasn't until he saw another artist doing a painting, that he said to himself "I can do that and I can do that better, not being egotistical however, confident". David sold his first art piece "Body and Soul" in the Bomali Art Gallery in Redfern, Sydney.

Now working with Petaurus Education Group, David is delivering Indigenous artist-in-residence programs to education institutions from preschools to high schools and the community.





Classroom Art Workshops

David starts with doing coloured background on canvas boards, usually red yellow and black to represent both the setting sun and the Aboriginal flag.

On paper David instructs the children how to draw basic people by using stick figures. Children use his teaching to complete their own silhouette paintings.

"David is a lovely courteous man who really gets down to the level of the kids."

- Ross Circuit Preschool, Lavington

"David has been fabulous for our Preschool. He has helped us so much in providing experiences for the children and delivering positive messages to our community about Wiradjuri culture."

- Burrumbuttock Preschool





Playground Story Poles

David enjoys helping schools design and create their own story poles which relate to the area. Poles can represent the men, women, hunting, the animals and the environment around the area.

These story poles become a feature in the playground and can be used by children to play around and weave in and out of. Teachers and children can use the images on the poles to start storytelling sessions for many years after they have been completed.

"Such a rich experience for the children having David work with them, we look forward to having him return."

- Family Friend Home Support, Glenroy

"We had a lovely time with David - his patience and knowledge he shares with the children is wonderful!"

- Albury Out of School Hours Care





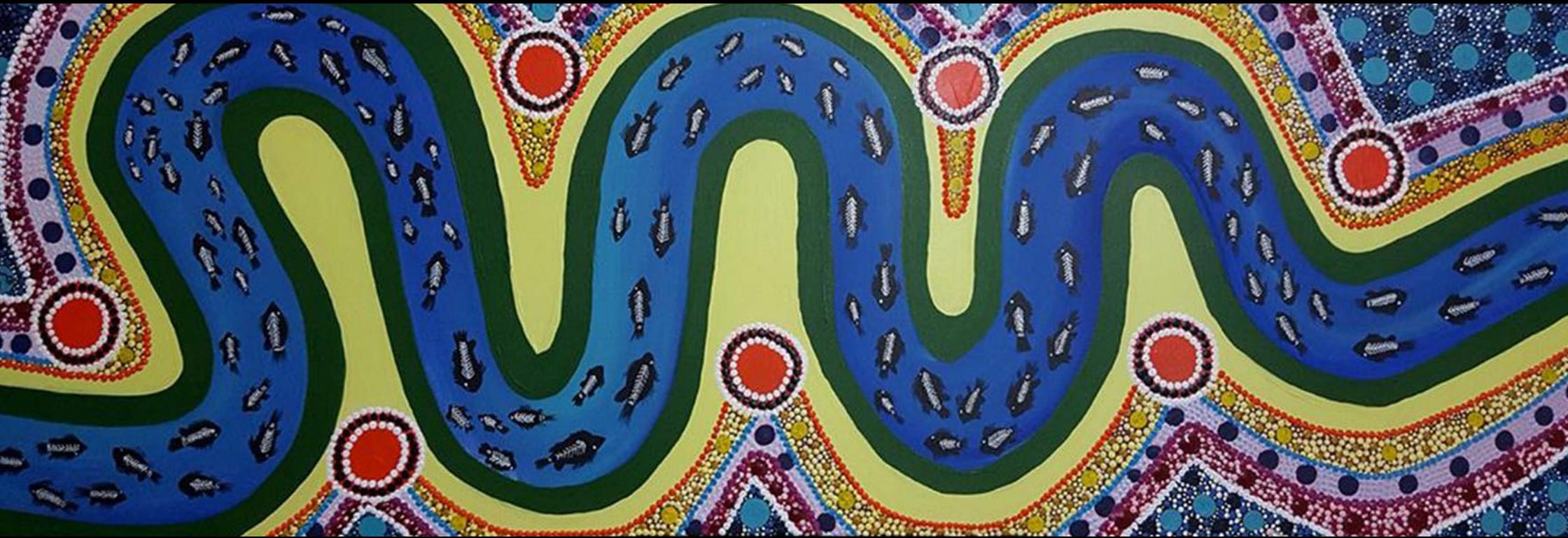
Teaching Our Young

This mural depicts the Elders teaching culture to the young.



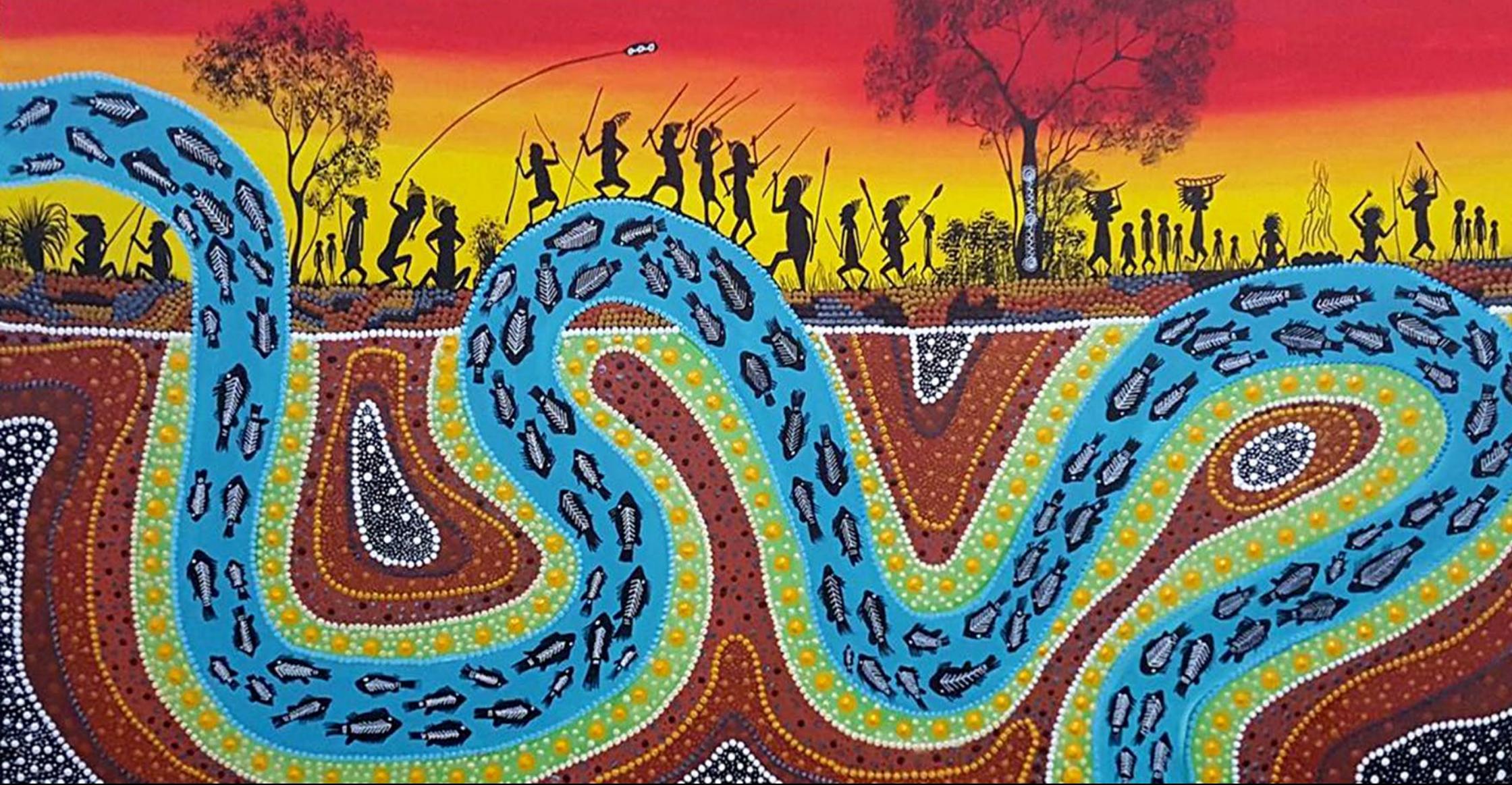
Teaching Our People

Teaching our young under the Tree of Knowledge.



Creation of the Murray River

How the great hunter, his two wives and two sons chased the great cod across the country. As the great cod swam, the Murray River formed in his wake.



Respecting our culture and environment

The Wiradjuri Nation giving thanks to our creator Biamee, for what we have.



Junee Preschool Mural

This lovely piece of work was commissioned by the Junee Preschool and represents the inclusiveness of the preschool connecting with their local environment and Wiradjuri culture.





Learning Mural at Lavington Public School

Bungambawartha Creek flows through the middle of the mural because in years gone by teachers used to take students down to the creek for environmental lessons. The creek is now a key part of Lavington's stormwater management.

The animals represent fauna that live around the Wiradjuri Nation which children learn about through books, staff and community. These include the kangaroo

(wambuwuny), emu (dinawan), echidna (guwandiyala), sand goanna (googar) - the totem of the Wiradjuri people, Murray cod (mungji), platypus (biladurang), magpie (dyirigang) and many more animals from Wiradjuri Country. There are also Indigenous designs/motifs around the mural so the students can learn by looking and talking about the mural.

There are at least ten different colour schemes in the mural that represent the diversity of the students, teachers and community.

Sun Mural

This sun mural depicts the Wiradjuri people hunting.

David understands traditional people hunted for approximately four hours at a time. Women often collected berries and small animals while the men hunted for larger animals such as kangaroo (Wambuwuny) using spears and bundies (clubs).

In the artwork you can see women and men celebrating the day's catch.



Cloud Murals at Lavington Public School

These three circular murals represent the cloud design or motif of Wiradjuri culture.



▲ The first green mural represents the hunting and gathering which used to take roughly four hours each day.



▶ The second blue mural represents the women bringing the tucker to the campsite for the tribe to prepare, cook and eat.



▶ The third red mural symbolises giving thanks to the spirit for providing food and resources.



Teaching the Young ▶

The women are teaching the young girls how to collect bush tucker.



◀ Celebration of a Nation

Represents all teachers passing on knowledge.

Teaching Children ▶



◀ Men's business



Corroboree ▶

Aboriginal men teaching the young boys how to dance and give thanks to their "higher power".

◀ Tree of Knowledge

The men standing under the Tree of Knowledge seeking advice from the Creator.





Murals at Culcairn Public School

These five murals erected in 2017, represent the significance of birds, insects, land, water and egg laying animals for traditional people and their totems.



Albury Preschool

These murals depict the significance of the Bungambwartha Creek and its wildlife. The creek flows past the preschool in central Albury.



◀ Honeymoon Bay

Honeymoon Bay, located on the south coast of New South Wales, is a spiritual place for the Ulan Tribe.

It is a spiritual place for David also.

Wiradjuri Dreaming

Wiradjuri Dreaming is one of David's first artworks completed in 1994.

Time ...

... what is time?

Dreamtime!



Darlington Point Public School display of student artworks created at one of David's workshops.



Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre is an Aboriginal community run centre offering Aboriginal boys aged 12-15 years a culturally-based residential program aimed at strengthening the boys' cultural identity, self-esteem and resilience.

The name "Tirkandi Inaburra" means "to learn to dream" in the Wiradjuri language. Tirkandi Inaburra delivers a culturally based residential program aimed at strengthening cultural identity and resilience and empowering its young participants to reach their full potential in life.

The Centre is located on a 780 hectares rural property between the townships of Coleambally and Darlington Point in the Riverina district of south-west NSW.

David visits Tirkandi Inaburra each term and talks with the boys about Wiradjuri culture.

www.tirkandi.org.au

