



Sun Cycle

Artist Billyara

In the beginning of creation, Biame (God) sent down the rainbow serpent to help with the balance of Earth's rotation. The serpent created rivers, gullies, caves and mountains when it moved through country.

It was a time of darkness and Aboriginal people struggled to find food with dangerous creatures like the Crocodiles hiding in the dark. Then the sun was created shining light all over the land for everyone to see.

The sun warmed the Earth and clouds began to form, rain dropped filling the rivers with water, fish, crocodiles and other creatures then started to swim.

Trees and plants started to grow and snakes and lizards laid out on the ground enjoying the sun's warmth. This made it easier for people to hunt and gather their food. The sun would come and go, creating time of day and a time of night. This cycle has continued since creation began.



Yarning Circle at Night

Artist Billyara

This painting depicts a bird's eye view looking down on a yarning circle at night time.

The yarning circle is where people come together to sit and share their stories and knowledge and to learn from others. We pay our respects to the people, both past and present of each land which we meet on.

In Aboriginal culture storytelling and communication was very important. A Yarning Circle is a traditional method of communication for Indigenous cultures in Australia. They are a way to pass on knowledge, history and also for story telling.

Each Indigenous nation will use a Yarning Circle differently. Yarning Circles have been used throughout Aboriginal history, and continue to be used today for open conversations, story telling or "yarning".



Spirit Totems

Artist Billyara

In lots of cultures and religions all over the world people have believed to connect with their spirit totems and spirit beings.

In most societies it is believed the connection with your totem can give you spiritual guidance and help recognise inner abilities like healing, inspiration, strength, keeping one self and others safe and link with the spirit realm like religion. Australian Aboriginal totems can vary from elements, wind, rain, lightning, water, fire, stars or plants, flowers, trees, animals and beings.

Beliefs are still continued through dance that are performed mimicking the totems, legends and myths told through art and storytelling. Songs are sung and music is played to respect the connection which has been passed on for generations.

Macquarie
River

Dubbo



About the Artist

Billyara

Billyara is a respected artist from the Wiradjuri tribe. The name Billyara comes from the artist's totem, an eagle.

The eagle stems from the artist's connection to the land. Billyara has been painting Aboriginal art for 28 years and teaches these traditions to younger generations. Billyara's work has been exhibited extensively, and has sold his paintings internationally. Through a relationship with Modern Teaching Aids, Billyara hopes to introduce contemporary Aboriginal art to young children in fun and engaging ways.

The Wiradjuri Nation

The Wiradjuri are New South Wales's largest Aboriginal group. Their land covers approximately from the Great Dividing Range in the east, to Hay and Nyngan in the west, Gunnedah in the north and Albury in the south.

Their land is known as having three rivers: Kalari (Lachlan), Wambool (Macquarie) and the Murrumbidjeri (Murrumbidgee). The Murray River is on the southern boundary. The Wiradjuri were highly skilled hunters, gathers and fishers, and their diet came from their local land. As the land consisted of a lot of water, seafood such as cod and yabbies were important in their diet. The Wiradjuri were made up of small clans or family groups that followed the seasonal nature of the land.

Albury

Andergrove



About the Artist

Charlie Wicking

Charlie Wicking is an amazing artist who lives in Queensland, and she is Australian South Sea Islander and Aboriginal. Charlie has been painting approximately since 1999, and she also works in Early Childhood Education. As Charlie lives in a coastal area, she is inspired daily by her natural environment, particularly the sea. This local inspiration is reflected in her artworks. Charlie has a colourful and vibrant style of painting.

"My name is Charlie Wicking. My real name is Charmaine Marree Baggow. I was born in Mackay, Queensland. The Traditional Custodians of the land here and surrounding districts is the Yuibera, Barada Barna and Widi Tribes.

I am a descendant of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander people of this area. My South Sea Islander family came from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu prior to being black birded to work in the cane fields in the Mackay District. In history books they are referred to as Kanakas. Some people are offended by the term. The black birding era is a dark page in Queensland's history.

I wish I knew all the stories my ancestors had to tell me but unfortunately time has erased a lot of the valuable details I want to pass on to my future grandchildren. I value my Ancestral past and I acknowledge my descendants proudly.

I love the area I live in, the wonder of the rainforests, the beauty of the sea, the harshness of the earth, when nature is at its hottest. It's my home, my sanctuary. It provides me with a muse that I can't get enough of, the inspiration for my art.

We have to protect the land and sea where we live and play, once it's gone, it's gone. You can't eat or drink money. If we protect country, country will protect and provide for us."

