

YOUNG MOB 8

1. **Alice** (13 years)

Palawa

Gathering Basket, 2025

clay, leather, pokerwork on wood, shell, and dried flowers

4.5 x 16 x 20 cm

I created this basket at the Koorie Heritage Trust young artist's workshop. The idea was to create a gathering basket from clay that looked like the kelp baskets that Tasmanian Aboriginal women used to collect food. The handle is black to represent kelp. I made the wooden base with the wood burner. The design shows a fish swimming in the kelp forests found around Cape Barren Island (my home).

2. **Amber** (12 years)

BoonWurrung

Marngrook, 2025

possum pelt, charcoal, dried Lomandra and waxed linen thread

13 x 13 x 13 cm

I have made a Marngrook (possum skill ball). Out of possum pelt, sewn together with waxed linen thread and stuffed with charcoal, dried Lomandra and possum pelt offcuts. Our Mobs used to come together to play Marngrook pre-colonisation at

Tanderum (at the site of where the MCG is now) against the other Mobs in the Kulin Nation. I learned to make these Marngrooks at a Koorie Heritage Trust workshop with an Aunty. It makes me proud to learn to make things how we always have and to continue to keep Culture alive.

3. **Archie** (9 years)

Gunai Kurnai

The snake and the rock, 2025

synthetic polymer paint and paper on canvas
41.5 x 41 x 2 cm

My painting is about a whip snake in a cave. There is tiny bat eyes in the cave too. Try to spot them in the painting.

4. **Arlo** (7 years)

Wadawurrung

The Creeper, 2025

synthetic polymer paint on canvas
40 x 30 x 3.5 cm

The Creeper is from a game Arlo plays and Nanny told me to put the trees in.

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5. **Arwen** (7 years)
Gunai/Kurnai
- Aboriginal Garden, 2025*
synthetic polymer paint on clay, cardboard,
felt, feathers, wire and gumnuts
14 x 35 x 18 cm
- I made plants in a garden or all the special
plants I know
6. **Atlas** (5 years)
Gunai/Kurnai
- Colourful, 2025*
synthetic polymer paint, clay and glitter on
canvas
30 x 40 x 10 cm
- I made a rainbow and put glitter everywhere.
7. **Birdie** (10 years)
Gunai Kurnai
- Strong Women, 2025*
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
35.5 x 28 x 4 cm
- I made this painting to show the strong
women who stick up for each other and
family always.
8. **Cecillia** (9 years)
Yorta Yorta, Wemba Wemba, Dja Dja
Wurrung
- Bayadherra, 2025*
raffia and dyed wool
5 x 22 x 12 cm
- My totem is the bayadherra, the long neck
turtle. My totem is always protecting me. I can
swim really good in the river especially the
Murray River when I am on country because I
am like my totem.
9. **Charlie** (14 years)
Worimi
- Turtle swimming, 2025*
pokerwork on wood
41 x 41 x 0.5 cm
- Through wood burning and staining she
shares the story of the turtle — that reminds
us of balance, strength, and connection to
Country.
10. **Corazon** (8 years)
Wambuul Wiradjuri
- Waa Weaving, 2025*
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
42 x 32 x 5 cm
- Waa flying up into the sun.
11. **Eli** (11 years)
Walbundja/gunaikurnai/barkindji/bungjulung
- Mobs Goals, 2025*
synthetic polymer paint on wood
75 x 5 x 5 cm
- This bat represents mob coming together to
play sports.
12. **Elysha** (12 years)
Wiradjuri
- Meeting at the Lederderg River, 2025*
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
42 x 32 x 5 cm
- Meeting at the Lederderg River.

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13. **Estah** (7 years)

Yorta Yorta, Wemba Wemba and Dja Dja
Wurrung

Tocumwal Blowhole, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
20.5 x 25.5 x 1 cm

This is the Tocumwal Blowhole on Yorta Yorta country. When I was there I saw animal tracks and bush tucker and I saw where my ancestors walked.

14. **Grace Lilly** (12 years)

Yamatji/Noongar

Jellyfish, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
41 x 30.5 x 1.5 cm

Walking along the rosebud foreshore last week with Mum and Aunty Dawn, we came across some beautiful jellyfish which i kept in mind for this painting.

15. **Henry** (11 years)

Palawa

Emu Egg Carrier, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on emu egg, leather
and grass
32 x 10.5 x 10.5 cm

The emu egg is painted with a kangaroo (my totem) and an emu. Surrounding the animals are their footprints. The egg is sitting in a leather carrier which has a woven circle as its base. The idea for the carrier came to me when I was thinking about how to keep the egg safe. The carrier has two-parts, the outer part is the handle and the inner part is the support - to keep the egg secure. I made the egg and the carrier at the Koorie Heritage Trust young artist's workshop.

16. **Indego** (13 years)

The Adventurer, 2024
synthetic polymer paint on modelling foam
2 parts:
16 x 9.5 x 12.5 cm; 1.5 x 7.5 x 2.5 cm

When I was younger, I liked learning about the character Coraline Jones, because she is creative and goes on lots of adventures. My artwork shows Coraline in her yellow raincoat with her magical black cat, cap, dowsing rod and 3 pebbles that she uses when she goes on her adventures. Sometimes it can be hard to explain what I'm thinking or feeling, but my art makes it easier to tell my stories.

17. **Kiara** (16 years)

Mandandanji, Bidjara

Youthful Voice, 2025
digital print on paper
53 x 42 x 3 cm

I wanted to honour the stories of these children, which are part of my own family's history. This piece is about remembering, truth-telling, and celebrating the strength that continues to live on through generations.

18. **Lumiki** (6 years)

Wiradjuri

Koori Necklace, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on wood, twine
34 x 8 x 1.5 cm

I wanted to make a beautiful necklace so I designed one in the workshop at the Koorie Heritage Trust.

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19. **Lyric** (10 years)
Gunai/kurnai

koala, 2024
stringybark, cotton string
30 x 30 x 8 cm

The Stringybark Koala tells a story of culture and Country. It reminds us to care for our animals, land, and the knowledge passed down to young mob.

20. **Makaylah** (16 years)

life within, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
46 x 45.5 x 3.5 cm

this artwork was created over a few weeks, i created this during school in vce art. at first i wasn't sure on what i was going to create, but i started by painting the background and then later on thought of creating a pregnant mother.

21. **Malikhai** (7 years)
Gunditjmara Wotjobaluk

Lost, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on watercolour paper
30.5 x 38.5 x 3 cm

It's a maze to get people lost.
Then they need to get here to get out.
And there will actually be a secret passage way, because this will be a wall that you can walk through. Then I'd never get lost again.
So if all the people try and walk through the wall then it won't work because it only works on my family.

22. **Nioka** (15 years)
Wamba Wemba, Yorta Yorta, Mutthi Mutthi

Bana Woka (Possum Country), 2025
pokerwork and ochre on possum skin
83 x 34 x 4 cm

This artwork represents the life time of a possum from birth to adulthood. Telling a story of its unique journey and path on country. Showing how this nocturnal mammal lives alongside us humans peacefully.

23. **Phoenix** (6 years)
Gunai/Kurnai

Phoenix the Kookaburra, 2025
synthetic polymer paint, clay, feathers and glitter on canvas
30 x 40 x 1.5 cm

It's an Aboriginal flag with a smoking ceremony, these are animal tracks that the animals come to see the flag and Phoenix the kookaburra, we go through the smoking and put it on us.

24. **Ryatt** (9 years)
Yorta yorta

My Star in the Dreamtime, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
35 x 28 x 1.5 cm

25. **Sapphira** (16 years)
Gunditjmara Mob

Echoes of Country, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
60 x 50 x 1.5 cm

The art piece brings together traditional symbols and modern elements to honour heritage, represent Country, and communicate stories across generations. It highlights themes of resilience, environmental stewardship, identity, and unity - important pillars that shape both culture and community.

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The flowing water patterns and concentric circles speak to the ongoing connections between people, land, and spirit, reminding us of the responsibility to care for Country. The handprints ground the work in identity and belonging, symbolising both individual presence and collective strength. Animal motifs, including the turtle and lizard, embody resilience and survival, while the crab and native plants point to the richness of environment and the balance of ecosystems.

The use of dots, waves, and pathways reflects movement, journeys, and the passing down of knowledge, ensuring that stories are carried forward. Modern colours and forms weave seamlessly with traditional design, demonstrating how culture evolves without losing its essence.

This work ultimately becomes a visual dialogue between past, present, and future - a reminder that heritage is alive, that Country sustains us, and that unity and stewardship are shared responsibilities for generations to come

26. **Seraphina** (11 years)
Gunditjmara

Connections, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
3 parts: 25.5 x 25.5 x 3 cm (each)

I made this out of different printed paper i have made over the past two years. I use acrylic paint and a gelli plate to make the prints. I like putting different colours together.

Woven Community
the paper is woven together just like community. the weaving represents how we are stronger together.

Calming Country
the leaves represent Country. they are lemon scented gum leaves from my backyard. The smell of the leaves makes me feel calm.

Comforting Culture
the possum skin cloak represents Culture. Gunditjmara people used these to keep warm. I enjoy learning about my culture.

27. **Shaela** (11 years)
Gunditjmara Wotjobaluk Gunaikurnai

Remembering Chora, 2025
watercolour pain on canvas
28 x 23 x 3 cm

I heard the story of *The Invisible Leash* (Patrice Karst et al) which says our hearts are connected by love forever even if we're apart or one of us dies. My painting remembers (sic) me of Chora. Chora was my respite carer's dog who was old and she died.

28. **Steveeh-Susan** (7 years)
Yorta Yorta, Wemba Wemba and Dja Dja Wurrung

LOVE, 2025
synthetic polymer paint on canvas
20.5 x 25.5 x 1 cm

My painting is about how I love the bush and my land and nature. I want to take care of the land like my ancestors did.

29. **Tyreese** (10 years)
Gunai/Kurnai

animals, 2025
synthetic polymer paint and feathers on canvas
30 x 40 x 1 cm

I have made rainbow serpent, kangaroo, bunjil and waa.

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30. **William** (10 years)
Nyoongar

synthetic polymer paint on canvas
30 x 30 x 3.5 cm

31. **Zoey** (5 years)

Koorie Family, 2025
synthetic polymer paint, permanent marker
and glitter on canvas
51 x 41 x 2 cm

This is home. Everything's messy and covered
in sparkles but it all becomes lots of circles. In
here is us and how we are family.