East Ayr State School

Connection to Country

What is Country?

“Country is everything. It’s family, it’s life, it’s connection” — Jude Barlow, Ngunnawal Elder

Country is the term often used by Aboriginal peoples to describe the lands, waterways and seas to which they are connected. The term contains complex ideas about law, place, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, material sustenance, family and identity.

This artwork celebrates the deep connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with the sky, land, and water. Using a combination of watercolour, shibori, and batik techniques, students explored how colour, pattern, and texture can be used to tell stories and express important cultural connections.

The blues and yellows represent the sky, symbolising the sun, stars, weather, and the knowledge that has been passed down through generations. Earthy browns, reds, and ochres reflect the land, honouring Country and the strong spiritual and cultural ties Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with the places they belong to. The blues and greens represent the waterways, oceans, rivers, and seas that provide life, sustain communities, and connect people across generations.

Through layering colours and creating unique patterns with shibori and batik, students have represented the relationship between the sky, land, and water. Their artwork reflects an appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and highlights the importance of caring for Country and respecting the stories, traditions, and knowledge that continue to be shared today.

Connection to Country 2026

Satin, gold pins, acrylic paints, water colours, glue, cardboard stars, thread, wire.