Townsville Central State School

Black Cockatoo

The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is a familiar presence around our school and in the tall trees along the shoreline, its distinctive calls connecting us to the natural environment and the Country on which we live and learn. The species also holds cultural significance for First Nations peoples, with its behaviour and presence contributing to knowledge and understanding of Country.

The distinctive black and red colouring of the cockatoo is reflected throughout the artwork, alongside patterns, textures and forms developed by the students. Through collaboration, individual ideas became part of a larger, shared vision, as students shared skills such as sewing and crocheting and learnt new techniques and creative approaches from visiting First Nations artists.

Mindfulness was an important part of the creative process. Students were encouraged to slow down, observe and listen — becoming more aware of the natural world, their own thoughts and feelings, and the contributions of others. Creating together became an opportunity for reflection, patience and connection.

The woven panel on the back of the cape symbolises a shared journey, with individual threads, hands and ideas coming together to create something stronger and more meaningful than any one strand alone.

Black Cockatoo celebrates resilience, renewal and connection. It reflects the students' experience of learning and creating together, while developing a deeper sense of connection to place and the natural world.

Black Cockatoo 2026

Recycled jacket, cotton material and thread, synthetic feathers, recycled wire shapers, staples, glue, fabric paint, T-shirt, pants, recycled plastic segments, and glitter.