Wulguru State School

Echidna and Goanna

The inspiration for our artwork came from students' curiosity and exploration of predator/prey relationships. We chose the echidna and goanna because both are culturally significant to Indigenous Australians as important food sources and figures in Dreaming stories.

The echidna is admired for its resilience and ability to protect itself. Its spiny armour and defensive behaviours, such as rolling into a ball or burying itself, mean it has very few natural predators. However, large goannas can prey on echidnas using their strong jaws and claws to pry them open or dig them out. Both animals symbolise strength, survival and adaptability. Echidnas have long been valued as traditional bush food and medicine, particularly for elders or the very ill, while goannas have been an important food source for thousands of years, with their fat and oil also used in bush medicine.

Our artwork incorporates finger knitting and crocheting, reflecting the interests of many students and providing opportunities for others to learn new skills. Yarn was also used in the headpiece, wrapped around wire to create exaggerated echidna spines for visual impact. Students painted leaves on canvas and wove in knitted leaves and vines to form flowing bush foliage. Painted tree-bark patterns and goanna tracks on the pants highlight the goanna's climbing ability.

The goanna was sculpted from wire, aluminium foil and masking tape before being painted and decorated with rhinestones to mimic its distinctive markings. Students and volunteers also created ants from recycled Styrofoam packaging. The finished piece features an echidna hidden among leaf litter, protecting itself from the prowling goanna.

Echidna and Goanna 2026

Florist wire, yarn, canvas, paint, pipe cleaners, styrofoam packaging, aluminium foil, masking tape, mixed fabric, recycled inner material of a bicycle helmet and rhinestones