



INTERNATIONAL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Yaama! Welcome to **Burraga**



Burraga is the Dharug word for Koala. Dharug is the language of the Gadigal people on whose land we play and learn. We thank the Gadigal people for sharing their land and promise to look after our class totem - Burraga.

A totem is an animal or plant given to you at birth that your family has a special connection to. Each of us in the IGS Early Learning community belong to a totem group. It means you are responsible for looking after that animal or plant and its habitat.

Our totem artworks were created during our Language for Belonging Project by Wiradjuri artist Bianca Caldwell and the children of IGS Early Learning 2022.

Through creating and yarning Bianca has given us part of herself, her spirit and her knowledge.



The Burruga is depicted with its head facing backwards. This is where it's knowledge comes from. The circles represent children, families, teachers and community. The children are sitting around the circles. There are two main circles, one for each ground floor class. Each child placed their fingerprint around the outside of the artwork.



Burruga eat eucalyptus leaves. Whilst yarning with Aunty B the children learned about how new babies are cleansed in water baths with eucalyptus oil. First the leaves are boiled to release the oils. The oil has cleansing and antibacterial properties.

We need to look after and protect the Burruga's habitat, the eucalyptus trees in the bush.

Some Aboriginal Elders are knowledge holders. They can pass their knowledge onto others. Knowledge is passed down through storytelling, symbols and doing things together.



We learned to only take what we need and leave most natural things where we find them. We respect the plants and the animals.

Talking together is called yarning. It's an important way to learn together. When yarning whilst making things your spirit and the knowledge shared stays in the object. When you do a great job we say 'deadly!'

Aboriginal jarjums (children) were taught by their Elders. They call their Elders Aunty or Uncle as a sign of respect. If a child mucks up they are being 'moogool.'

Aunty B taught the children about different uses for natural materials. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples used dried bottle brush flowers as hair brushes. They wrapped their babies in fur skins. Babies were placed on paper bark or in coolamons - curved beds made from wood.

