

# Yaama! Welcome to **Garrawan**



Garrawan is the Dharug word for Currawong. 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 - Currawong.

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 Garrawan bird made a nest in the tree outside the classroom window using wire coat hangers and sticks.



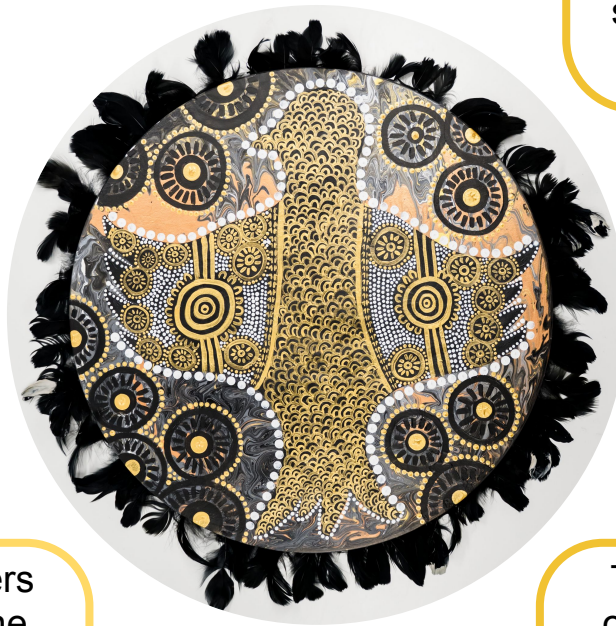
The children created a marbled background using black, white and gold paint.

The central arches represent knowledge. The two circles on the wings are the two Level One classrooms, Garrawan and Jungaa.

The outside circles represent children, families, teachers and community.

We need to look after and protect the Currawong's habitat, the trees, bush and air.

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



Aboriginal jarjums (children) were taught by their Elders. They call their Elders Aunty or Uncle as a sign of respect.

We used black feathers around the edge of the artwork to represent the Garrawan's nest.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples use natural materials to make their artworks.

The children made their own nest using wire coat hangers and sticks. 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.

