



Maitland Private Hospital Aboriginal Art Workshop



Mural Concept Design & Narrative Presentation





Acknowledgement of Country

Nginyan marrungku parrany wiyany Wanarruwa,
miirumalikany parra anyi parraykupa
ngaatjany nginyan marrung wiyany
Ngarrakay parranypa, yurakakal,
ngaatjany pangaykal.

We acknowledge the Wonnarua People,
traditional keepers of this land,
and we pay respects to
their Elders past
and present.

Wanarruawa Parray – Wonnarua Country

This vibrantly coloured artwork mural shares the country and culture of the Wonnarua Nation, bringing a welcome to all, while acknowledging the Wonnarua as traditional custodians of the land and the footprint on country of Maitland Private Hospital.

Central to the design a gathering circle with people symbols depicts coming together as a community inclusive of the Wonnarua people, Maitland Private Hospital and the wider community. At the top of the gathering circle the traditional symbol for Elders highlights the position of respect Elders hold and this symbolism, along with the Wonnarua totem of the Wedgetail Eagles, together bring the acknowledgement of the Wonnarua custodianship of country.

People symbols flow outwards across country highlighting community and that it's all about people and connection to each other as we do life's journey together. This imagery sits upon Mount Yengo, a highly significant place to the Wonnarua and neighbouring tribal groups, as the dreamtime story tells of Yengo's flat top being where Biame (God Creator) stepped down to earth to create country and back into the heavens afterwards. High in the Sky and also seen depicted within Yengo Mountain we see 3 linked people symbol depicting Biame and his supreme spiritual place in all things.

Traditional imagery for the Sun and Stars holds prominent position within the sky's above country, while the areas place of wetlands and rivers is represented with water symbolism running down the left side of the artwork design. The yellow pathway of message sticks flowing horizontally across the artwork highlights past, present and future generations, with the message of reconciliation and working together around shared vision, to create better futures for our children engraved within each one. Ochre handprints reflect traditional handprint cave sites across the landscape and underlay the murals acknowledgment of country. This imagery together is a sign of connection to place for the Wonnarua and the welcome they extend to visitors to this place and country.

The songlines on country backdrop share the Wonnarua people's connection to country, as they are known as the people of the hills and plains. Together the colour palette and songlines design captures the diverse beauty of Wonnarua country, a land, of mountains and valleys, richly interlaced with vibrantly colored rock forms dramatic and constantly changing from dawn to dusk and extremely rich in cultural significance.

Wanarruawa Parray share this with you and encourages the reader to connect to local communities and learn more about the unique culture of the Wonnarua people.

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Wanarruawa Parray – Wonnarua Country Design Explanation



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Aboriginal Art Workshop





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