

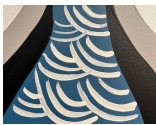


'Tikilara, Spirit of Place'

by Simone Thomson (Wurundjeri / Yorta-Yorta)



Birrarung, the majestic river of mist and shadows weaves gently across Country from its birthplace at the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, to the saltwater Bay of Naarm, the place known as Melbourne. This significant and sacred waterway was a vital food source for Wurundjeri people for thousands of years providing river fowl, yabbies, eels, freshwater fish and shellfish. The river represents nourishment and life and our sacred waterways which sustains us.



Mountainous ranges frame Country either side of the Birrarung – the hilly segments. They are Corhanwarbul, the Dandenong Ranges – the richly dense rainforests and fern gullies in which the river flows – and Geeboor, the Macedon Ranges. Within these rolling hills is Wil-im-ee Mooring, Mt William – the sacred and spiritual gathering place in which clans from all along the east coast of the country would come to trade several highly treasured possum skin cloaks and other valuable items for one small prized green stone. The stone would be used for axe heads which were often as rare as having one per clan. The mountains represent the students' trading knowledge and information from their respective homelands in their life journey.



Four pathways enter the larger gathering circle. They are the north, south, east and western skies and represent the journey tracks of the students who come from around the country to Mannix College. Floating gum leaves represent the lands and sacred waterways of the Wurundjeri Tribe and pays respects to the country in which Mannix College sits.



Connected circles within the servery area symbolise community coming together to enjoy and share meals and to connect with one another. The larger repeating waves symbolise campsites and represent the campsite of Mannix College, the home away from home.



In Aboriginal symbology, a person is represented by the 'U' and 'n' motif. From the bird's eye view, this is the shape a person makes whilst sitting on the ground, knees crossed. The Mannix community are represented around each gathering circle and face one another with respect. Connected circles within the next layer of circle represent the Mannix community and their sense of family and support to one another.



Campsites within the circle are represented by the inner mounds symbolising the home away from home within the college, the residence in which the students live.



Scalloped arcs on the outer circle represent the extended Mannix community and their ongoing connection and relationship to the growing family of the college.



A coolamon dish is a wooden platter dish made from the bark of the tree and used for carrying and storing food. The dish is also used as a infants' bed and represents the holding of life's knowledge and growth. It represents a sense of belonging in this spirit of place, tikilara – Mannix College.