

Educational Indigenous Mats

“Pink”

Around Waterhole by Nambooka

Nambooka is a well-known designer in the quilting world. Her designs are clear, colourful and very attractive. In this design, Nambooka depicted the happenings around a waterhole on a summer day.

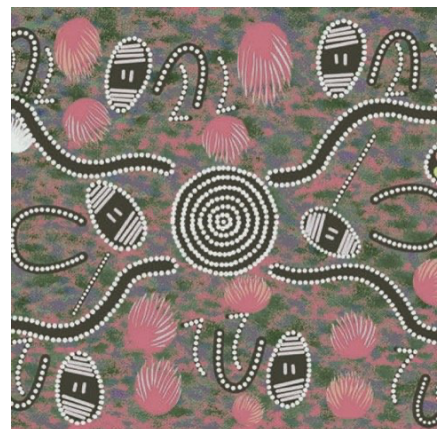
On a summer day, people wander around the bush to collect bush food and drink water from the waterholes. The semi-circles or ‘U’s are the people and their footsteps can be seen on the tracks. They use digging sticks to dig and gather food from the ground. Because of the hot day, animals like goannas, rainbow snakes, tortoises and frogs can also be seen going to the waterhole for water. Some long gum leaves (eucalyptus leaves) and fruit had fallen to the ground.



Tree Snake Gathering by Anonymous

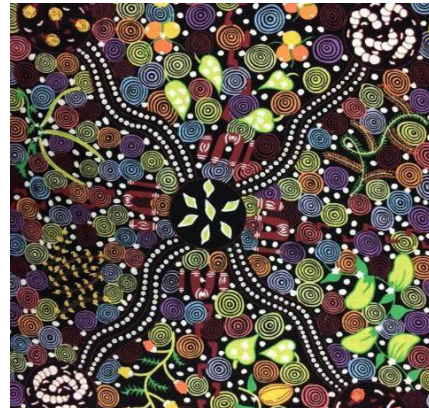
The common tree snake (*Dendrelaphis punctulata*), also called green tree snake and Australian tree snake is a slender, large-eyed, non-venomous, diurnal snake of many parts of Australia, especially in the northern and eastern coastal areas. This common snake is harmless, readily recognized as it is an agile snake with a very slender body and tail. The body color varies from green to olive-green to black, sometimes even blue.

The rain serpent is a common motif in Aboriginal artworks. When a rainbow is sighted in the sky, it is said that the serpent is moving from one waterhole to another. For this reason, some waterholes get never dried.



Corroboree by Donna McNamara

The Corroboree is a ceremonial gathering of Aboriginal people. There are some strict unwritten regulations which attendees have to follow. At corroboree, Aboriginals interact with Dreamtime ancestors through dance, music, costumes and body decorations. Outside guests are not permitted to attend these ceremonies without the elder's permission.



One type of corroboree does cover all the social needs. There are corroborees for various purposes such as educational for children's learning, death of a person, initiation and others. Dance is an integral part of Aboriginal culture. It includes stories of the ancestral beings who are the creators of the universe. Dancing is learnt at an early age.

Corroborees have religious connotations to relate individuals with the ancestral beings. Although the attendees and organisers are responsible people, they must get final clearance from the elders. Nobody is ever allowed to make any unpleasant comment on the participants or performers.

Donna McNamara's a very skilful and ardent designer. Her artwork is neat and vivid. It shows people are coming from various directions to attend corroboree. Bush foods such as witchetty grubs, honey ants, bush fruits etc. are available in the area. People are coming and sitting around the round corroboree area. Donna's artwork is brilliant, vibrant and simply wonderful.

Women's Business by E. Young

In Aboriginal culture, certain customs and practices are performed separately in a language group between men and women. These separate businesses are often referred to as men's business and women's business. These businesses are carried out under strict guidance of unwritten Aboriginal laws.



E. Young is a well-known artist from Northern Territory. She uses bright and vibrant colours for her artworks. Her work depicts land, flora and fauna with a flavour of traditional Aboriginal culture. With her expertise, Young used her strong colour sense in Women's Business. In the natural environment, women are sitting around the waterholes with coolamon and digging sticks. Wildflowers are visible with bright colours around in the area.

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