

CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES: COMO SECONDARY COLLEGE

Surviving the Pandemic – Swamp Rabbit Stomp

Mrs Helen Turner



Always Was, Always Will Be.

8-15 NOV 2020

Como Secondary College's moral purpose is to create inspiring, connected, inclusive learning experiences for everyone. Given the severity of the 2020 pandemic, we decided to use music to reach out to students across WA, to let them know that we all matter, and that our collective resilience has been our strength.

Como's music community within the school, created a continuously evolving artistic project to unite schools across the state, and so, "Swampy" was born (performed to *Swamp Rabbit Stomp* by Michael Sweeney). Our intention was to create diverse and meaningful, healing connections through our shared passion for music, and hopefully, make some lifelong friendships along the way.

It started by choosing the exciting and rhythmical work written by **Michael Sweeney**, *Swamp Rabbit Stomp*. In the middle of the piece there is a percussion shaker solo section which was the ideal part to invite remote schools to participate. The schools that decided to accept our invitation were **Broome Senior High School**, **Kalgoorlie Eastern Goldfields College** and Geraldton's **Allendale Primary School**.



Students were not only developing their music skills, but also their creativity in making their personalised shakers. Students had a lot of fun making these out of soft drink cans and rice which were then spray painted with indigenous and Torres Strait Islander colours and distributed to the schools. To accompany the shakers students made stencilled handprints with a personalised note to connect with our indigenous partners.



The Senior Concert Band then had to complete the filming task of the project. After many hours of rehearsing the music we were hopeful that **Izzy Turner** from *Fat Lizard Films* had captured the necessary shots.

The next major challenge was recording the concert band, which would not have been possible without the help of **Gordon Smith**, his amazing expertise and equipment. Again, another intense late afternoon of rehearsing and recording the piece. **Archie Phan** then made the band sound amazing with his professional mixing skills.

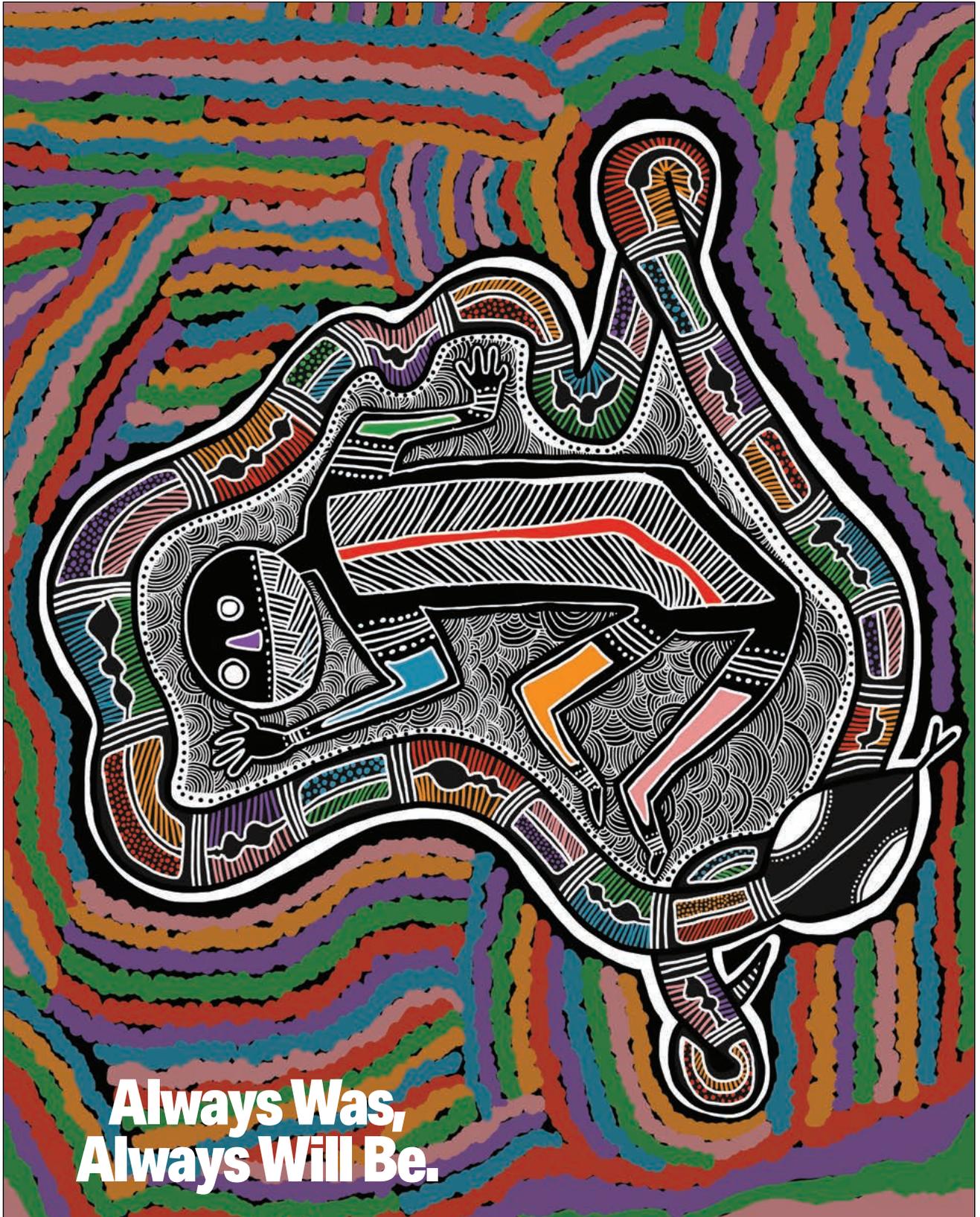
The next stage consisted of **Ms Turner** keeping in constant communication and encouragement with school contacts to ensure that our remote partners would be able to complete this enormous project.



After submitting our project to *Screenwest*, we were elated to find out that our project had not only been considered for the Yagan Square digital tour but that it was going to be featured on the digital screen throughout NAIDOC Week. Soon after this we discovered that projects accepted throughout the pandemic year of 2020 would be put in a time capsule and viewed for years to come.

It has been a truly memorable and rewarding experience for all involved. Please visit Yagan Square throughout NAIDOC Week and celebrate with us.

CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES: NAIDOC WEEK 2020 POSTER
Mr Marcus Perrozzi



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**



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NAIDOC WEEK

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Artwork: Shape of Land by Tyrone Waigana

The Rainbow Serpent came out of the Dreamtime to create this land. It is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on to the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country - since the dawn of time - always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

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