

BADGER BATES & JUSTINE MULLER  
12 JUNE — 21 NOVEMBER 2021



**ART TRAIL**  
**BARKA, THE FORGOTTEN RIVER**

**START AT THE BEGINNING  
OF THE EXHIBITION ON THE  
GROUND FLOOR...**

**MAITLAND  
REGIONAL  
ART GALLERY**

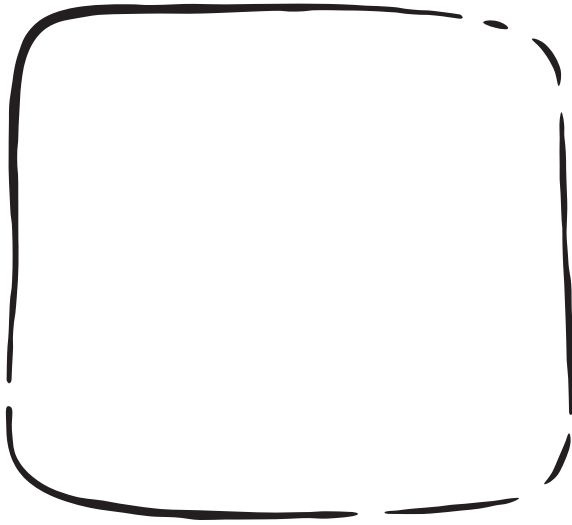
**1 FIND** Badger's linocut print *Mission Mob, Bend Mob Wilcannia 1950s*.

What do you think the curved shape made of lines is?

Answer: **R** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **D**

Can you **SEE this shape** in another much bigger artwork in this room?

**CLUE** this artwork is called **R** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **o** \_ **H** \_ \_ \_ \_



**Draw this shape here.**  
Badger made this shape to show us how close Wilcannia, the town, is to this part of the Barka River.



## 2 FIND some of Justine's portraits of people from Wilcannia.

The tin that Justine used for the portraits is the same tin that the Barkandji people used to build their houses when they lived along the banks of the Barka River.

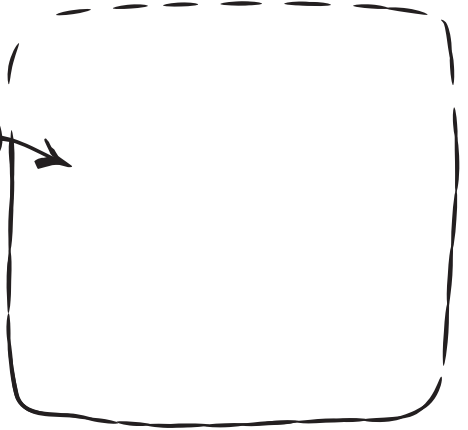
Badger used this same tin in one of his artworks in this room - can you find his artwork with tin in it?

What are these tin shapes? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you **DRAW** them here

What is the name of this artwork?

-----



## 3 Can you SEE the clay footprints in the river bed?

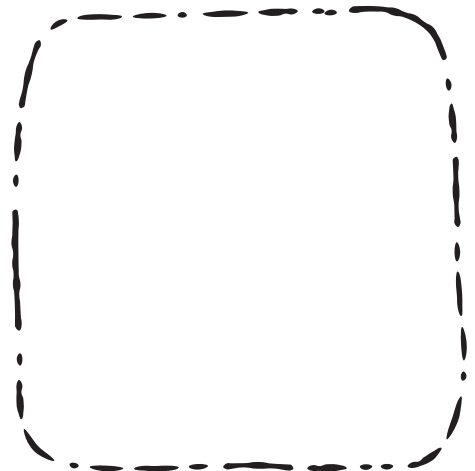
What has Justine used to make the footprints? \_\_\_\_\_

**FIND** the footprint that also has a dog paw print.

**CLUE:** it's near the end of the bend!

Draw them here

**COUNT** how many clay footprints (and pawprints) there are in this dry river bed



4

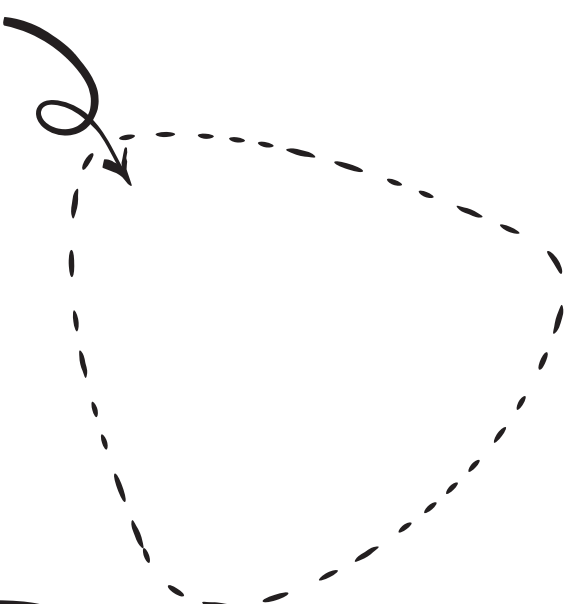
There are **MUSSEL SHELLS** in 2 artworks in this room.

**FIND** the mussel shells that Badger carved with animals and birds then fill in the missing letters of 3 of them:

P \_ \_ \_ \_ N    G \_ \_ \_ N \_    \_ O \_ \_ \_ S H

Choose one and draw in here

Why do you think river mussels are important to these animals and birds?



**NOW GO UPSTAIRS  
TO THE REST OF BARKA,  
THE FORGOTTEN RIVER...**

5

**FIND** the linocut print *No more catfish* by Badger.

What did the catfish eat last?

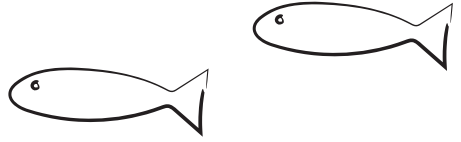
\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_

Find the other linocut print by Badger of a fish - what type of fish is it?

**A** \_\_\_ **FISH**

And what did it eat last?

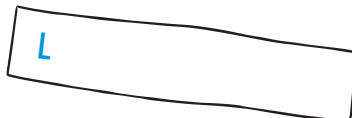
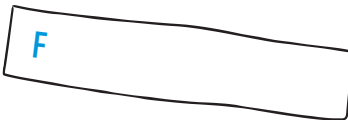
\_\_\_ **I** \_\_\_



6

**LOOK** at the glass prints of *Birds of the Barka* that Justine made.

What else has Justine collected from the dry Barka river bed and put with these glass prints, starting with:



7

**Badger tells us about Ngatyi the rainbow serpent in 2 of his artworks here.**

Ngatyi is blowing a rainbow in both – can you find them?

**CLUE:** one has Iron Pole in the title and the Dark Emu in the sky!

Look what they are both made of...

**DRAW**

your own  
Ngatyi here

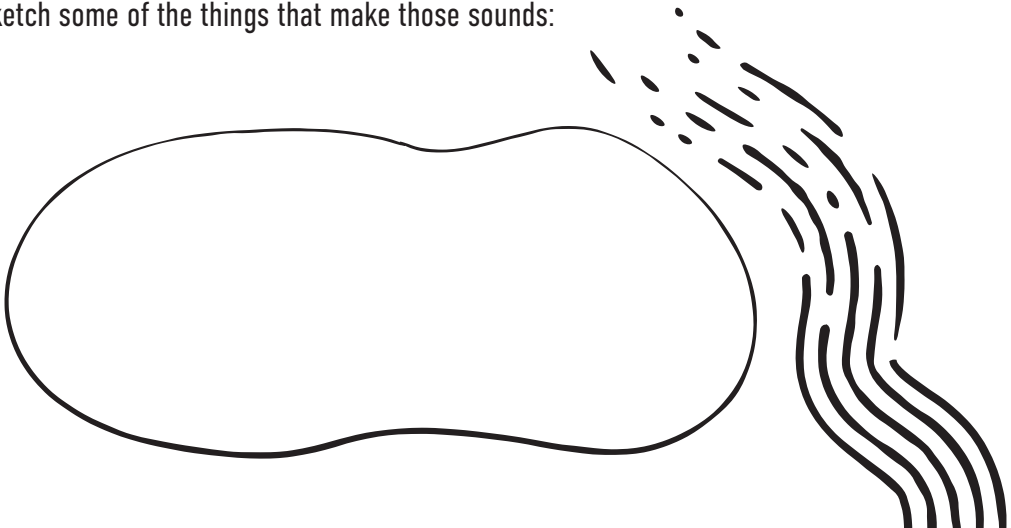


8

**LISTEN** to the video *Sounds of a River*

- what sounds of a healthy river can you hear?

Sketch some of the things that make those sounds:



9

**FIND** Justine's work about a dust storm.

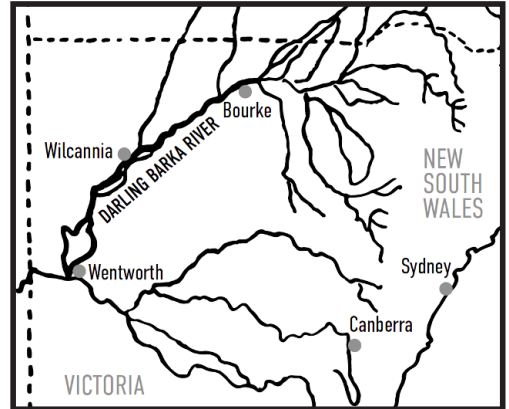
What is it called? \_\_\_\_\_

It is made of earth and pigments from Barkandji Country.

Can you **SEE** a colour in this work which is like the colour of the walls in here?

This wall colour was chosen by Badger and Justine as the colour of Barka Country, where the Barka River flows from Bourke through Wilcannia to Wentworth where it meets the Murray River.

Where else did you see this colour in the exhibition?



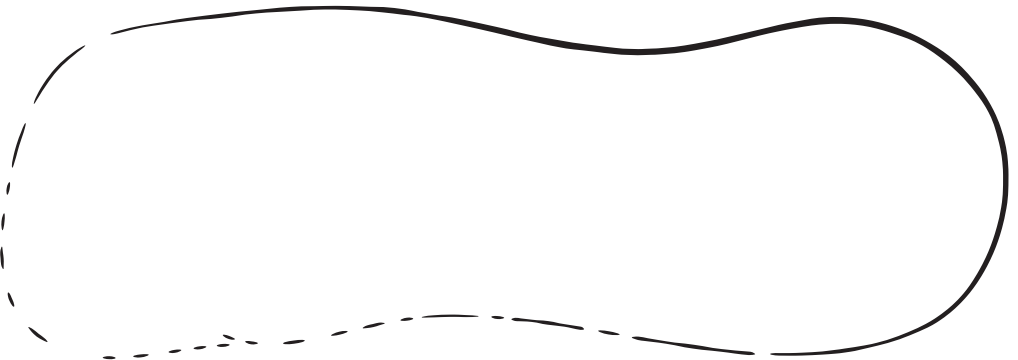
10

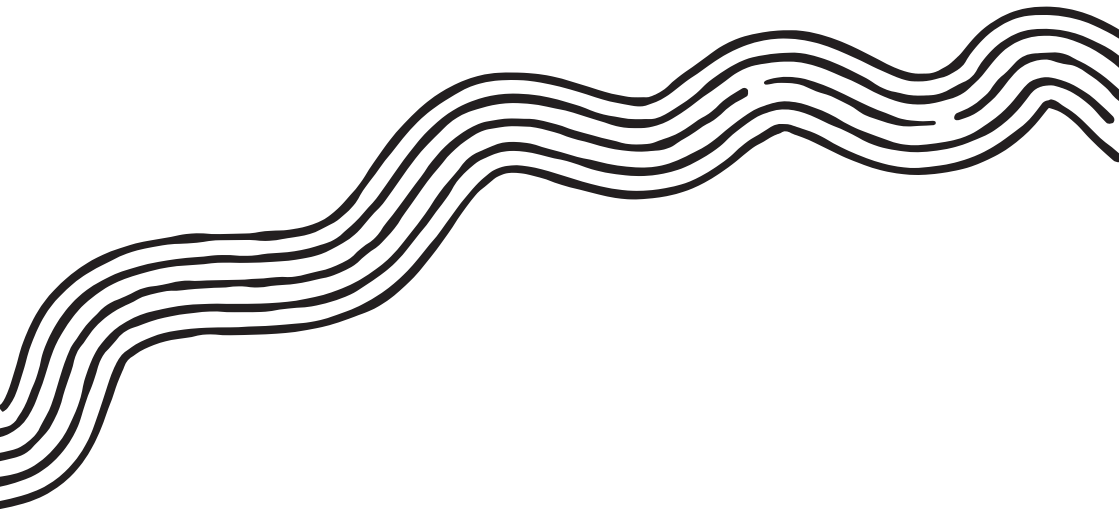
Can you **SEE** the portrait of Dennis Crow Wilson by Justine?

Now **LISTEN** to the poem *River of Life* by Uncle Bob Wilson next to Dennis's portrait.

**CLOSE YOUR EYES** and **IMAGINE** that you are in Barka Country

**DRAW** what you think the country would look like and feel like .....





**THANK YOU FOR VISITING  
BARKA, THE FORGOTTEN RIVER!**

**MAITLAND  
REGIONAL  
ART GALLERY**



**Museums  
& Galleries  
of NSW**

This resource was produced as part of Museums & Galleries of NSW's Lets Get Digital initiative, proudly supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW as part of Arts Restart. MRAG is a proud service of Maitland City Council and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

**MRAG.ORG.AU**

**@Maitland.Regional.Art.Gallery**  
Share your artwork with us

**@maitlandregionalartgallery**  
**#MRAG #MaitlandRegionalArtGallery**  
**#MRAGFromHome**