

# Laurel Nannup

What Road Are You Going To Take?



**Self-Guided Education Trail**  
Upper Primary – Secondary

# What road are you going to take?

This exhibition features the artworks of celebrated Nyoongar printmaker, Laurel Nannup. Laurel tells her life story through her woodcuts and etchings. Her artworks depict, through Laurel's eyes, experiences at Pinjarra Reserve, Wandering Mission, and family life.

## How to use this booklet

While exploring this exhibition, take time to stop and reflect on each artwork. This self-guided trail will direct you to look at individual artworks more closely than others and reflect on the story Laurel is telling.

You may be asked to do the following:



### **Kooditj**

Reflect

Think about the concepts and make up your own mind about ideas.



### **Wangkinj**

Discuss

Share ideas with a group or a partner using the questions in this booklet.



### **Warniny**

Activity

Complete an activity in the space provided.

# Family Days



**Tracking**, 2009  
Linocut, ink on paper



**Goanna Hunting**, 2010  
Linocut, ink on paper

*"It is important for me to record my stories because throughout my younger life I felt I didn't know much about my culture, except the little bits Dad told me. My son would often ask me things about my culture, and I felt I had no stories to tell."*

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*  
2006

## Wangkiny



Why is it important to Laurel to know about her culture and to share it with her son? What do you know about your own culture? How was it passed down to you?

## Warniny



Identify three on country skills that Laurel learnt in her childhood:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name a skill or tradition passed down from a member of your family to you

\_\_\_\_\_

## Warniny



Look closely at the individual artworks. Can you find any animal tracks?  
Draw each track and identify the animal in the space provided.  
Explain how you can identify each animal.

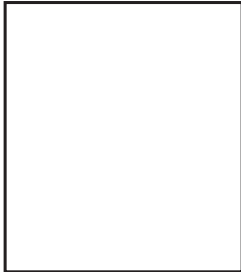
### Track



**Animal**

**How do you know?**

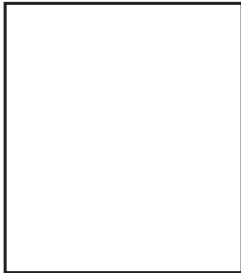
### Track



**Animal**

**How do you know?**

### Track



**Animal**

**How do you know?**



**Lolly Tree**, 2001  
Woodcut, ink on paper

## Wangkiny



How is *Lolly Tree* different to the other artworks in the exhibition? Whose story is Laurel telling here? What effect does the use of colour have on conveying the story of the Lolly Tree?

## Warniny



Look for other examples of where Laurel has used colour in her artworks. Choose one artwork and explain what parts of the artwork were coloured and what impact the colour has made to telling the story.

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**Leaving Home**, 2001  
Woodcut, ink on paper

*“The next memory is of this big black car pulling up and a white lady getting out. Then we were put into the car, sitting there crying for our mum. I don’t remember the car leaving our home, I don’t remember the trip to the mission.”*

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*  
2006

## Wangkiny

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Explain what is occurring in this artwork. What would going to the mission mean for Laurel and her sister? How would this event impact their lives forever?

## Kooditj

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Look closely at each artwork that represents Laurel’s life in the mission. Read her memories from the captions. Reflect upon the impact of the Aborigines Protection Act on Aboriginal families then and now?

## Wangkiny

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Despite the situation Laurel found herself in at the mission, she still found ways to find moments of fun. What are some examples of this?



**Stooking Hay**, 2001  
Etching, ink on paper

## Warninny

Choose one representation of mission life from the exhibition. Create a word cloud in the space provided to describe the artwork. Choose words to describe what is happening, the colours you see, the feelings the artworks evoke, and any other words that come to mind. Try to use the words in different sizes and shapes to represent their importance and meaning.





*Going home to Mum and Dad*, 2009  
Linocut, ink on paper

## Wangkiny



How was Laurel's lived experience of mission life different to many other children who were taken from their families?

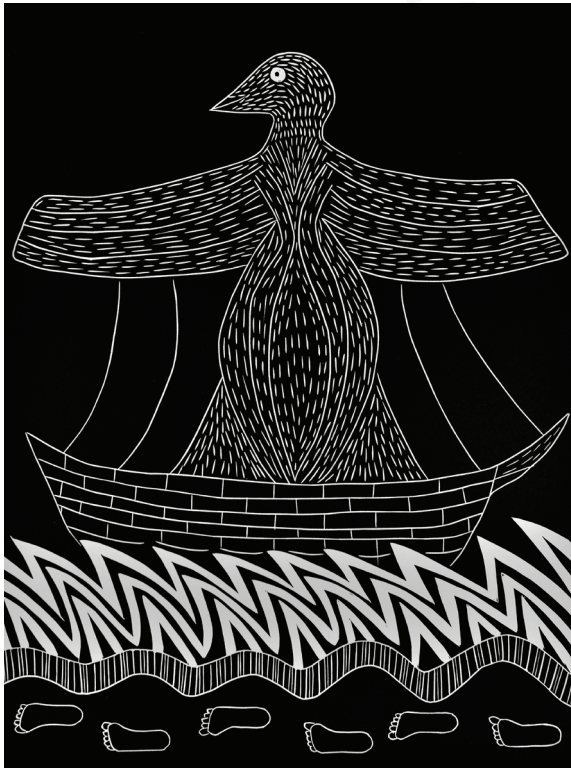
## Warniny



Throughout the exhibition, you will notice significant numbers and symbols in Laurel's story. Explain the importance of each of the following:

8. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
28. \_\_\_\_\_
- ∞ \_\_\_\_\_





**First Contact**, 2016  
Linocut, ink on paper

*"They first saw a boat with white sails coming to shore, which they hadn't seen before. You know, it would have looked like a big, white bird and the sailors being Wadjellas, made the Nyoongar people think it was their ancestor's spirits coming back from the dead, from the sea."*

Laurel Nannup

## Kooditj

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How do you think the Noongar people felt seeing the tall ships out at sea? How did first contact with the Wadjellas affect their lives forever? Keeping that in mind, walk through the exhibition again. How has colonisation impacted Laurel's life?

## Warniny

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Explain the significance of this artwork. What does it represent? Why is it important?

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**Me**, 2004  
Woodcut, ink on paper

## Wangkiny



Why do you think Laurel's artwork is important? What have you learnt about Laurel Nannup by looking at her woodcuts and etchings?

Besides artwork and photographs, what are some other ways family memories can be passed down?

## Warniny



Me is a self-portrait. In the space provided, draw your own self-portrait. You may wish to use a mirror or copy your image from a photograph.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to draw their own self-portrait.

**LAUREL NANNUP**

What Road Are You Going To Take?

State Library of Western Australia

Ground Floor gallery

**Free entry**

[www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au)

**7 July–29 September 2023**

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No. 28.

Etching, ink on paper.

2012

