

The background is a solid blue-grey color. On the right side, there are several concentric, light grey circles that create a ripple effect. Scattered across the entire background are numerous small, orange, leaf-like or petal-like shapes, some of which are partially obscured by the text.

OUR PLACE, MY STORY

Exploring our place through the
stories of our children and youth.

Yii Birrbay Barray
This is Birpai Country

**Nyura yiigu
marala barraygu,
nyaagi, ngarragi**
You have come here,
to the country to see,
listen and remember

Gathay Nyiirun Wakulda
Let's all go together as one

We acknowledge that we are on Birpai
country and pay respects to all Elders past,
present and emerging. We acknowledge the
ongoing connection to the Traditional Owners
and Custodians of the lands, skies and waters
of the Port Macquarie-Hastings region.



ABOUT

2021 marked the 200th anniversary since the establishment of Port Macquarie as one of Australia's earliest Penal Settlements. Council acknowledges that this caused suffering and displacement for the traditional owners, the Birpai people. Recognising this long, diverse and challenging history, Council and its Bicentenary Working Group invited residents and visitors in a wide range of activities designed to reflect on our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to an inclusive and positive future.

OUR PLACE: MY STORY was a schools storytelling project run by Council during Port Macquarie's Bicentenary year, 2021, inviting our children and youth to capture the essence of our present, by sharing their stories of connection to place, while growing up in our region.

**THIS IS OUR PLACE.
THESE ARE THEIR STORIES.**

WITH THANKS

Many thanks to all who contributed to this project.

To our professional storytellers for sharing your stories to inspire our students:

Cherie Morton
Mel Streeter

Barbara Westwood
Corina Latimore

To our young storytellers, their teachers and schools:

Class 1TB, St Agnes Primary School
Teachers: Larissa Toohey and Emily Brazel

Year 5, The Nature School
Teacher: Shannon Kelly

Year 11 Art class, Mackillop College
Teacher: Robyn Cornale

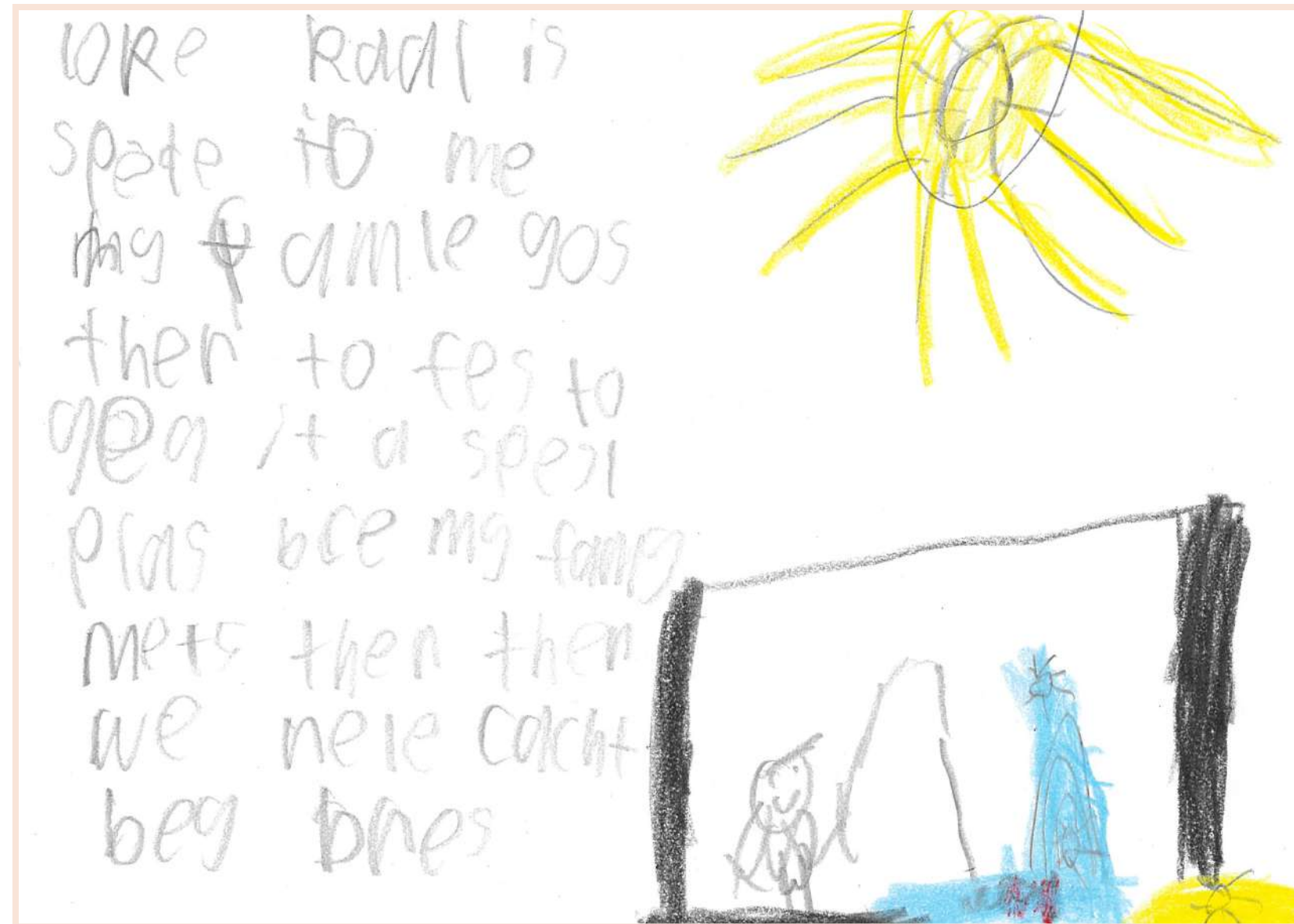
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CLASS 1 TB
ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL



"I Love Rotonger (Watonga) Rock"
Hudson Mynott



"Nate Goes Fishing"
 Nate



"Lovely Lake Cathie"
 Archie Millard



"Camping Under the Stars"
Scarlett Gaul



"I Love Shelly Beach"
Ava Costello



"Family Fun in the Sun"
Amelia Sales



"The Sea"
Miles Gardiner



"Rock Pools at Lighthouse are Fun"
Sam Brooks



"I Love Camping Around Port Macquarie"
Kalari Donovan



"Fishing at Shelly Beach"
Harrison Power



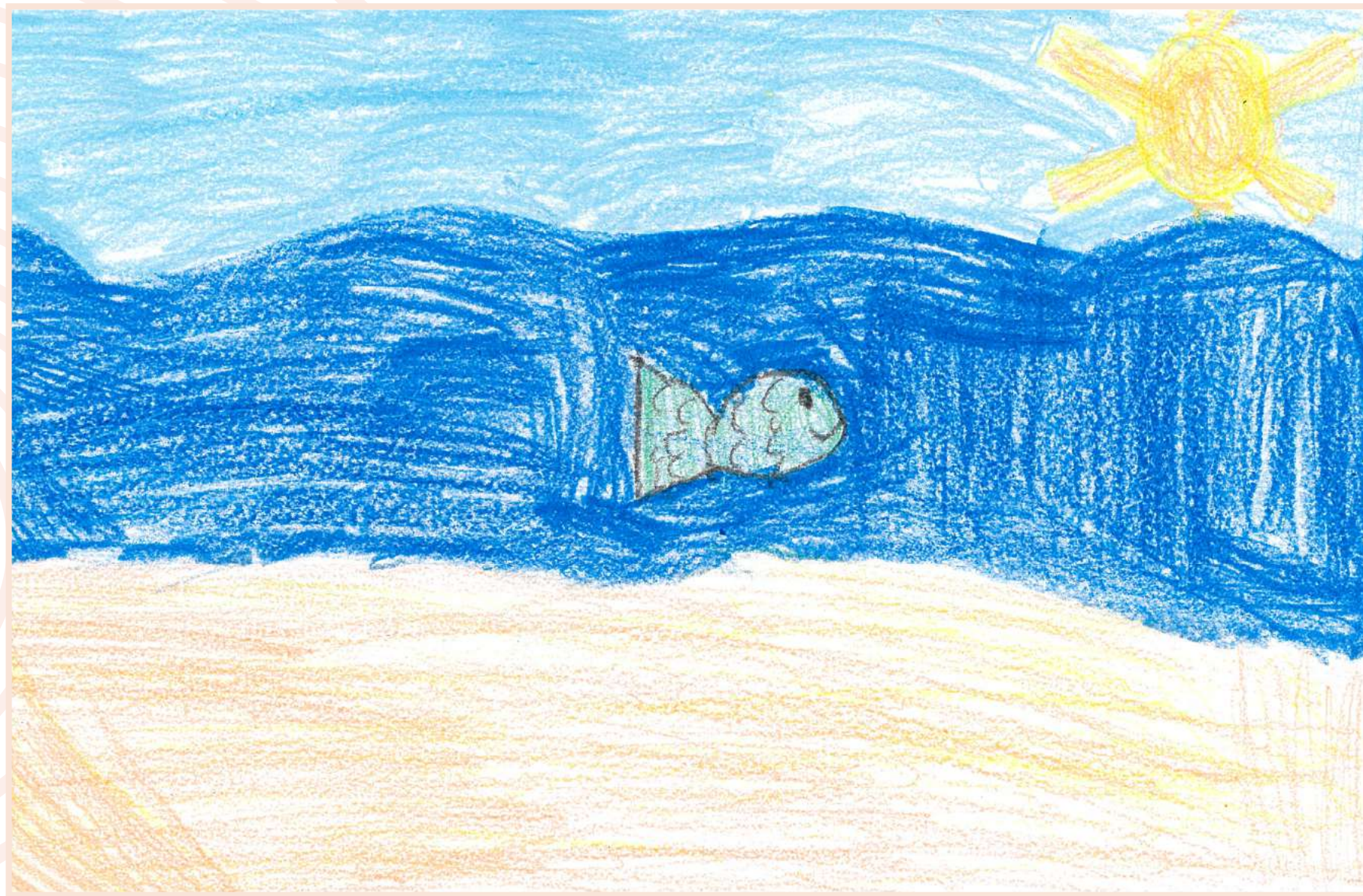
"Feeding the Kangaroos at the Billabong"
Rachael Dunn



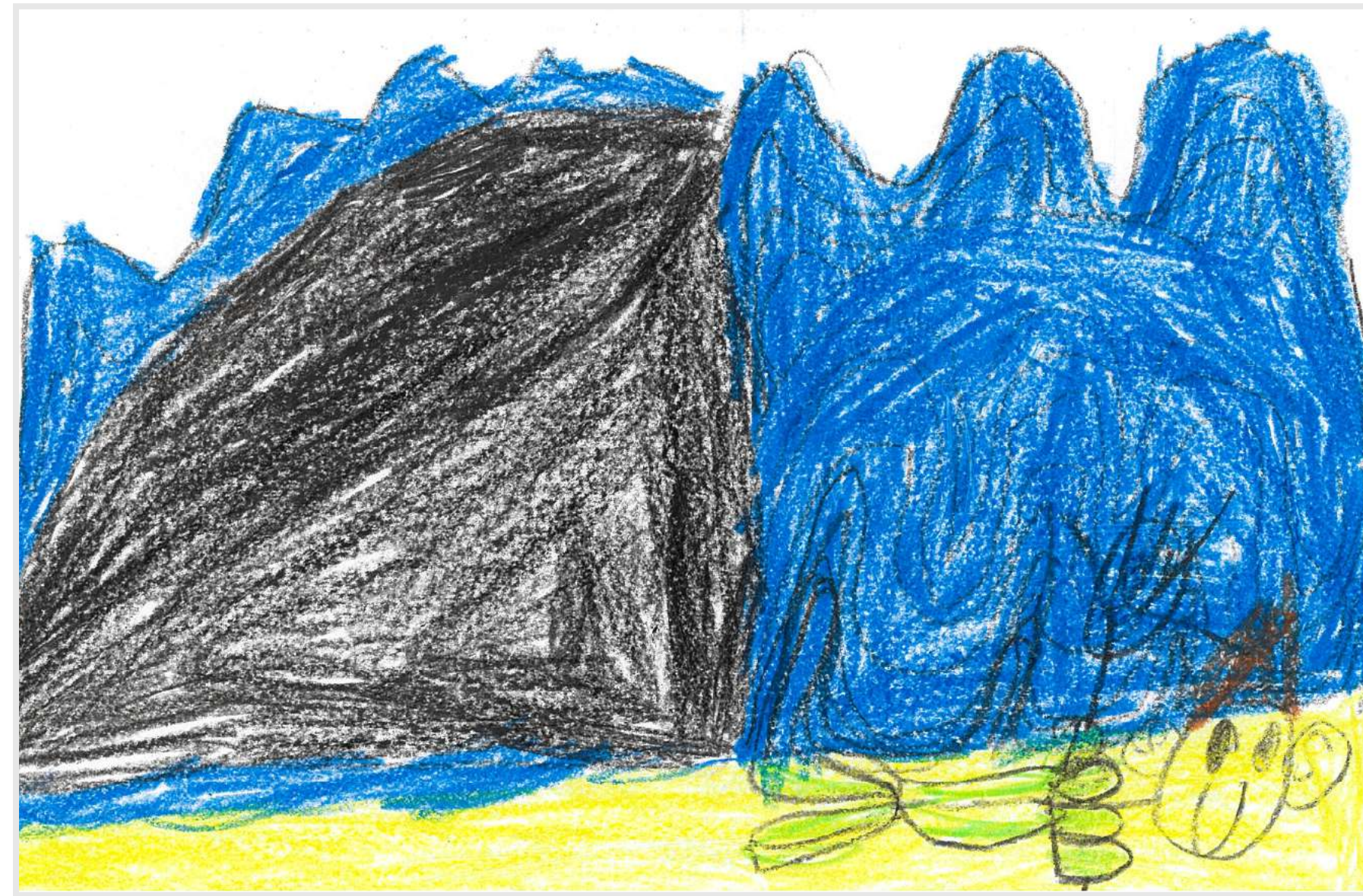
"Wonderful Waterpark at Bonny Hills"
Jack Tonkin



"Super Shelly Beach"
Mikayla Orme



"Sunny Day at the Beach"
Ella McNally



"The River Connected to the Beach"
Hamish Downie



"Enjoying the View from Big Brother"
Lachlan Power



"Rainbows in Port"
Bella Richards



"Fantastic Fish"
Sophia Hardie



"Crazy Waterpark" (Stoney Aqua Park)
Thomas Buckley



"Catching Up with Friends at Settlement Point"
Mia Henry



"The Rainforest"
Ryder Atkins



"The Secret Beach - My Hideout"
Jake Collins



"Light Lighthouse - I love the Ocean"
Nikita Smith

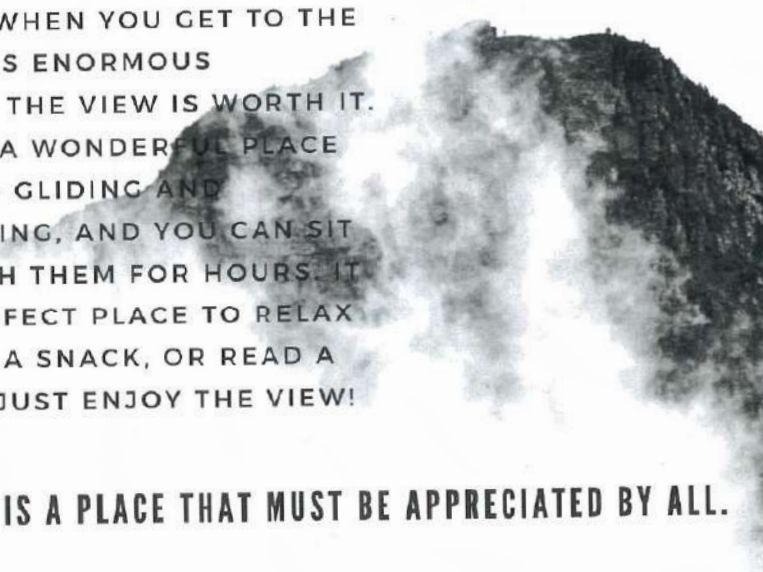
YEAR 5
THE NATURE SCHOOL

"North Brother"
Adrian Taylor

NORTH BROTHER

THIS PLACE IS SIMPLY GORGEOUS.
IT IS A TOWERING MOUNTAIN
WITH AN INTRIGUING
BACKGROUND STORY. IT IS A LONG
HIKE, BUT WHEN YOU GET TO THE
TOP OF THIS ENORMOUS
MOUNTAIN THE VIEW IS WORTH IT.
IT IS ALSO A WONDERFUL PLACE
FOR HANG- GLIDING AND
PARACHUTING, AND YOU CAN SIT
AND WATCH THEM FOR HOURS. IT
IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO RELAX
AND HAVE A SNACK, OR READ A
BOOK, OR JUST ENJOY THE VIEW!

THIS IS A PLACE THAT MUST BE APPRECIATED BY ALL.





Shelly Beach

My place, our story.
Sand sinks between my toes.

Rockpools, surfboards,
Turkeys chime their sound.

Breeze, salt,
Paragliders soar in the wind.

Community, relationship,
Swimmers diving under waves.

Love, kindness,
Everyone working together.

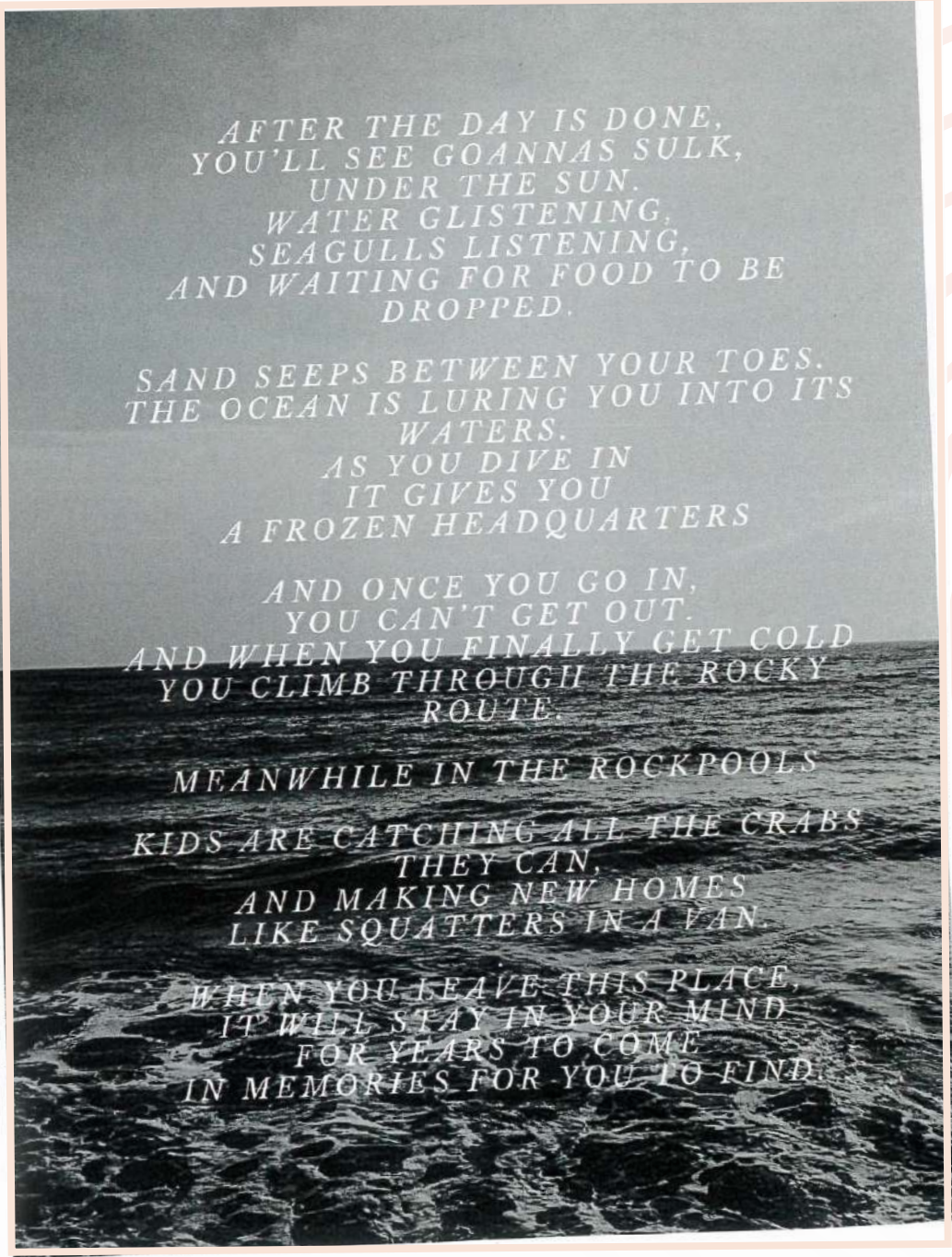
Comfort, relaxation,
Soft grass covers my body.

Friendship, companionship,
Unite for a common cause.

Share, together,
Work together.

This is our place!

"Shelly Beach"
Anwen Pullen



AFTER THE DAY IS DONE,
YOU'LL SEE GOANNAS SULK,
UNDER THE SUN.
WATER GLISTENING,
SEAGULLS LISTENING,
AND WAITING FOR FOOD TO BE
DROPPED.

SAND SEEPS BETWEEN YOUR TOES.
THE OCEAN IS LURING YOU INTO ITS
WATERS.

AS YOU DIVE IN
IT GIVES YOU
A FROZEN HEADQUARTERS

AND ONCE YOU GO IN,
YOU CAN'T GET OUT.
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY GET COLD
YOU CLIMB THROUGH THE ROCKY
ROUTE.

MEANWHILE IN THE ROCKPOOLS
KIDS ARE CATCHING ALL THE CRABS
THEY CAN,
AND MAKING NEW HOMES
LIKE SQUATTERS IN A VAN.

WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE,
IT WILL STAY IN YOUR MIND
FOR YEARS TO COME
IN MEMORIES FOR YOU TO FIND.

"Shelly Beach"
Dash Thompson

ROCKY BEACH



Waves crawl bravely up the sand,
Waves from far, journey to land.
The water still, but always alive,
Octopus swim, dolphins dive.
Ancient rocks watch, with stories to tell,
Peaceful, calm, all is well.
One boulder towers over the others,
Keeps young ones safe, close to their mothers.
Among the rocks, trees stand tall,
Creatures within, a home to all.
Nature always by your side,
To the pulse of the earth, to the breath of the
tides.

"Rocky Beach"
Oliver Godson

"Rocky Beach"
Zulu

Salty air

Sands as old as time

Pebbles worn smooth by the tide and the waves

Trees whisper secrets of the past and present

Caves hold mysteries and stories of the ancient times

The space is sacred, deep rooted and long standing

Leave nothing, but footprints

Let it take you away,

revive you,

free you of everything

Let your soul dance with the waves

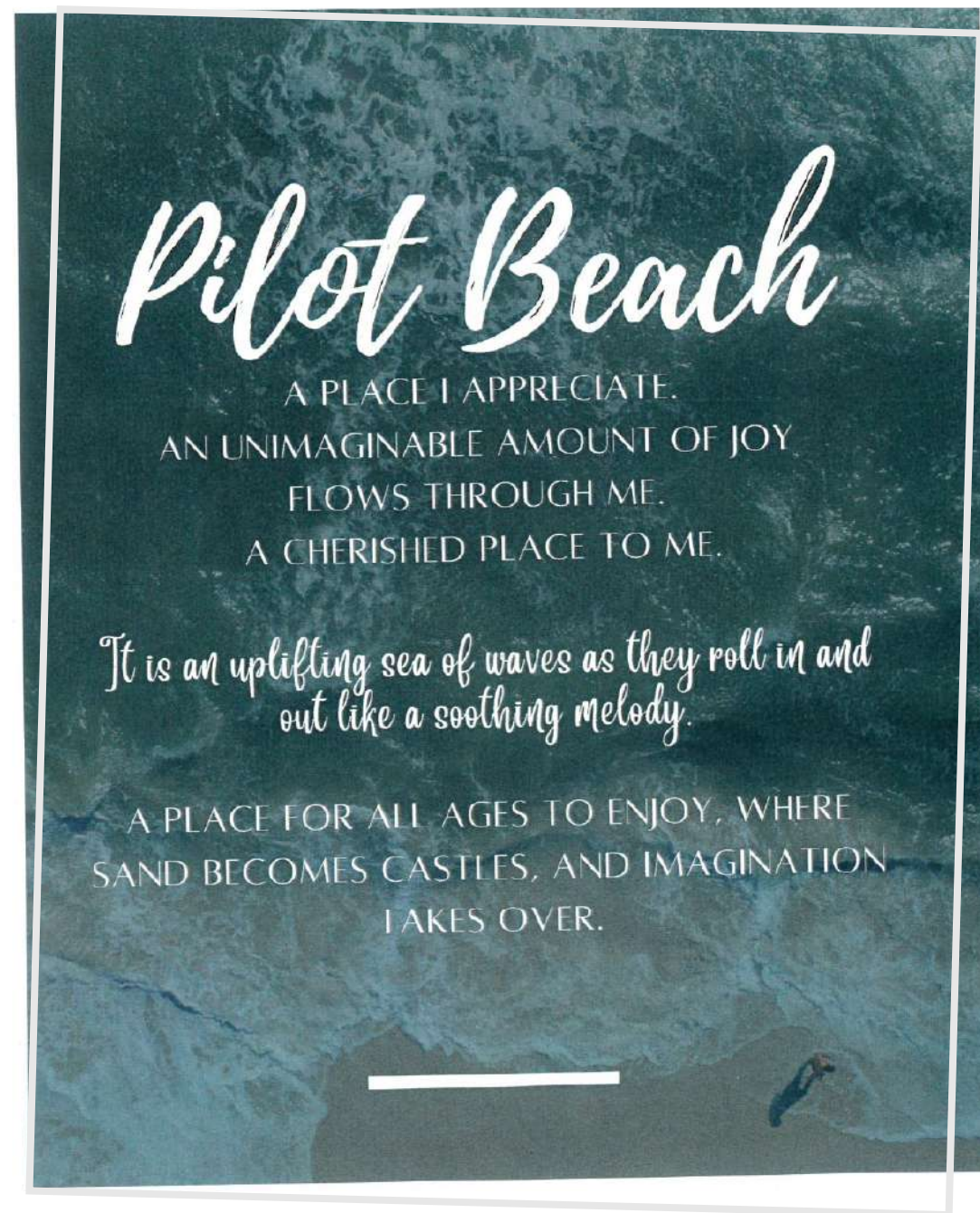
Let your heart soar

You are free

You are alive

This is..

Our place

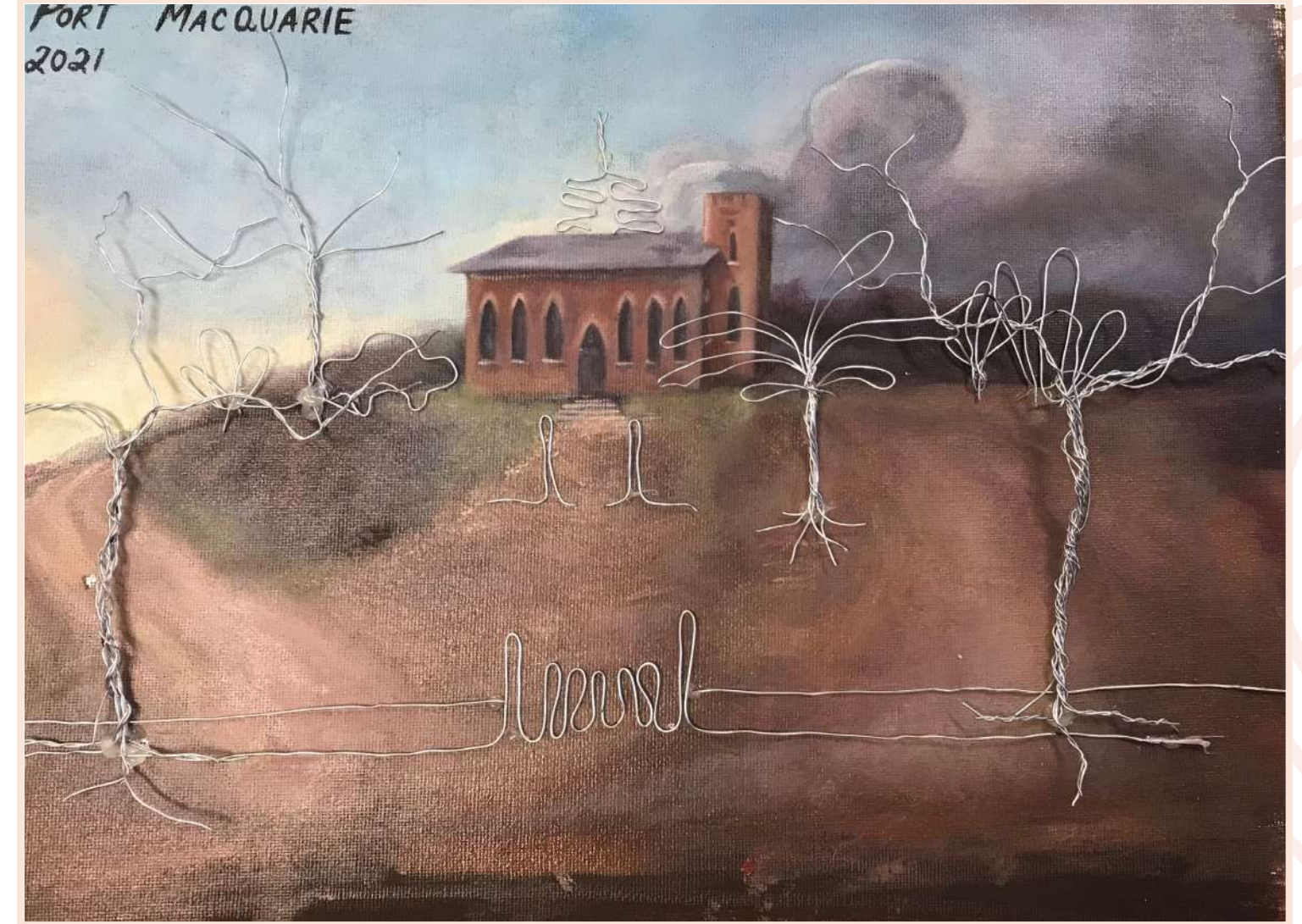


"Pilot Beach"
Noah Smith

YEAR 11 ART
MACKILLOP COLLEGE



Honari Toppazini



St Thomas, Port Macquarie
Alice Ho



Olivia Cotovich



Kyla Patterson



Lake Cathie, looking at the river mouth
Zoey Kiem



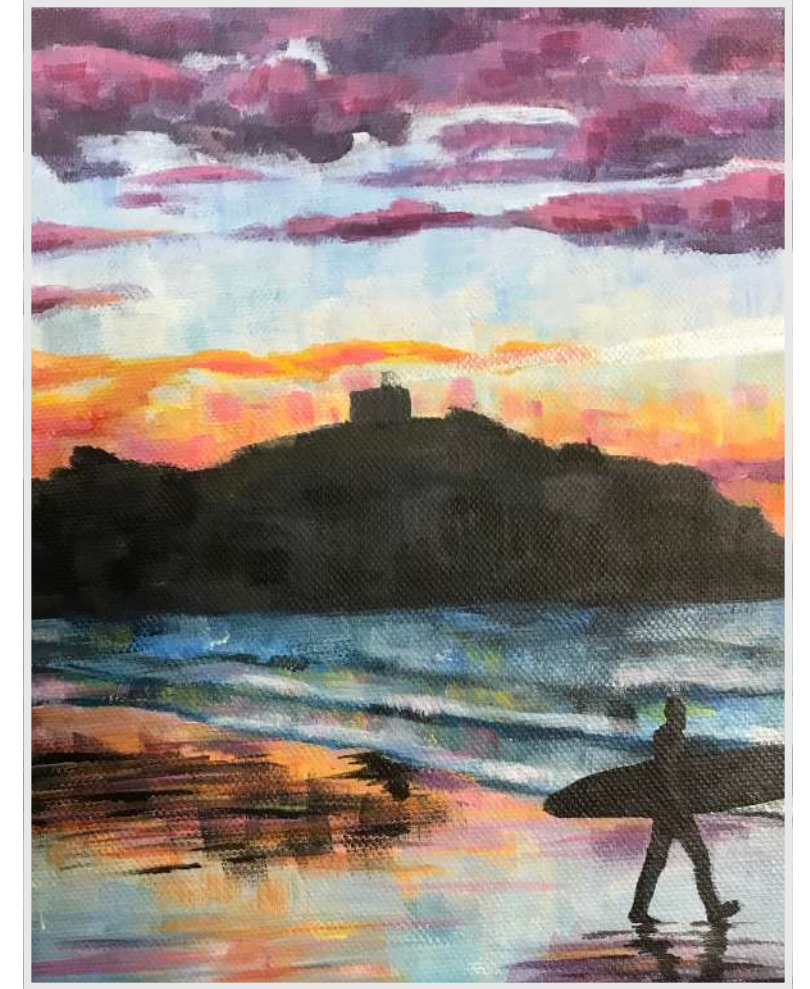
Callie Warren



Breakwall Rocks
Abbey Monroe



Breakwall / Courthouse collage
Georgia Hughes



Sunset at the Tacking Point Lighthouse
Alys Davies

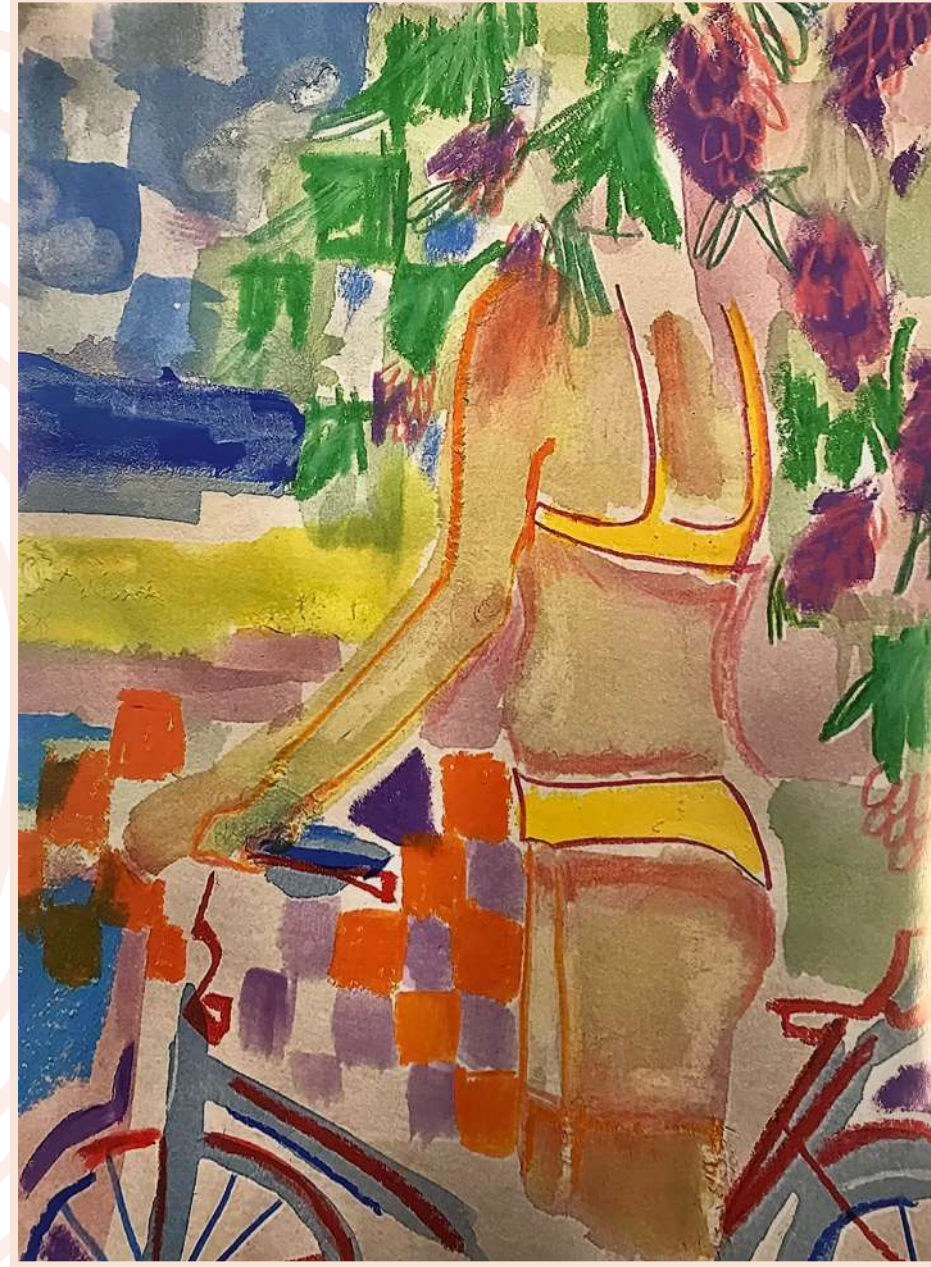


Lake Cathie watercolour and pencil series
Elsa Gandy



Fantasy Glades, Port Macquarie
Phoebe Minogue







Josie Campbell



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