## ABORIGINAL CHILD ARTISTS OF CARROLUP



Should practes what we saw. The results of what we got up to at every oppertually would shock any apresent day family. We were locked in our respective downstorys at 5 pm winter and Aummen, with no drinking water a open Sanstary buckett was placed in the centre of the floor, being afraid of the supernatural were afraid to leave our beds at nights as a result of this the sametary bucket was musely used, and the Steneh of mane soaked mugs and matter matteras well a sometherng that only the and sued in them could have the smell - We had



## CARROLUP CHILDREN

'... practically all are likely to start a fight if any child looks at them at the wrong moment. They appear to lack understanding of each other - whole mental attitude is too self centred and the inferiority complex seems very evident. They are intensely jealous of each other.... They are only interested in the child inside them!!' Olive Elliot, Carrolup teacher



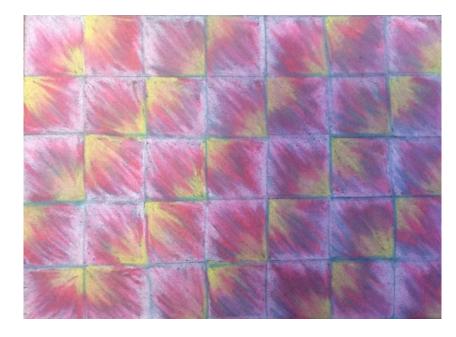
We had no idea when my white would arrive though we were all there when he did we kept our respective distance, you see we were all afraid li hete as he moved about Settlessent so dill we ; we fould see rem test he couldent see he transed his head we for cover cover. The first week school with our new teacher We diffe all served it detasmit for the ever my hites we we he school and.

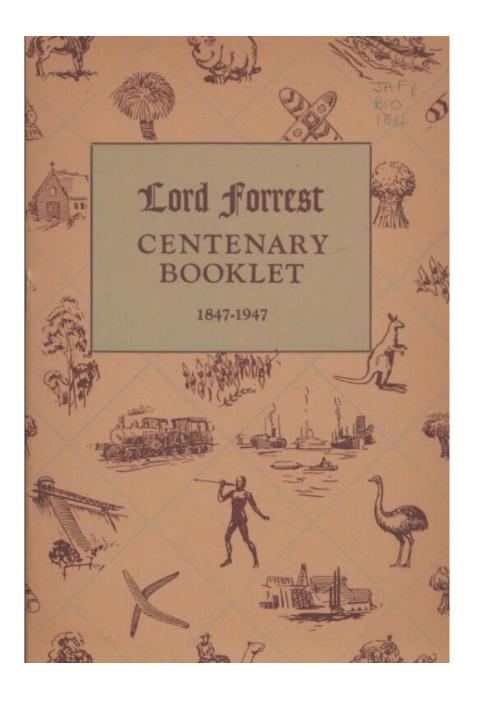
## CONNECTION

- Music, singing, chanting
- Rhythm, folk-dancing
- Storytelling experience
- Drawing
- Dramatisation, miming
- Speech work.

'How we, us boys came to do such beautiful art work of scenic and bush scenes is that we spent all our precious hours at school and weekends doing this work and three years of this took our art work to where it is today, and I say all honours are on Mr White who gave us that opportunity to improve our work...' Barry Loo







#### FORREST BOOKLET

#### Surveyors' Awards To Contributors

In a letter received by the committee of the Lord Forrest Centennial Celebrations from the Institute of Surveyors it was stated that as Lord Forrest was the institute's first patron, members wished to be associated in some way with the celebrations. In view of the fine booklet edited by Mr. J. P. Stokes which was contributed to in a spontaneous manner by children in all parts of the State, they felt that they would like to offer prizes totalling £10/10/ for the ten best articles in the booklet. The Lord Forrest Centenary Committee requested the W.A. Historical Society to select what were considered the ten best contributions. Two judges were appointed by the society and the following contributors were named as prize-winners:

R. S. Purdie, Perth Modern School, "The Birthplace"; Iris Strugnell, Picton State School, "The Supposed Birthplace of Sir John Forrest"; John Bell, correspondence classes, "Mt. Leonora"; Mary Ogilvie, correspondence classes, "Overland to South Australia"; Vera Wallam, Carrolup Native Settlement School, "Forrest's Party in the Murchison"; Best drawing. "Natives Attacking Forrest's Party at Weld Springs' (native boy of Carrolup School); Grace Reed, Bayswater State School, "Tommy Windich"; B. Houston, Perth Modern School, "Early Years of John Forrest"; Colin Trotman, Cunderdin State School, "Sir John Forrest in Coolgardie"; Bruce Claughton, Forrest High School "The Goldfields Water Scheme."

#### ABORIGINAL CHILDREN SHOW AMAZING exact is their observation com-

SKILL IN ART

Perth art-lovers may soon have an opportunity of seeing one of the most amazing displays of crayon drawings ever collected. Artists are native children, aged 10 to 14, of the Carrolup Settlement school, near Katanning, the display being part of a Children's Exhibition which, it has been suggested, may be arranged later this year by Perth Art Gallery Curator Robert Campbell.

Some of these drawings were shown to me recently by an Education Dept. official who is a wellknown artist. "They are quite dif-ferent from any art specimens MAX produced by white children," he commented.

"Pattern and pictorial effects all are remarkable not only for their color sense but more particularly for the keenness of observation of the art of all primitive races. displayed."

When Art Gallery Curator Rob-

"Drawings are unique in my experience for the way they combine present day methods of design and perspective with the most ancient art forms of pattern and symbolism as they are found on the walls of prehistoric caves," he said.

"Foreground figures are pure have the unique touch of the symbolism of the chase and kill native. Designs suggest the in- or the corroboree. As they symcised patterns usually found in bolise these fundamental aspects aboriginal weapons. Illustrations of aboriginal life, the human figures tower over foreground trees. This is a common feature

"But these drawings also show the influence of modern Western ert Campbell saw a couple of art. In the background are hills specimens he was equally enthus- and trees in excellent perspective. with remarkable color sense and amazing attention to detail.

"So the drawings span countless centuries, combining the prehistoric with the modern. Perhaps in this they symbolise the place of the aboriginal, particularly the half-caste, in Australian • Develop the expressive side of society today."

sults in the art training of native and design, children been achieved? It is all • Foster their talent for singing, part of an experiment in educa- • Encourage group or choral tion that has been carried out speaking, and during the past 12 months at • Teach them folk-dancing. Carrolup Settlement school, with similar lines.

It started when Mr. Noel White, older folks at the settlement. after many years' experience in conducting rural schools, was ap-skilfully directed those interests pointed head teacher at Carrolup, into channels that would meet the a school of 50 or 60 colored chil- requirements of the Education dren of the settlement which Dept., with the result that stanshelters about 200 solored people dards of the children's work in

junior section of the senoul. Als tations,



• This reproduction of a crayon drawing by an 11-year-old WA native boy gives an idea of the composition and perspective achieved, although it is not possible to convey the vividness of the greens, purples and black that dominate the color scheme.

though the couple had no previous experience in native schools, arising from a pursuit of native each has special abilities and the interests would flow over and repersonality that fits them for this vivify the "skill" subjects, readtype of teaching.

Their aims were to:

the children's schoolwork by re-How have these amazing re- awakening their love for drawing

These activities are of course such gratifying results that it is linked with the corroboree—and now being further developed along some Carrolup children have seen tribal corroborees staged by the

But Mr. and Mrs. White have art, speech, folk-dancing and Mrs. White has charge of the singles have far surpassed expec-

It was felt that the enthusiasm ing, writing, arithmetic and written expression—and so it has

While no attempt has been made to cover all of the spelling lists and types of sums set for white children, the limited amount taught has given excellent results.

There is not an untidy or dirty book in the school. Children who have become so enthralled with their art, singing and dancing are applying themselves with equal enthusiasm to the business of learning to read, write, spell and calculate.

Their art work is outstanding. fore they attempt any written expression. They are still reserved and shy in oral expression, but this diffidence is gradually disappearing in an atmosphere of sympathy and encouragement. Their hygiene lessons on cles

pared with white children.

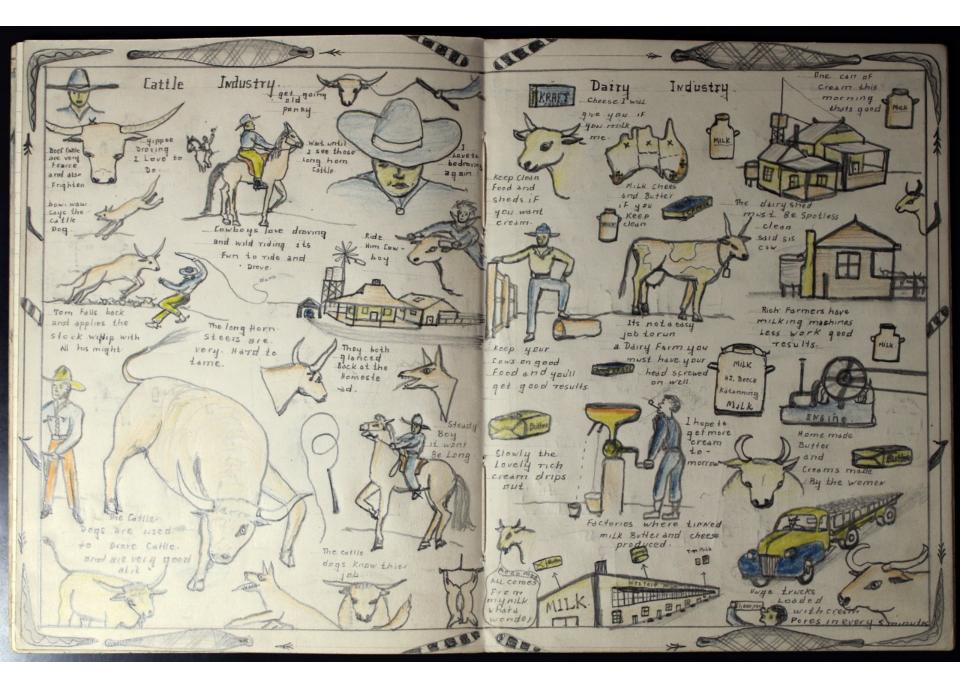
When the drawings are completed, the young artists set to work to express those same ideas in English, thus helping to break down their usual inarticulate attempts at written expression.

Yet school lessons form only part of the day's work. Carrolug is an institution with the children as boarders, therefore their social training is of pre-eminen importance to Mr. and Mrs

Each evening the children join in community singing, games dancing and so on. An amenities room has been promised by the Native Affairs Dept. to cater for this social training. Until this is erected, the school is being used.

Mr. and Mrs. White have every reason to be proud of their efforts, and the suggested exhibition may show that they have developed something of real value to the cultural life of the State.

It will certainly deserve careful consideration.



#### ABORIGINES' CRAYON ART DISPLAY



After opening the exhibition of crayon drawings by pupils of the Carrolup Native Settlement school, the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Mitchell) talks with four of the young artists brought to Perth for the occasion. They are (left to right): Claude Kelly, Barry Loo (who seemed rather overcome), Reynold Hart and Parnell Dempster. Behind are some of their drawings.



#### DISPLAY OF NATIVE ART

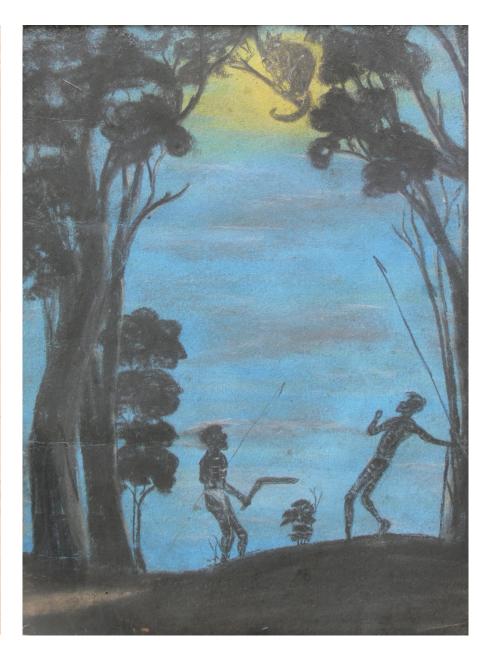
#### ALBANY PUBLIC ENCHANTED

During the school of instruction for Departmental teachers, conducted at Albany last week by Inspector Crabbe, Mr Noel White of the Carrolup Native Settlement made a hurried trip home and returned with three young lads from the Settlement. At Albany, the lads put on a demonstration, much after the type given Katanning children recently, and teachers attending the school expressed amazement at the ability and power of expression shown. Later in the afternoon, the display was thrown open to the public and a number of Albany residents took the opportunity of viewing the extremely fine examples of native art.

Reynold Hart, Parnell Dempster and Barry Loo were the three boys to visit Albany. Using soft crayons, and working with amazing speed, the boys produced pictures of bush scenes which won the admiration of their audience. Subsequently an opportunity was afforded for the public to see the boys in action.

The work being done by the Carrolup children is a development of the application of visual education to the training of native children, and it works on the principle of encouraging the children to draw their lessons as a memory aid. In learning history, they draw the scenes about which they are learning, and similarly with geography, and every other practicable subject. The system is widely used in all schools now, from the in-

fant classes up, but the native children at Carrolup have gone beyond what has been experienced among most white children, and have shown that they possess latent ability as artists far beyond the average. Their pictures reveal keen appreciation of light and colour values, and it is fascinating to watch them building up their subjects. They work with complete confidence and certainty of touch, and without erasures. Their approach to the subject of their drawing seems at first sight to be rather bewildering. For instance, one of the boys took his sheet of paper and sketched in a few lines. Then he began to rub with a grey crayon until almost the whole of the paper was coloured grey, shading from light to dark. Then he drew in a group of trees, tracing the outlines of the trunks deftly, and adding the leaves. A little more shading, and a few light strokes with a black crayon, and in less than 30 minutes he had completed a lovely little study of a bush pool. Another of the boys works in even more unorthodox lines, and when he draws a tree, he actually draws the foliage first, yet there is no fumbling about it. When he finishes, there is a tree, beautifully proportioned and natural in its outlines. These boys have "seeing eyes". Their memories are full of the lore of the bush, and their fingers simply transfer to paper the pictures of the bushland that they have stored in their minds. Mr White









'It must be said for Carrolup that they have developed a particularly unique style of football within the Australian code....

... these lads were so fast and sure in this particular department that it would have taken a greyhound to catch them. In addition, the manner in which they kept the ball moving, their dodging tactics, and their handball made it a pleasure to watch them in action.'

#### THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1949.



FLEET-FOOTED: Members of the Carrolup Native Settlement School football team which has not been begien this season and has earned a reputation for remarkable pace. Back row: Angelo Yugle, Mervyn Smith, Parnell Dempster, Ross Jones, Revel Cooper, John Cuttabit, Wyvern Moses. Middle: Revnold Hart, Keith Inditch, Barry Loo, Brearley Bennel, Jim Smith, Milton Jackson. Front: Simpson Kelly, Adrian Allen, Nooli Williams, Phillip Jackson, Richard Williams.



FOOTBALL VICTORS: Members of the Carrolup native settlement football team, which defeated the Thomas-street State School yesterday, listening to their superintendent A. Gordon) at Subiaco Oval at half-time.

#### Natives Play Sparkling Football

Exceptional football ability was revealed by several members of the Carrolup Native. Settlement School team to the tune of the Carrolup Settlement School team to the tune of the Carrolup Native. Settlement School team to the tune of the School team to the School t

standing. He broke away from the packs at great speed, turned, side-stepped and feinted like a veteran. Reynold Hart (No. 5) marked, led and kicked in the style of an accomplished half-forward and, being a left-foster, he was quickly dubbed Keith Shea by Subiaco onlookers. The tall captain, Bart Control of the control o



#### The Past Meets The Present

By MURIEL WIECK

THE story of the pictures on these pages is as pitiful and as heart-warming as any you could find. Pitiful because of the circumstances out of which it arose, heart-warming because of the happy ending achieved and the far-reaching effect such achievement should have.

The pictures come from Carrolup, the native settlement in a reserve of some 5,000 acres 170 miles south of Perth, where between 50 and 60 aborigani and half-caste children attend the school. Until three years ago they showed small interest and little aptitude in their studies. The primitive mind, in its contact with white ideas, was caught in a web of bewilderment from which there seemed no breaking free, and when Mr. Noel White went to take charge of the school, little or no progress had been made.

With the idea of overcoming the children's shyness and breaking down their feelings of inferiority and frustration, Mr. White gave them music. He played the flute or violin and Mrs. White the piano, and they awakened an enthusiastic interest which now has the children singing two-part songs.



Thus, gradually, confidence was gained. Then, bearing in mind that man drew before he wrote, Mr. White gave the children papers and chalk to put down the things they saw; the things with which ye were most familiar—trees, water, the sky, sunsets, hunting expeditions and corroborees—the background of their life for

They are all under 14 years of age, practically uneducated, completely untrained—Mr. White cannot draw—and yet within a few months of first receiving their material these children produced drawings which have evoked incredulous admiration and praise. On the whole the girls are more interested in weaving and embroid-cry but all the boys are keen on drawing and at a conservative estimate 25 per cent of them produce work of a high quality. Less than one per cent is the figure given for white children.

There has been much discussion and much argument about the wisdom of impressing on the native the white man's outlook and approach to drawing. Many people hold that they should be left to express themselves in their own manner, the implication being that the aboreignal motif and the cave drawing is the utmost to be expected or permitted them. So many with this viewpoint overlook the fact that the designs and motifs are traditional and that the cave drawings may be thousands of years old and comparable to those of the white man at a similar era in his existence.



Here at Carrolup is the answer to those who suggest that the native cannot see things as the white man sees them, and proof that because of his keen observation and the coordination of his hand and eye necessary to his vy exists the head and not covered what he sees. All these youthful artists are untaught. Mr. White could say to them only that one effort did not look quite right and to try again, with the result—well, the pictures speak for themselves. Rhythm, movement, balance of composition, sense of the dramatic; rich vivid colour, easy handling of perspective, flowing line, character; it is all there:

Over a year ago, when their work was exhibited in Perth, the children had so gained in confidence that they were able to draw in the presence of visitors to the exhibition, proof to those who were sceptical that the work had been done by the children unaided. Since they have learnt to express themselves freely and naturally by drawing, their lost shyness and gained confidence has brought about a consequent progress in the other studies of their new curriculum, which progress has been so rapid as to be amazing.

With the proceeds from the sale of some pictures a supply of watercolours, brushes and paper has been purchased and sent to the children by Mr. H. Stokes, who has been interested in the project from the beginning and who has made opportunities for the work to be seen. It will be interesting to see how the children adapt themselves to a strange medium and how quickly they conquer the difficulties of handling water-colour without tuition.

What will be the result? The brief past shows sufficient achievement to make us more than hopeful of the future.









'In every way they were exemplary - attentive, interested, appreciative, grateful, polite, unselfish, sporting and physically courageous. I hope that my own grandchildren will develop these traits as definitely as these little aboriginal boys...'

'... During the afternoon when they were drawing and painting with their crayons and paints, I noticed the boys sharing any colours with each other. These aboriginal children have the real spirit of community life - they are non-possessive and quite definitely non-acquisitive! The older boys appeared to take a pleasure in showing the younger how to do things.'







330ZA 2 State School Carrolip. 6.7.50 Dear Mis Ruther Well Illes Plutter we execuved your fine letters. I was very glad with the news you gave us Every letters you write, The White reads it out to the school children. We are very proud of you Mand what you are doing for us, in other, parts of the world. Woul, this time last 13 year we had about 300 drawing ready, because we not to work after school. Here rules put out by still such Mr Dully.



'These boys, at least 50% of them will develop their technique and turn out pictures equal to that of Albert Namatjira & he can earn £1500. He was given his chance & encouraged even taught how to paint by Rex Batterbee, also he is a man of 45 - whereas these youngsters of 12 to 14 have years to improve by practice without tuition their natural gifts if they are allowed to do so!' Florence Rutter to Mr Middleton, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1950

# KANGAROO S Land Brown B

"KANGAROOS," BY REYNOLD HART: SHOWN AT THE RECENT EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS BY AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AT OVERSEAS HOUSE, ST. JAMES'S.



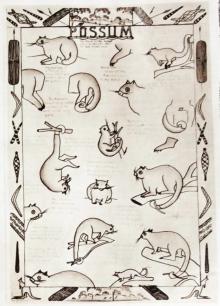
"LANDSCAPE—NATIVES DANCING"; BY REVEL COOPER. THE RITUAL HEAD-DRESSES AND PAINTED BODIES OF THE DANCING ABORIGINES SHOULD BE NOTED.



"LANDSCAPE WITH KANGAROOS"; BY FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD PARNELL DEMSTER. THE DECORATIVE CHARM AND COMPOSITION OF THIS DRAWING ARE REMARKABLE.

The remarkable drawings which we illustrate on this page were made by Australian Aboriginal children who, it is stated, had had no previous instruction in art, and had not seen any European paintings or water-colour drawings. The young artists, whose work has the characteristic freshness and naive charm of Primitive paintings, have remarkable powers of observation and a great feeling for composition and atmosphere. Their talent was first discovered, four years ago, by Mr. and Mrs. authorities to take charge of Europhy Native Settlement. The 11th drawings which comprised the exhibition at Overeass Flower, St. James's (which was due to

#### ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN ART: NOTABLE WORK BY CHILDREN.



"POSSUMS": A SHEET OF ANIMAL DRAWINGS BY REVEL COOPER, SURROUNDED



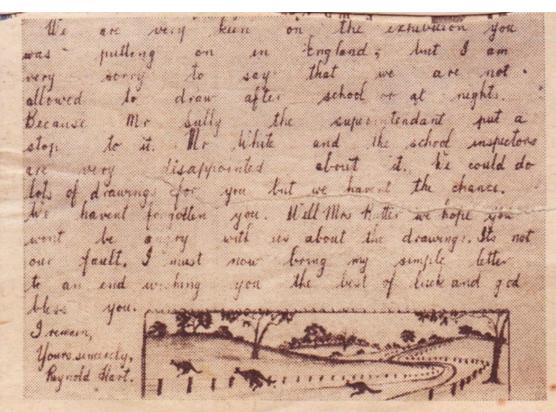
"TREE STUDY"; BY REVEL COOPER. ONE OF THE INTERESTING COLLECTION OF DRAWINGS BY AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.

close on August 11), were collected by Mrs. Florence Rutter and were shown by her permission. They have previously been exhibited in Helland. Australia and New Zealand, but this is the first occasion on which they have been seen in this country. The drawings, by artists aged between five and fourteen years, include designs for proceialia and fabrics, landscapes, seascapes and a series of sheets of animal drawings, surrounded by decorative borders composed of Australian than the second of the second of



By Daily Craphic Reporter EXACTLY A YEAR ago a 72-year-old English grandmother made a promise in the Australian bushland to a class of barefooted aboriginal schoolboys. She was apric hily.

aboriginal schoolboys.
She was sprightly,
sliver-haired Mrs.
Florence Rutter, of Woodside Park, N., and in London vesterday she kept.
her promise.
Ehe showed hundreds of
visitors through a room
at the Overseas League,
with 11st drawings.



How he writes: letter, with picture postscript, from aboriginal schoolboy Reynold Hart.

## NATIVE SCHOOL CHANGES

KATANNING, Dec. 11: The Department of Native Affairs is to close the school now being conducted at Carrolup Native Settlement by the Education Department. It has arranged for the natives' educational requirements to be supplied by the missions at Rowlands and Wandering. Boys over the age of 12 will remain at Carrolup, which is to be changed into a rural training centre and, if necessary, special arrangements will be made for the education of the boys remaining between the ages of 12 and 14.

Carrolup has come into prominence recently because of the artistic ability of the native students at the school.

3 At first we hated how because me delhate as gentle as he was stood for mo moncemel He soon deton out confedence than a teacher to us. This one man accomplished in a few short years what an whale Department could never do of they treed from now to eternity With Mr White continually battling for us things gradually improved all around. We were all keen on drawing and Mr. White was even keener to help Instead of going fishing or swimming must of the buys tuned of their attentions to doing crayen drawings wilkends For Mr White to trust us with the key



## HUMAN INNATE EMOTIONAL NEEDS

- Feeling safe and secure.
- Feeling a sense of belonging.
- Being connected to others, to culture and country.
- Reciprocity: being truly heard and seen by the people around us, feeling that we are held in someone else's mind and heart.
- Having hope.
- Feeling empowered, a sense of autonomy and control.
- Having a sense of competence and achievement.
- Having trust and being trusted.
- Having meaning and purpose.
- Possessing a strong identity...
- Feeling loved.

## REGULATION AND HEALING

- Stress response systems in the brain become hyper-reactive following trauma & disconnection.
- Patterned, repetitive, rhythmic activity makes these overly reactive core regulatory networks get back in balance.
- Music, sport, dance, drawing, and walking in nature regulate. Each of these activities also has very important relational elements. They also have important cognitive elements.
- They engage, activate and synchronise activity throughout the brain from the bottom up and from the top down.





## the Carrolup story

HOME BOOK STORY GALLERY -PROJECT -HEALING -ABOUT US CONTACT

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised that this website, and its links, contain images and voices of people who have passed away.



Traumatised Aboriginal children living in the squalor of a 1940s government native settlement

#### Available now as a downloadable eBook

Connection uses 'faces' and 'voices' of the past to take you into a world where Aboriginal children rise above great adversity to create beautiful landscape drawings that are acclaimed on both sides of the world. Connection is a story of trauma, and the overcoming of trauma. A story that resonates in today's world of the oppressed and their oppressors. A story of Hope, Heart and Healing.

"... the book is nothing short of incredible." Carlie Atkinson, CEO, We Al-li Programs

