

## *Kookaburras*

### **Aliyah Stentiford**

"Kookaburra's" is a painting inspired by the family of kookaburras that used to visit us every day on our property. Growing up I always loved the Australian flora and fauna particularly the wildlife which lived or visited us each day. Their curiosity of us humans intrigued me, inspiring me to attempt in gaining their trust. In 2014 a kookaburra landed in one of the large gumtrees on the farm, and it caught dad's eye because when he was young his mother had the same encounter and managed to gain a kookaburra's trust by feeding it. As a butcher we always had meat in our fridge and Dad wanted to follow in his Mums footsteps and gain the trust of these kookaburras. After being fed the kookaburra disappeared, but came back a week later, this time not alone. This continued till one day there was 5 kookaburras, 3 babies and 2 adults. With Dad's Cannon camera we took many photos which I revisited years later after moving out and remembered in time for year 12, to create a symbolic piece. Through this experience with the kookaburras, it has helped me explore the beauty of Australian natives and their special connections with certain humans.

I explored many different mediums through this process, and I found that some had their own difficulties for example watercolour was easy to blend but when it came to adding detail to a particular native animal was very hard which caused the animal to look *more* 2d. This led me to the use of acrylic paint as it was much easier to add details to the painting and if I made a mistake, it was easy to go over again.

The two artists I researched was John Gould and Natalie Parker. They both have similar styles in the sense the realism of animals, but when it came to the mediums, they were completely different. I found the Gould used watercolour on his animal paintings and he had amazing detail to his art. I struggled with creating this type of complex details and making sure the colours did not blend into each other. Parker used acrylic which is much more my style in art as I am more used to this type of paint. Both these artists taught me many crucial aspects that were applied to my final and folio. Parker's art style can be seen in my final as I felt I had more of a connection in her style of painting with acrylics.

Overall, the outcome of this painting has made me feel very satisfied in the way my skills were developed and shaped. The development of my skills in acrylic can be seen when I was recreating Parker's art to now producing a final that has a similar style in mediums. It is presented in my final and the folio pages leading up to it that I can confidently say that I am competent in achieving a painting using a variety of different styles.