

DHARAWAL COUNTRY

It is significant to note that the Dragons catchment coincides with much of the lands of the traditional clans of the Dharawal people. The Dharawal people shared language from the southern banks of Botany Bay and the Georges River, west towards the Blue Mountains and Goulburn, and as far south to the banks of the Shoalhaven River.

The Dragons also extend south into Yuin Country, south of the Shoalhaven.

The land and sea, and all fauna and flora had special significance. Clan groups in the area had different roles. While some had the responsibilities for looking after the water supply, others looked after the fish, the kangaroo, the possum, the grasses, or the trees.

Totems are a demonstration of each individual's connection to both the Real and Spirit Worlds.

The Dharawal people have many totems including the humpback whale, kangaroo and snake. All three appear on the St George Illawarra indigenous jersey.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.

The St George Illawarra Dragons acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our games are played, where our programs are conducted and in the communities we support. We acknowledge their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay respect to them and their Elders past and present and acknowledge them as the oldest living culture in the world.

We acknowledge the consequences of the impact of western settlement for peoples, communities and our nation. We believe we can walk together to a stronger future and are committed to Reconciliation and to promoting greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures within our catchment and the wider community.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Do you know your cultural background? List the cultural heritage of all your group members and present to class.

How does your school recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People?
What events and initiatives does your school have?

DO YOU KNOW YOUR CULTURAL BACKGROUND?

'I am a very proud indigenous person and love sharing information about my culture.'

JOSH KERR,
Dragons Front Rower



INDIGENOUS JERSEYS



2016 JERSEY

The unique design of the jersey has special relevance and significance to the Dharawal people.

The jersey itself was designed by local Aboriginal artist Lani Balzan, who when asked to design the strip, said she wanted to show the strong connection Traditional Owners have always had with country.

The designs reflect the importance of 'Connection' to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and highlights special Dharawal totems. Totems are a demonstration of each individual's connection to both the Real World and the Spirit World. The jerseys display three main totems - the Whale, Kangaroo and Snake.



2017 JERSEY

Designed by local artist Lani Balzan, the Dragons' 2017 Indigenous jersey is headlined by a hand print on the bottom-right which represents the significance of the artwork and the importance of reconciliation.

The sternum design above the Red V represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's ancestors and the dreaming, while the feather represents wisdom and respect.

Dharawal totems are again part of the design. The whale - representing strength and courage, and the snake - representing the importance of life.



2018 JERSEY

For the first time, the Dragons Indigenous jersey carries the designs of three local artists. Lani Balzan's design, front of jersey, shows Birri Birri (whale) and the many different gathering symbols representing connection. Note the three white dots above the Red V. These represent our three Indigenous players.

The back of jersey, from a design by young artists Keiran Cambell and Koori Minto shows the special relationship and respect local Aboriginal peoples have with the sea.



2019 JERSEY

Repeating the 2018 design with the artist's original black background.

To be worn on Sunday May 26 (Indigenous round) at our WIN Stadium home game, against the Sharks. Our club sees this as a great opportunity to celebrate our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.