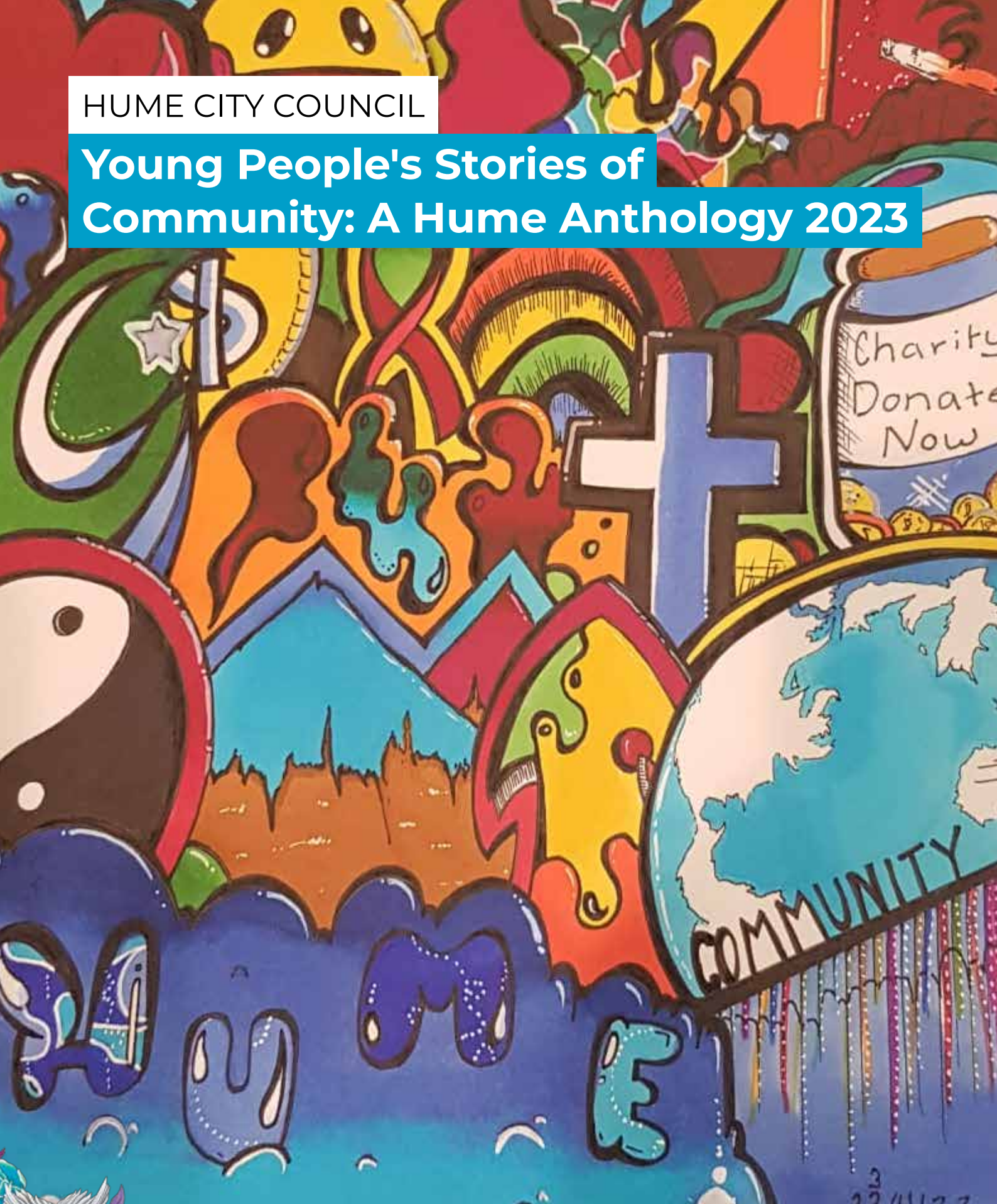


HUME CITY COUNCIL

Young People's Stories of Community: A Hume Anthology 2023



Front cover design

Real community
Ahmed Karaoglu (Age 13)
Greenvale Secondary College

Youth
services





Acknowledgment of traditional custodians

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates, and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

Acknowledgment of contribution to *Young People's Stories of Community: A Hume Anthology 2023*.

Council would like to thank all the young people who contributed their amazing artwork, poems, and stories to this year's anthology.

This year's anthology would not be possible without the support of our local primary and secondary schools and services including:

- Aitken College
- Craigieburn Secondary College
- Elevation Secondary College
- Greenvale Secondary College
- Hume Anglican Grammar
- Penola Catholic College
- Salesian College
- St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College
- Sunbury Downs College
- Aitken Hill Primary School
- St Carlos Borromeo Primary School
- Craigieburn Primary School
- Oscar Romero Primary School
- Westmeadows Primary School
- Melbourne Polytechnic
- Arabic Welfare
- Youth Projects

We would also like to thank all of the parents/carers for supporting your young people in their creative endeavours.

We look forward to all your submissions for next year's 2024 theme:

Young People's Stories of Heritage & Diversity: A Hume Anthology



Mayor's Message

I am thrilled that the Hume Youth Anthology has returned in 2023. In its second year, the works in this anthology serve as a reminder of the talent and creative spirit of young people in Hume. Thank you to all the parents, carers and schools who supported their young people this year to showcase their artworks; and most importantly thank the young people that submitted their work in 2023.

Young people were invited to submit a drawing, poem, short story, comic, painting, or photograph that reflected this year's theme of community and what it means to them. Showcasing their lived experiences, passions, families, and friends, we received incredible submissions that show an authentic perspective of Hume City for young people.

For the first time, this year we invited the public to vote on the best creative pieces, as well as their favourite piece overall. I'm pleased to announce that we received more than 350 votes, and you can find the results later in this publication.

Young People's Stories of Community: A Hume Anthology is part of our commitment to young people and ensuring that they are healthy, safe, and have opportunities to prosper, as outlined in *Connect & Thrive: A Plan for Young People in Hume 2022-2026*.

Young people, families and the community highlighted the need for young people's

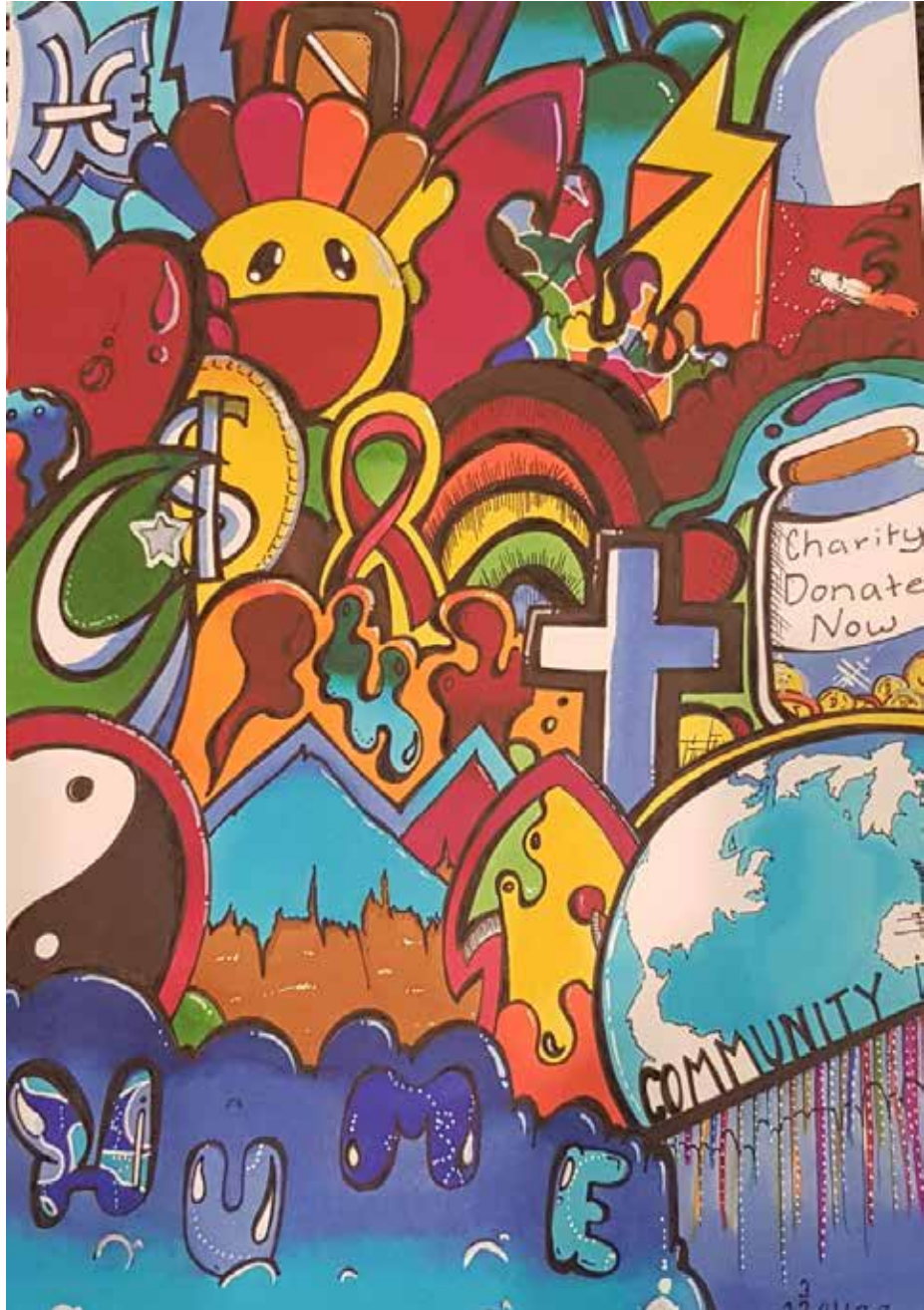
achievements to be recognised and celebrated. In addition, young people voiced the need for us to recognise that they are the experts in their own lives and have the contemporary, real-world knowledge and experience of issues and opportunities impacting them and their communities.

This anthology project will continue to be delivered annually and will provide a chance for young people aged 6 to 24 years to showcase their remarkable talents and creativity, as well as foster a lifelong love of the arts.

Once again, please enjoy this anthology and thank you to all who have contributed.

Cr Naim Kurt
Mayor of Hume City

Best creative piece: Mayor's Choice Award



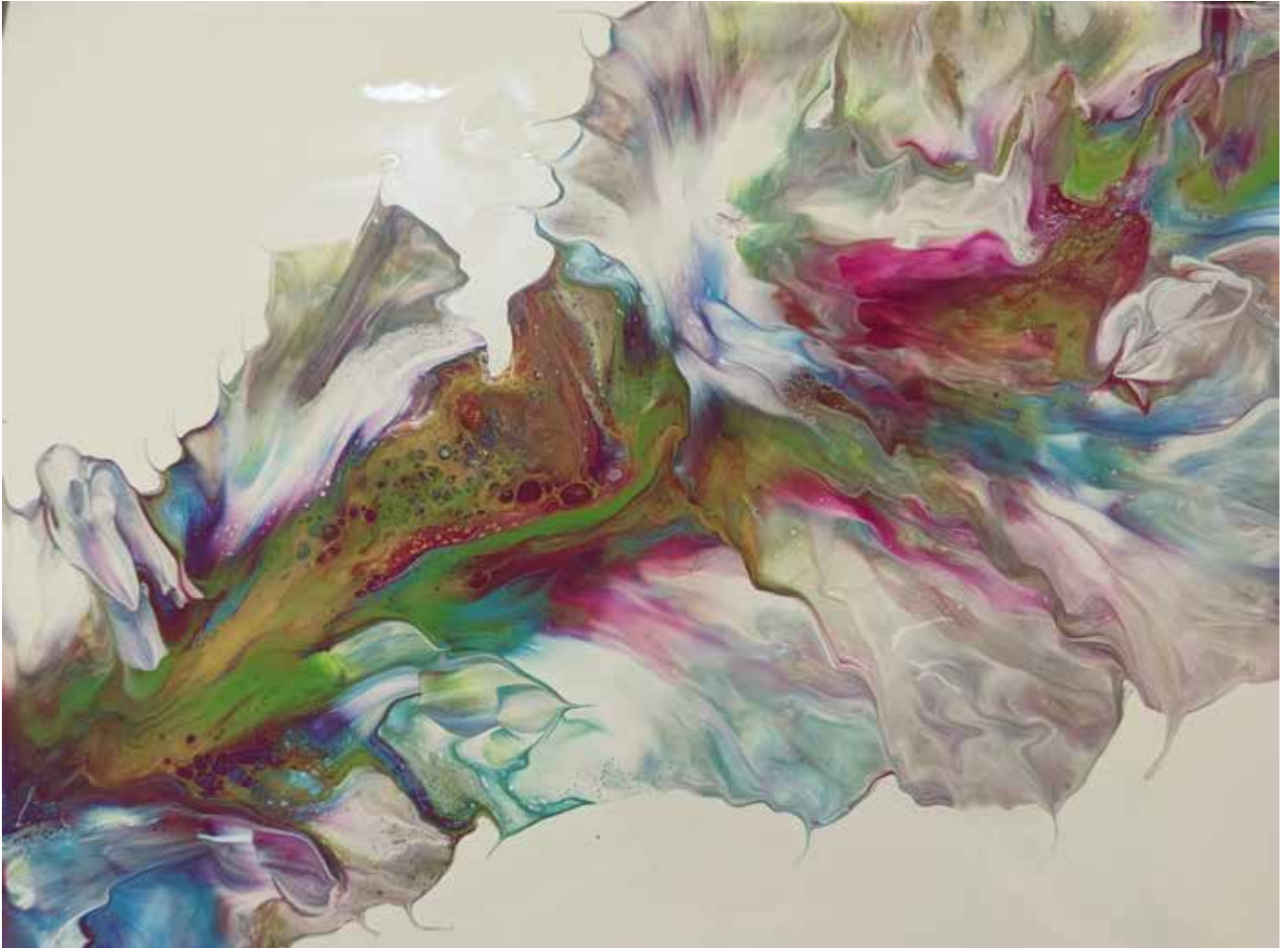
Real Community

Ahmed Karaoglu (Age 13), Greenvale Secondary school

Front Cover Mayor's Choice Award Winner 2023

"It contains a variety of religious symbols that are followed by individuals in the Community".

Best creative piece: 6-11 year olds



Colours of Life

Ella Malupo (Age 9)

"The different colours in the painting represent different Cultures, together we are the masterpiece".

Best creative piece: 12-18 year olds



Our Roots

Alexandra Sarkis (Age 18), Arabic Welfare

"Earth is our home and, the root of all communities is the mother Earth".

Best creative piece: 19-24 year olds



You Want Half?

Amira Akhtar (Age 22), Craigieburn

"Come and share a mandarin with me, I'll meet you where i can, as will you and we will be neighbours".

Community favourite piece: (all ages)



Our Roots

Alexandra Sarkis (Age 18), Arabic Welfare

"Earth is our home and, the root of all communities is the mother Earth".



My Favourite Place in Our Community

Judy Ferguson (Age 6), St Carlo Borromeo Primary School



Ride to School

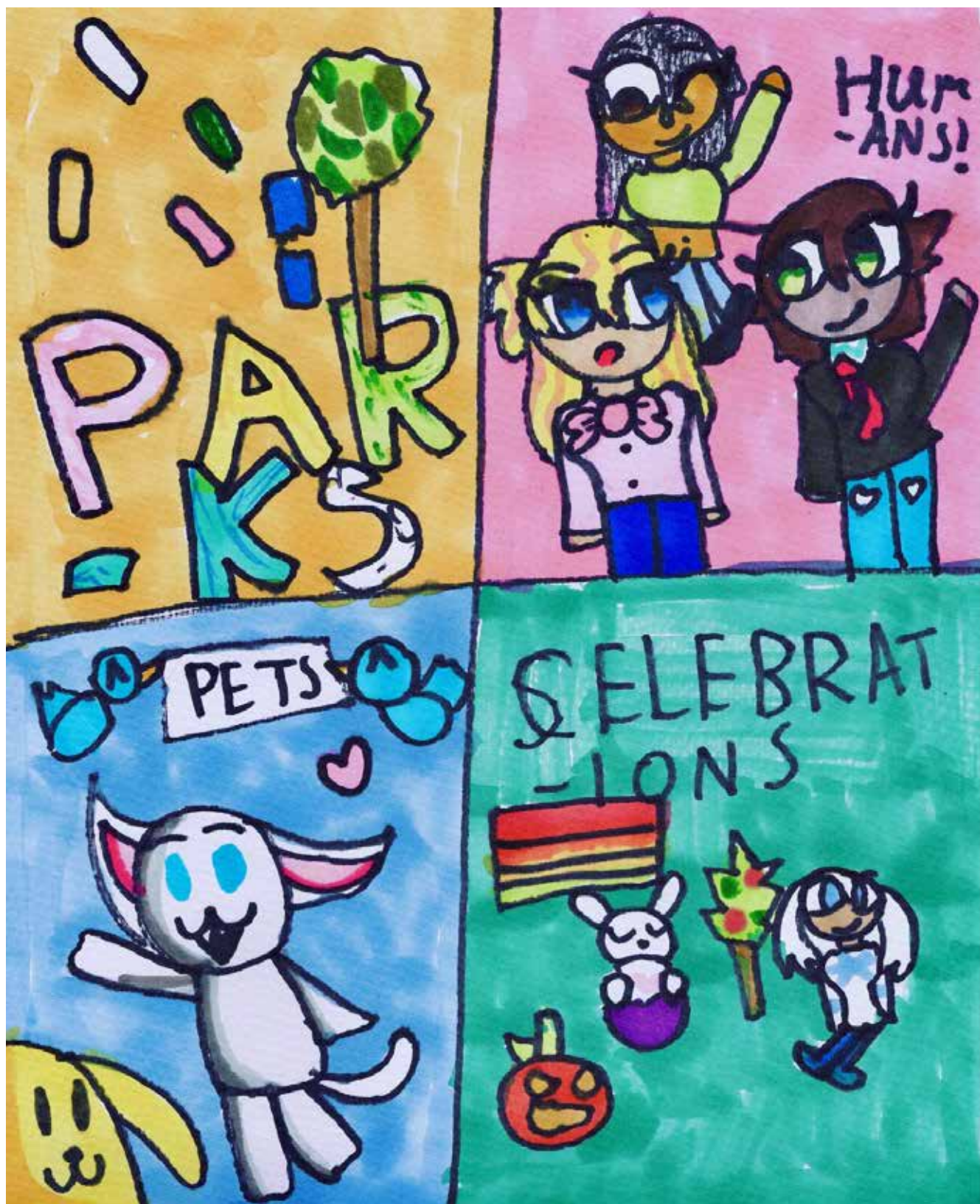
Samarth Supreeth (Age 6)

"Riding to School helps lower pollution of the environment caused by cars".



Fruit and Easter

Maryam Qaseer (Age 8), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College



Love Everyone, No Matter What

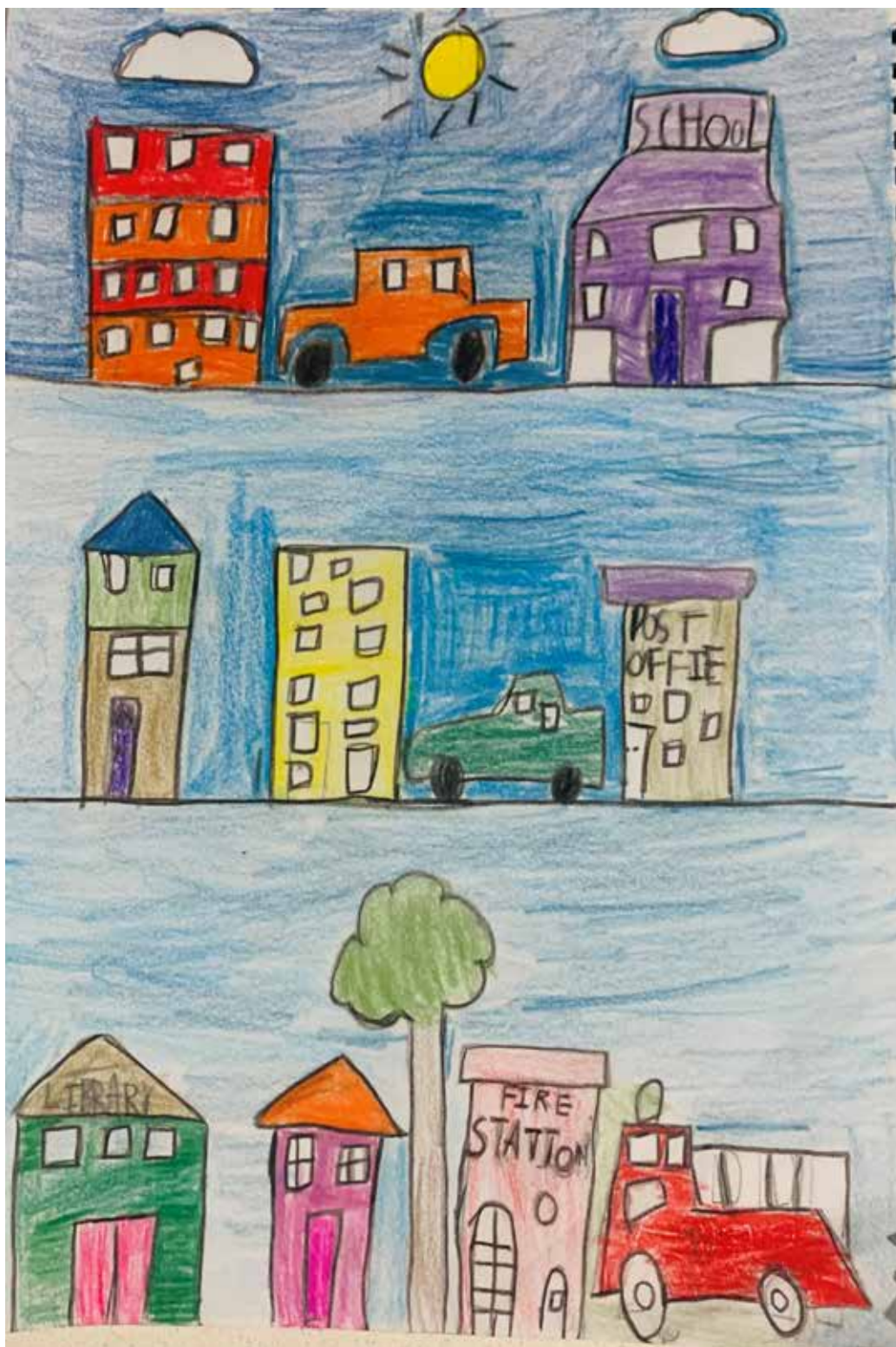
Poppy Stephens (Age 8), Westmeadows Primary School



Colours of Life

Ella Malupo (Age 9)

"The different colours in the painting represent different Cultures, together we are the masterpiece".



Community Helpers

Aadi Krishna Cheerth Shiji (Age 9), Aitken Hill Primary School

"The school, post office and fire station make the community".



We Belong

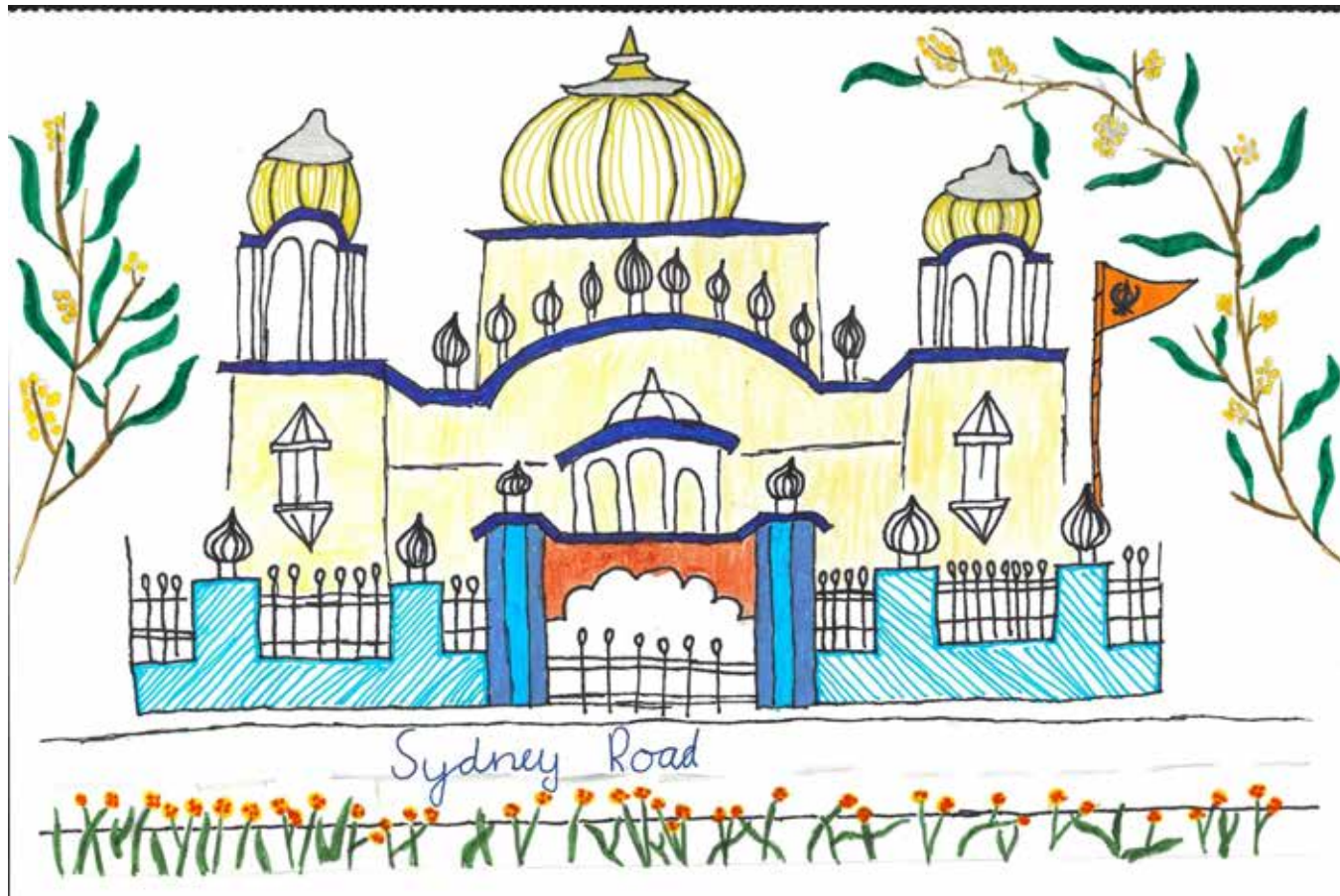
Scarlett Presta (Age 10), Aitken College



A Little Sunshine Can Perform Miracles

Mia Asaad (Age 10), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College

"Fighting Hardships and have the power to keep fighting and not giving in".



My Communities

Harnav Singh (Age 10), Craigieburn Primary School

"This represents two of my communities that I am a part of, one is my faith and the other is the native landscape".

Maaloula
Patricia Saloumi.
11 years old.

Peaceful, smooth, beautiful and old. The first thing that comes to my mind is Maaloula. A lovely town located in Syria. The houses are built on huge, crusty rocks on the mountains. Most houses have blue plaster on the outside, which is a Christian custom. Maaloula is the only place where Aramaic language is still spoken, the language of Jesus. Maaloula is famous for its many churches like the Melkite Greek Catholic Church mar Sarkis and the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch convent of saint Takla. Also a popular place in Maaloula is al faj, that leads me to a lovely story. Saint Takla was running away from her dad and his army because she wanted to become Christian and honour Jesus. Saint Takla found herself trying to run away from the persecutors, but after praying to God to save her. The mountain was miraculously split in half, so she could escape her persecutors. Arriving in Maaloula today you feel this ancient story in the air. Maaloula yes is a very hidden village, but everyone there is one huge, loving and caring family.

Maaloula

Patricia Saloumi (Poem) (Age 1), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College

"My Family relates to this community".



Aspire to be more/First Nations

Teacher Submission: Steven Patternon Grade 6 classes (Average Age 11), Oscar Romero Primary School

"Our Year 6 students painted these murals with our immediate and broader communities in their hearts".

This event happened on 9th of February

THOMAS SOLIMAN

The Day I Broke My Left Wrist

It was an ordinary day like any other, but the good news was it was Friday! I got out of bed, washed my face and put on my school uniform, although the shirt was kind of tight. I headed downstairs as fast as the wind, excited I was going to eat eggs and bacon. After I devoured my breakfast, I put on my p.e shoes since we had p.e, man this day can't get any better I thought. The bus then arrived and I got in. Since it was Friday, it was my turn on the double seater. I continued watching 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'.

When we arrived, I put my bag inside my locker although it was a struggle to open the new locks our teacher gave us. I headed off to chapel. After chapel I was exhilarated that we had p.e first and English second, they're like the best two subjects. In p.e we had a blast, we had fitness testing and my vertical jump reached 38cm! In English it was super educational but somehow really, really fun.

We then had recess, I was exceedingly hungry, so I decided to have my lunch now instead of in lunch time. I ate my mum's world famous chicken sandwich, (it wasn't really world famous) I will never get sick of this sandwich I anticipated. I needed a new p.e shirt, so I went to the uniform shop and bought a size 14, blue house, p.e shirt. By the time I finished and returned to my locker, it was already class time (recess was only 20 minutes).

I was tremendously happy since we had life skills then math. In life skills it was really funny and enjoyable, we basically relaxed the whole lesson. In math I can't lie we had a lot of work to do. Somehow I finished all the work, then got rewarded with some extra problem solving.

Then came Lunch, I walked out the classroom with confidence, not knowing I will be in hospital the next hour or so. I was excited to eat my mum's amazing chicken sandwich, but then I realised I had already eaten it at recess. Oh well, I thought, I guess Oreos will do. While I was munching on my Oreos, I had a sense that I should play basketball. I got my basketball and headed to the basketball courts. I wanted to play on the big ring, so I went to play there, despite the fact that the year tens were playing over there. They told me to get lost so I went to the other ring. I then found myself versus a year nine on one on one. It was tie game, I was dribbling the ball, then suddenly it slipped off my foot and went to the other ring. It went to a year ten boy that I prefer not to state his name. The boy aimlessly kicked the basketball with all his power towards the other side of the oval. That frustrated me, so I tapped on his shoulder and said "Why would you do that!". The boy turned around, stepped forward and pushed me with all his strength. I landed on my left wrist, I started crying, the pain was unbearable. A teacher instantly came and put me on a wheel chair, I refused to go on since it would be so embarrassing. I came to my senses and went on. At sick bay, Abouna Tadros (the principal of the school) came and told me it'll be fine and that kind of stuff. He really helped me through the pain. The wrist ended up being broken and dislocated.

So that's how I broke my left wrist.

ps. I am writing this autobiography while the cast is still on.

The Day I Broke My Left Wrist

Thomas Soliman (Short Story) (Age 12), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College



We Work Better Together

Maria Morcos (Age 12), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College

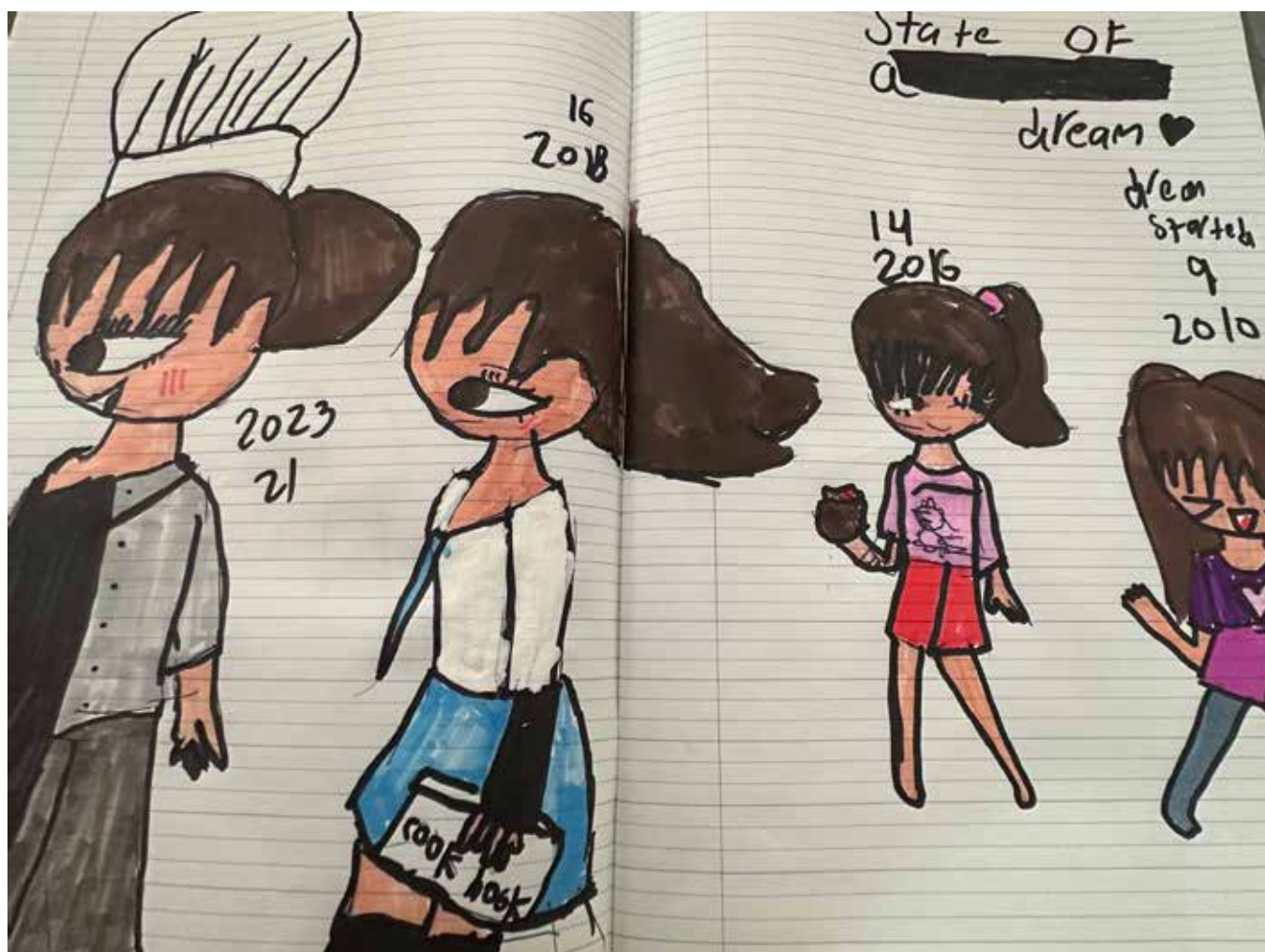
"Our community has many diverse people and when we work together we can make the world better".



Love Birds

Ravji Saia (Age 12), Overnewton Secondary College

"Birds chirping around you is a beautiful realisation that life is incredibly good in our community".
"



State of Dream

Jennifer Moucha (Age 12), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College

"Never Give up".



Cortles Chilling

Dayan Kani (Age 12)

"This artwork depicts characters called Cortles living and having fun in their community together".



Golden Core

Tamar Farooq (Age 12), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College

"Golden Core relates to how a loved one passed away and we are sad but happy at the same time".



Elsa Ngo (Age 12), Greenvale Secondary College

11



Steve Irwin And Trees

Carlos Yousif (Age 12), Crigieburn Secondary College

"Steve Irwin being a gretest Australian to our nature and species R.I.P. "

The Mysterious Community

As a woman crept after a man, a little girl screamed and the man turned around, the woman ran and kept running, she never looked back. She then entered an abandoned house, so she decided to stay the night. The next morning, the woman woke up and looked around the house, she discovered a bed that was made, she found that suspicious and crept out the back door to escape whoever lived there. Out of nowhere a teenage girl tapped the woman on the shoulder and the woman spun around in fright, the teenage girl just stared into the woman eyes. The woman turned back around and ran into the woods, as the woman looked back to see if the teenage girl was following her, the teenage girl wasn't she was just smiling, and the woman was so afraid, she ran as fast as she could only to find a village. The woman's name is Bella, Bella is a tall brown-haired woman with old 80s dresses, Bella believes that 80s dresses are very pretty and keeps many with her no matter what. The man's name is Rowan, he is blonde-haired short and loves slick back hair, he has a granddaughter and a dead son. The teenage girl's name is Gemma, she is a black-haired girl who lost her mother and now lives alone in the abandoned house. As Bella wandered in the village people stared at her and laughed, Bella entered a stable she found. She then found another woman in there named Mary; Mary had owned the stables for 10 years now. "Hello" said Mary and Bella didn't answer, then Mary said, "You don't talk much huh" and Bella then took an apple out of a horse stable and walked away. Mary stopped her and said "Hey, that's starlight's" and Bella finally spoke "Why should I care" and Bella kept walking, Mary stood in front of Bella and said, "You should care, or my horse could starve" Bella then said, "she'll survive, you will buy her more apples". Mary then watched Bella walk away, Mary was disgusted by Bella, Bella then laughed and ran as she stole a coat, eggs and more. Rowan then walked into the village and Bella saw him and ran back to hide inside the stable, Mary looked and saw Rowan and chuckled. Rowan spotted Mary as Bella went around the stable as Rowan approached, Rowan then said, "You don't look busy Mary, let's go eat something" Mary then said, "I think I'm good Rowan" Rowan said "Suit yourself love, see you at the wedding" Mary rolled her eyes as Rowan walked away. Bella came out and said, "Look like you hate him, right?" Mary said, "He's my ex-fiance" Bella then said, "That's why he called you love, I'm out of here Marmalade" Mary said, "It's MARY!!" Bella kept walking. She then decided to leave town and Mary came before she did and said, "I'm coming with you" Bella laughed and looked at Mary and said "Oh, you're serious and NO!!" Mary asks "Why" Bella says, "I work alone" Mary begged, and Bella got so annoyed by her that she decided to let her come along. And told Mary "We are going to Glenthorne" and Mary says "Why" Bella looks at her and Mary goes silent.

After 5 days of walking Mary and Bella get to Glenthorne and Bella finds an abandoned house their and buys it, Mary asks "Why are we here" Bella says "I love this place because of the cemeteries" Mary says "I am never asking another question" as Bella sneezes because of the dust and says "Mary stay here to dust, I am going into the center of town to buy food" and Bella leaves. Bella arrives to town center and crashes into Gemma and says "You?!" Gemma pulls her aside and looks to see if anyone's watching "Me!" Bella says "Great, what do you want" Gemma says, "My mum died and left me a letter and it says your my great aunt". Bella says "Nope, I'm out of here" Gemma says "Wait!" Bella just keeps walking. Gemma scoffs and says "Mum said you would do this" Bella says "Do what" Gemma says "Deny it all" Bella says "I'm not, Bella then leaves to go back to Mary. When Bella arrives Mary asks, "What took you so long" Bella just falls on the couch in respond, Mary then scoffs and says, "Fine don't talk but you will have too eventually". Bella lays on the couch all day long and night falls so she gets up to eat something and sees Mary fast asleep, Bella hears two men bickering and goes out to explore the town more and see two men standing next to the tree and the first man says "Hurry, get the girl" the second man says "Where does she live" Bella then by accident steps on a stick and cracks, the first man says "Leave the girl, we're about to get caught" the second man says "Fine but if the boss gets mad it's your fault" the first man says "Yeah, whatever" Bella then hurries back to the house to get some sleep. A rooster wakes Mary up, Bella is still fast asleep, so Mary begins to design the house. She designs the attic first and then a room, that's when Bella wakes up screaming. Mary rushes over and says, "What happend" all Bella does is shake. After 4 hours of shaking Bella finally says, "I saw her" Mary says. "Who" Bella whispers, "Gemma's mum" Mary says, "Gemma, the girl who lives in the abandond house where I used to live" Bella nods. Mary says, "What happend yesterday Bella" Bella said, "Gemma my great neice" Mary said, "How" Bella shrouged and Mary set back to work and Bella joined her after relaxing her nerves.

The Mysterious Community

Meena Mandlay (Age 13), Greenvale Secondary College

After 5 hours of cleaning the house, Mary and Bella both go into the town center and this time Gemma just watches Bella to see when she can get her alone. Gemma didn't get Bella alone, so she follows Bella to her house and climbs through a window to get inside. Gemma then hides in a wardrobe to make sure Bella doesn't see her and then Mary opens the wardrobe to put away some clothes and Mary screams. Bella rushes in and looks at Gemma in shock and says, "Gemma, how did you get in here" Gemma said, "i climbed through the window" Bella says, "Get out!" Gemma says, "But..." Bella said, "No buts". Mary and Bella watch as Gemma leaves crying and Mary turns to Bella to say, "That was really harsh" Mary leaves to let Bella think about what she did. Bella went to bed after thinking about what had happened, the next morning Bella went out to find Gemma, only to find out that Gemma had left town. She told Mary they were going to leave town to search for Gemma, Mary agreed with Bella. Mary said, "Let's go find your niece" and Bella said, "Still need to find out that she's my niece". Mary and Bella were off to find Gemma, they went back to the town she lived in and found the bed a mess, there was a note on the bed, and it wrote "I have been taken by some men who worked with my mum, if you see this letter find me at Patrick's town. Find Thomas, he's the one who's people kidnapped me". They followed Gemma's words to find Thomas the kidnapper, they met with him at a jam shop. Thomas said, "Hello Girls, you must be Bella and Mary" Bella said, "yeah, stop acting weird" Mary said, "he's a kidnapper, Bella that's scary" Bella said, "Relax Mary, we are here to find Gemma" Thomas said, "Come with me". Mary and Bella followed Thomas to a bookshelf, and he pulled a book, a secret passageway opened. They all went down a staircase to find a big room with 3 small beds, in one bed they found Gemma unconscious. Bella ran over with Mary to check on Gemma, they turned around to ask Thomas a question but all they saw was a closed door. Mary screamed as she said to Bella, "I told you we couldn't trust him!!" because of all Mary's screaming Gemma woke up, Bella looked over to see if she was ok. Gemma groaned and asked, "How'd you get here?" Bella said, "Your note" Gemma said, "Thomas told me to write that to get over here" Mary scoffs, Bella says, "Mary enough, you see why I work alone" Mary nods. Bella, Mary, and Gemma sit on there beds and Gemma explains what the letter said, Mary says, "Oh, so your mum got murdered by someone" Bella stares and Mary says, "Bella you ok?" Bella says, "I think I know who killed your mum" Gemma says, "Who" Bella says...

To Be Continued

The Mysterious Community

Meena Mandlay (Age 13), Greenvale Secondary College



Autumn

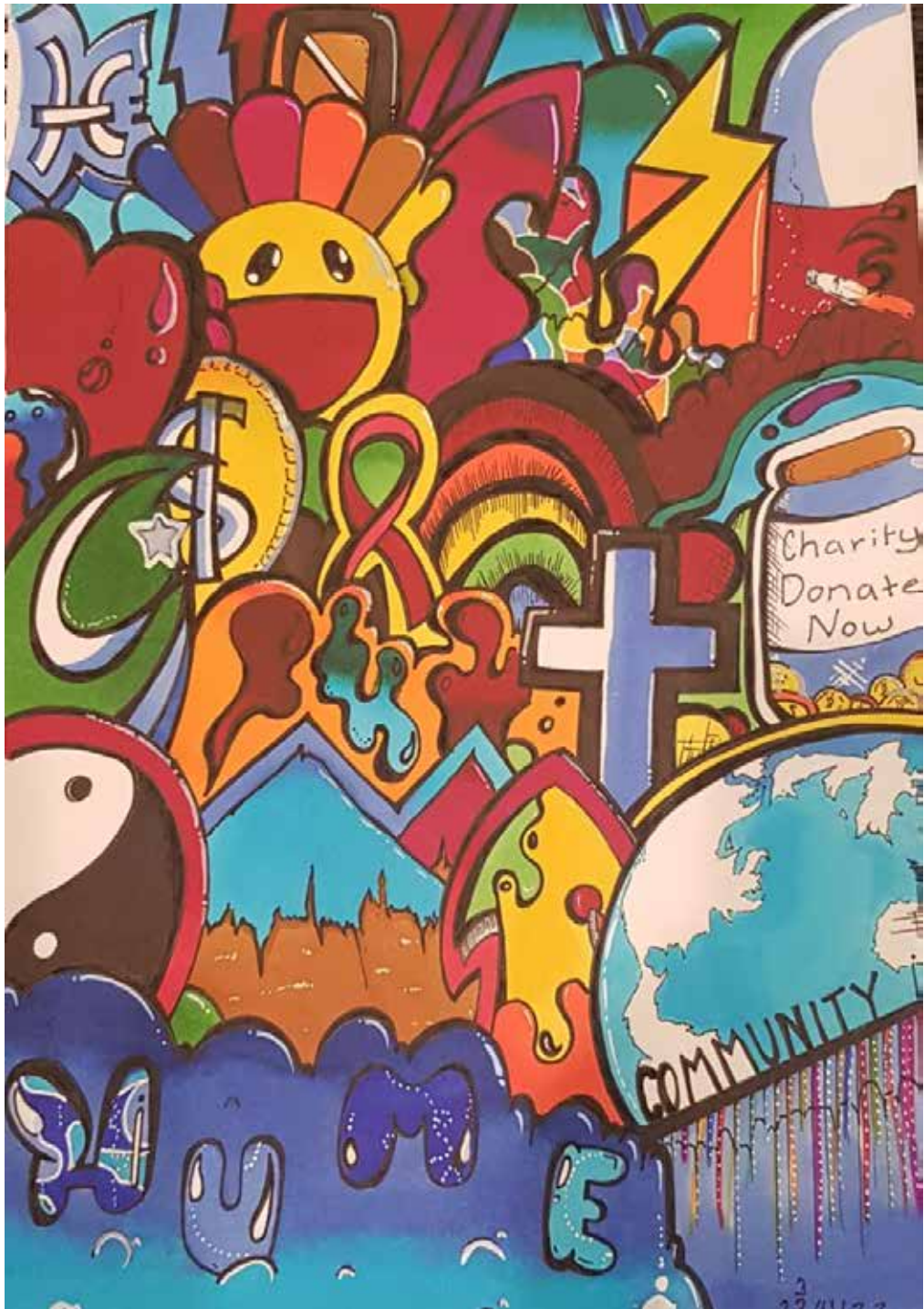
Yousif Qaseer (Age 13), St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College



Around the Campfire, Jingle Bells and Golden Horseshoe Parade

Maeve Hogan (Age 13), Hume Anglican Grammar

"My Family and I attended the Hume city council Christmas Carols. We had a great time singing and dancing".



Real Community

Ahmed Karaoglu (Age 13), Greenvale Secondary school

Front Cover Mayor's Choice Award Winner 2023

"It contains a variety of religious symbols that are followed by individuals in the Community".



Colony Mind

Colony Mind (Age 13), Greenvale Secondary College

"My Artwork relates to community because in a colony, the ants work together as a community to thrive".



Voice of People

Zainab Haidari (Age 13)

"Through my drawing, i aim to be the voice of those people who no longer desire war".

"



Community of Colours

Yari Kongrung (Age 13), Greenvale Secondary College

"Every individual colour in my artwork represents a different culture/person co-existing peacefully".



Hydrangea Love

Varuna Malhorta (Age 14), Univeristy Highschool

"Bees symbolise teamwork and hardwork. Hydrangeas represent gratitude, greace and beauty".



Community Library

Isis Birkhahn (Age 15), Elevation Secondary College

"I am a student of the Hume Community, who enjoys using Hume libraries to borrow books and study".

Once upon a time, there was a young artist named Mia who lived in a small village nestled deep in the heart of a dense forest. Mia was a very talented artist, but she often struggled with self-doubt and insecurity. She found it difficult to believe in herself and her abilities, especially when things didn't go exactly as planned.

One day, a terrible storm swept through the village, destroying homes and businesses, and leaving the entire community in disarray. Mia's art studio was among the many buildings that were destroyed, and all of her supplies and artwork were lost.

Mia was devastated. She had poured so much of herself into her art, and now it was all gone. For a while, she felt lost and hopeless, unsure of how to move forward.

But then, something inside of her shifted. Mia realised that although her supplies and artwork were gone, her creativity and resilience were still very much intact. She began to explore new ways of creating art, using the resources she had on hand - fallen tree branches, scraps of fabric, and even mud.

At first, Mia's new creations were rough and imperfect. But as she continued to experiment and play with different materials, her work began to take on a life of its own. Her pieces were raw and powerful, filled with a sense of resilience and strength. Word of Mia's new work quickly spread throughout the village, and soon people were coming from all over to see her creations. They marvelled at her ability to turn something as simple as a fallen tree branch into a work of art that spoke to the human spirit. Through the storm and the destruction, Mia had found a new way to express herself, a new way to tap into her creativity and resilience. And in doing so, she had inspired others to do the same.

Untitled

John Houma (Short Story) (Age 16)



Hume Community

Maryam Zuhair (Age 16), Penola Catholic College

"The artwork shows the diversity of ethnicities and races that together build the Hume community".



Hope

Jaxon Cias (Age 16), Sunbury Downs College

"In a world where hope is dwindling, we all need to stick together to keep faith".



This Is Home

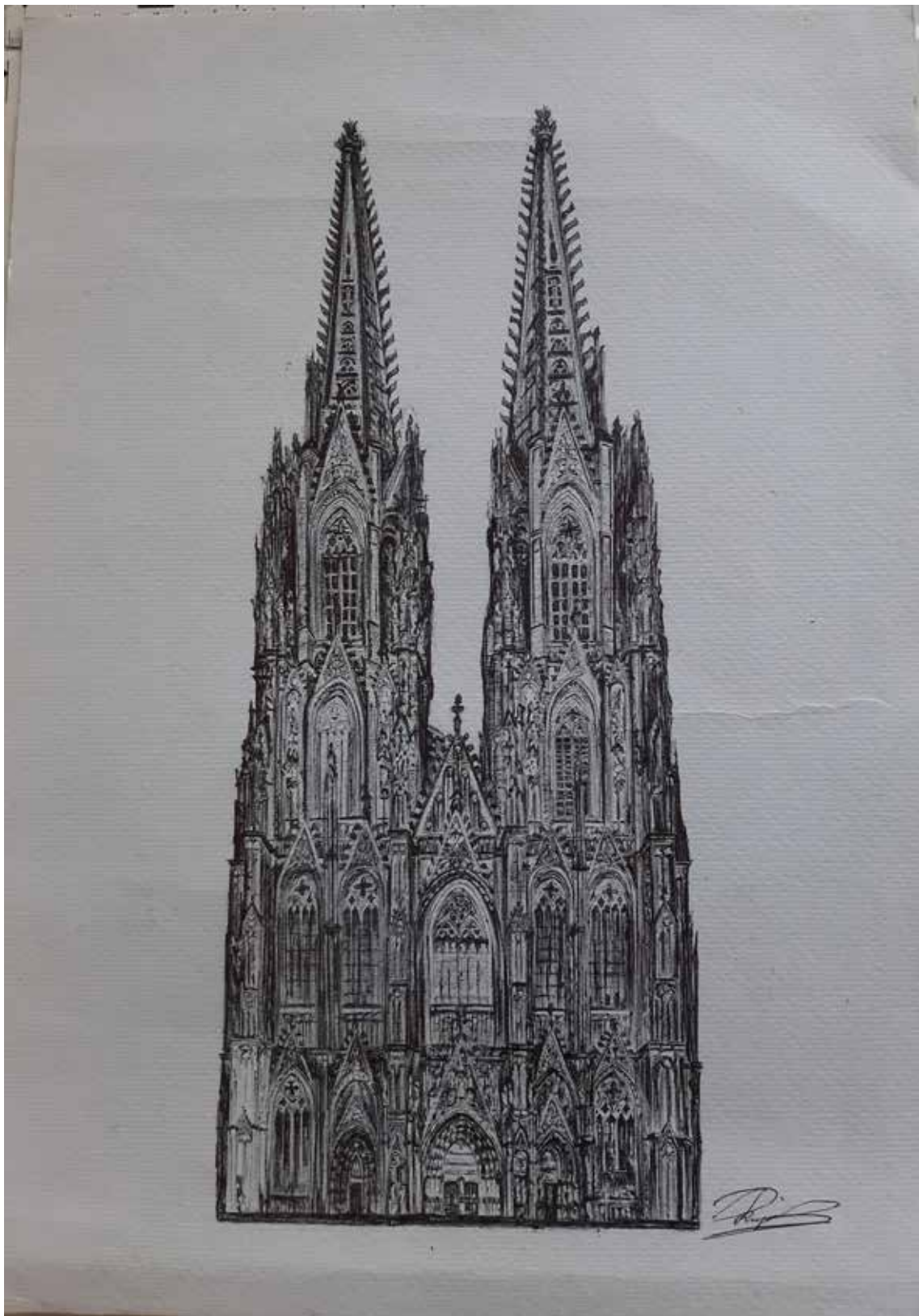
Brodie Thompson (Age 16), Sunbury Downs College

"Community is all around us and it is important to see the smaller details in such a large community".



The Bright Side

Maryam Al Qazona (Age 17), Arabic Welfare



Cathedral, Cologne Germany

Riya Berdia (Age 17), Salesian College

"This ink drawing depicts an extraordinary piece of architecture constructed by many generations".



Our Roots

Alexandra Sarkis (Age 18), Arabic Welfare

"Earth is our home and, the root of all communities is the mother Earth".



The Community Of Togetherness

Zac Chu (Age 18), Youth Projects

"Hume's moscaic of young migrants from overseas, embracing young indigenous Australians, as a community".



A Glimpse Of Local Beauty

Raweeha Shafiq (Age 19)

"This artwork connects with community, by celebrating local beauty and nature".



The Real Life

Maryam Samter (Age 20), Arabic Welfare

"My work represents the current crisis of having an online community and not a real one".



You Want Half?

Amira Akhtar (Age 22), Craigieburn

"Come and share a mandarin with me, I'll meet you where i can, as will you and we will be neighbours".



One More Day

Chase McIntosh (Age 22), Coolaroo

"I made this piece at a community art group that supports queer young people with mental illness".



Lunchtime At The Big Tomato

Talia Kani (Age 23), Melbourne Polytechnic

"The cute animal characters are all depicted together as sharing space with others in peace".

Hume Youth Services



Hume Youth Services is a free, generalist service for young people aged 6-24 years who live, work, study or have a connection to Hume.

We run a range of engagement, health & wellbeing, leadership and pathway programs and events throughout the year that are run at our youth centres in Broadmeadows, Roxborough Park, Sunbury and Craigieburn, including school holiday programs.

So, if you are interested in:

- A safe space to hang out and connect with other like-minded young people
- Participating in fun activities after school and over school holidays
- Creating and delivering music and cultural events
- Learning creative arts skills
- Leading and co-designing advocacy
- Developing leadership and entrepreneurial skills
- Participating in short skill based workshops
- Learning barista and hospitality skills
- Networking with other young people

Find out more about what's on at:



hume.vic.gov.au/youth



youth@hume.vic.gov.au



9205 2556



HumeYouthServices



hume.youth

HumeLink

Multilingual telephone
information service

Enquiries 9205 2200

للمعلومات باللغة العربية	9679 9815
معلومات باللغة العربية	9679 9809
Za informacije na bosanskom	9679 9816
Za informacije na hrvatskom	9679 9817
Για πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά	9679 9818
Per avere informazioni in italiano	9679 9819
За информације на српском	9679 9820
Para información en español	9679 9821
Türkçe bilgi için	9679 9822
Muốn biết thông tin tiếng Việt	9679 9823
For other languages...	9679 9824

Connect with us



Broadmeadows Youth Centre (Youth Central)
33-37 Pearcedale Parade, Broadmeadows 3047



Roxburgh Park Youth Centre
75 Lakeside Drive, Roxburgh Park Victoria 3064



Craigieburn Youth Centre
59 Craigieburn Road, Craigieburn Victoria 3064



Sunbury Youth Centre
51-53 Evans Street, Sunbury Victoria 3429



PO Box 119
Dallas, VIC 3047

