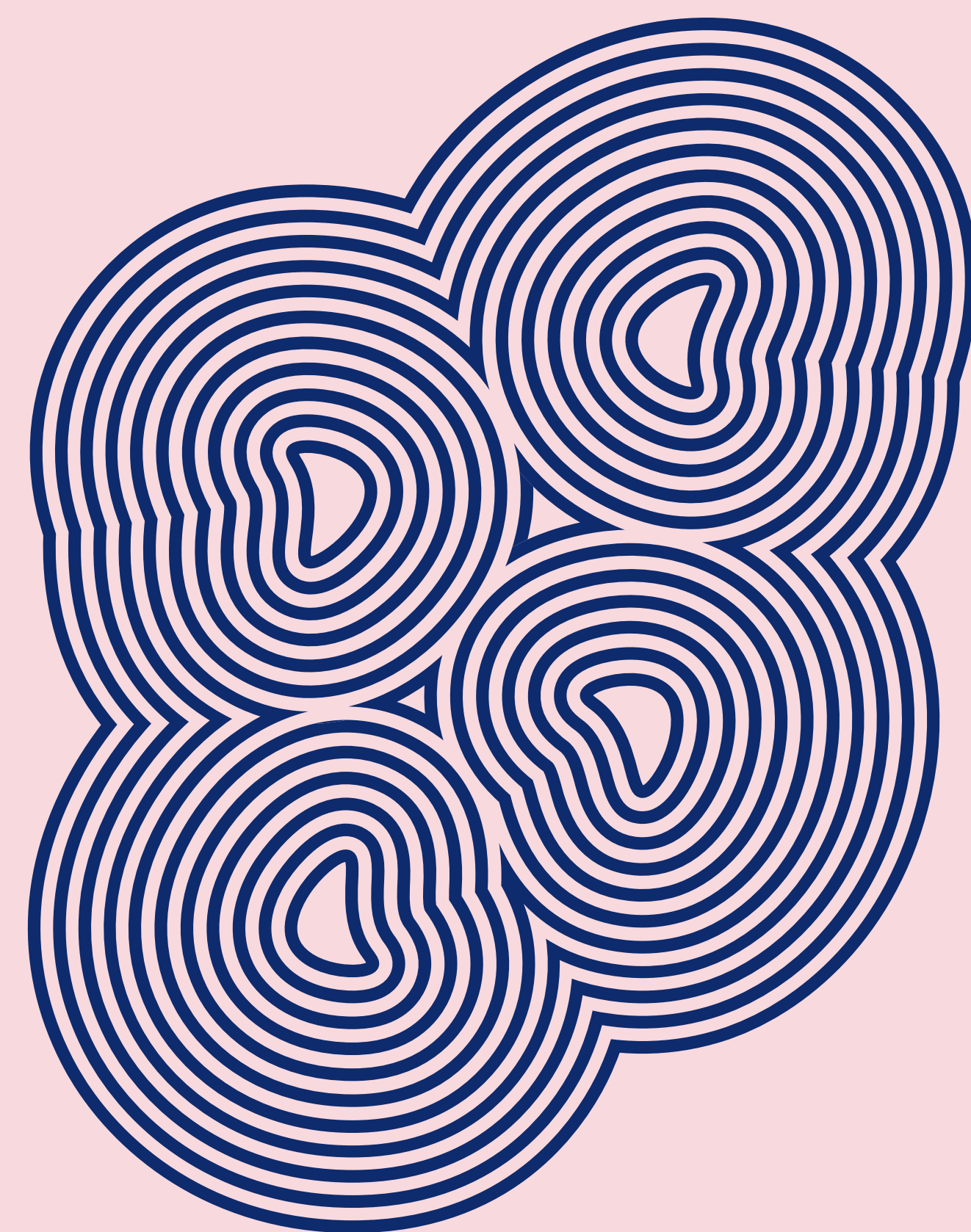


Welcome to Birpai Country

Located on Birpai Country, the Port Macquarie campus is the first saltwater and freshwater campus in the Charles Sturt University footprint.

First Nations graphic language

The shape in the middle of the graphic language represents water. Water was chosen as it is unifying – everyone needs water. Water is also part of identity in a broad sense, as a saltwater or freshwater person or group. In many cases water also forms a key part of boundaries for nations, and therefore represents diversity of identity.



Birpai totems

Country, clans, individuals and families have totems. A totem can be a natural object or element, plant, or animal.

Totems are one of the key features of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' kinship structure. This structure connects people to each other, the land, the ancestors and the Dreaming. Through this kinship structure, the individual has roles, responsibilities and obligations to care for their Gimbay/Minigal/Bakuwi to ensure its survival.

Charles Sturt is honoured the Birpai Aboriginal Local Land Council has graciously allowed us to name the roads and walks on the Port Macquarie campus for Birpai totem animals. We are grateful for the cultural knowledge and contribution of Elders Uncle Bill O'Brien OAM and Dr Aunty Rhonda Birpai/Dhungutti in the selection and description of Birpai totem animals.

Gimbay: totem used for generic clan and nation identities

Mingigal: totem used for personal totem

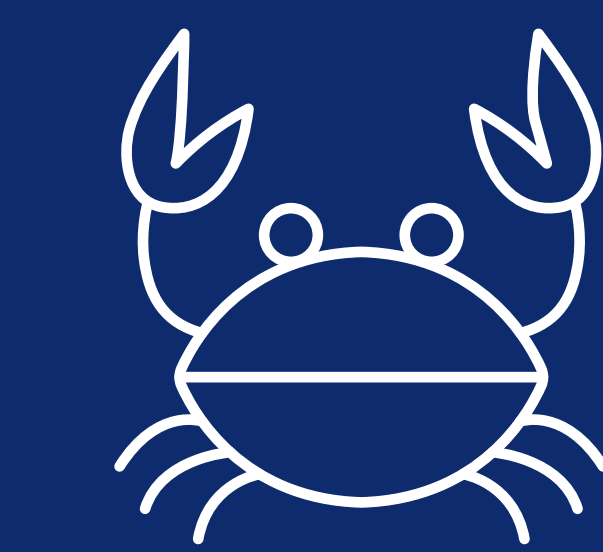
Bakuwi: totem used for your meat (family/bloodline totems)

Wambuyn – Kangaroo



The gimbay for the Comboyne area.

Djinidjini – Crab



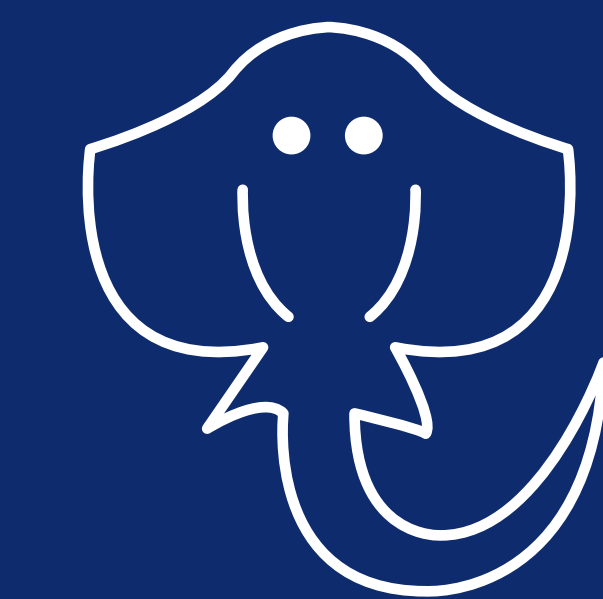
The gimbay for Gatay (the Lake Cathie area).

Dinuni – Shark



The gimbay for the Harrington area.

Biluun – Stingray



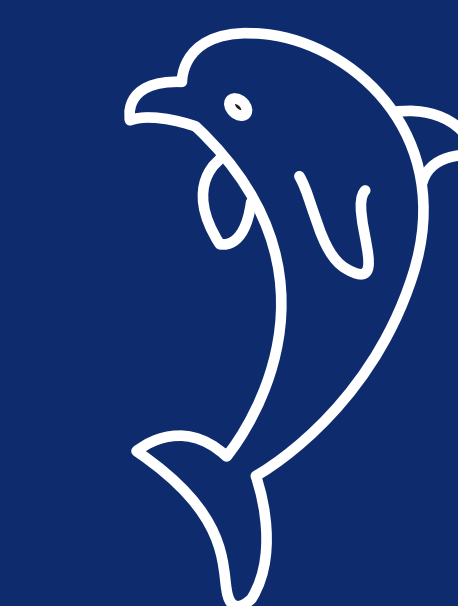
The gimbay for the Point Plomer area.

Gumal – Eagle



The gimbay for the Cairncross mountain (also known as Gumalbitjanbaa) area.

Guparr – Porpoise/Dolphin



The gimbay for Guruk (the Port Macquarie area).

Guula – Koala

The gimbay for specific Birpai families or Birpai people. The campus is built on the land that Guula populates.

If you look up, you might find Guula in a nearby tree!

