

Hermansburg Potters

Indigenous Art Football and Community

Explore and Create





Photography: Tobias Titz

The Hermannsburg Potters belong to a small community 130 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs. They are famous for their colourful terracotta pots which tell stories about their culture and where they live: their Country, the mission days, bush tucker and, of course, football! During footy season the Hermannsburg community get together to watch AFL on TV and on weekends many make the trip to Alice Springs to support local teams.

This resource is part of a package of resources that introduce you to the Hermannsburg potters, their art, their community and their love of football.

In the resource, contemporary and traditional ceramic pots are examined. Pot creating and designing activities are also outlined.

This pot is by the Hermannsburg Potter
Lindy Panangka Rontji.

What is happening on the lid of the pot?
Notice how the small sculpture on the lid
connects to the scene found on the body of
the pot.

Think about making your own pot inspired by
the Hermannsburg Potters

Go to the Hermannsburg Potters website and
explore the different pots in their online Gallery
<http://hermannsburgpotters.com.au/>

Choose four pots by the Hermannsburg
potters. List what is at the base, the body
and the top of each pot.



Lindy Panangka Rontji
Western Arrernte born 1962
The tackle (Curtly Hampton),
covered vase 2015
Hermannsburg, Northern Territory
earthenware
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living
Australian Artists, 2015
Copyright courtesy of the artist

Have you ever heard of the great myths and legends of Ancient Greece? They are stories written a long time ago about the lives and adventures of ancient Gods and Goddesses, heroes and creatures .

Scenes from these stories were often depicted on terracotta pots.

This pot was made in 540 BC.

On this side you can see a wedding procession, with the bride and groom in a chariot. The clever Greek god Hermes is seen near the heads of the horses. Dionysus, the Greek god who loved to party is seen behind the chariot. There are maidens carrying gifts.

Look for the following patterns

- a lotus/palmette chain above the people
- Ivy leaves on the handles
- A ray pattern around the base



GREECE, Attica
The Group of London B 174 (attributed to)
Amphora (Attic black-figure ware) 540 BC
earthenware
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Felton Bequest, 1957
© Public Domain (1729-D4)

Find where the artist has used repeated shapes, lines or colours in the painted design of this pot.

Make a list of 5 things that you really like about this pot. This list might help you with your own design.

- Look at the animals and the people. Which are in the foreground?
- Which are in the background?
- How does the artist show this?
- What colours has the artist used to create this pot?
- Look at the whole pot. How has the artist focused our attention on the story?
- If this pot had a lid like the Hermannsburg pot, what might be found on top of the lid?



GREECE, Attica
The Group of London B 174 (attributed to)
Amphora (Attic black-figure ware) 540 BC
earthenware
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Felton Bequest, 1957
© Public Domain (1729-D4)



Hayley Panangka Coulthard
 Western Arrernte born 1967
A deadly mark (Cyril Rioli), covered vase 2015
 Hermannsburg, Northern Territory
 earthenware
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living
 Australian Artists, 2015
 Copyright courtesy of the artist

GREECE, Attica
The Group of London B 174 (attributed to)
Amphora (Attic black-figure ware) 540 BC
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 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 Felton Bequest, 1957
 © Public Domain (1729-D4)

Compare and contrast

What is similar and what is different about these two pots? Make a list.

Your turn to create!

Decorate a three dimensional pot or
Create a two dimensional design



Before you begin you must choose your theme

Will it be an action scene?
Will it be a calm and peaceful scene?

Sporting action themes

- AFL football
- Netball
- Swimming
- Horse racing
- Athletics
- Gymnastics

Non action themes

- Plants and animals of Australia
- Pets
- An art class
- A landscape

Other themes

- Circus
- Merry-go-round
- Processions
- Parades
- Family holidays
- School life
- An orchestra



Example of action pot

In 2003, the AFL team Fremantle included seven Indigenous players. They were nicknamed the Fremantle seven and they all played in Freo's highest scoring game in 2003 against the North Melbourne Kangaroos. Their team scored 167 to the North Melbourne Roos 122. An exciting match!

These boys are looking at Rona Panangka Rubuntja's pot which celebrates the 2003 Fremantle team and their win against the Kangaroos. Rubuntja's pot is called *Seven Blackfellas kick the highest score*, 2015.

Decorate a three dimensional pot



Step 1

- Use either a terracotta garden pot or a papier-mâché pot. You could make your own papier-mâché pot or buy one from a craft store.

- Think about how to create your design so that it goes all around the pot.
- What will be at the bottom of the pot, the middle and the top?



Step 2

- Cut a strip of paper which can be wrapped around the pot. This paper should be the same height as your pot.
- On this strip of paper create a scene for the body of the pot.
- Think about what imagery or pattern you will use at the bottom of the pot and the opening of the pot.



If you are creating an action scene which features athletes, it may be helpful for you to look at photos of athletes playing their sport. The next slides feature action photos of footballers from Hermannsburg.

Working drawing by year 5 student from Healesville Primary School



Members of the Western Aranda Bulldogs practicing at the Hermansburg oval.



Members of the Western Aranda Bulldogs jump for the ball during practice at the Hermansburg oval.

Photography: Tobias Titz



Step 3

- Using either paint or pastels, put your design on your pot. In this photo, students from Healesville Primary School are seen working with Hermannsburg Potter, Judith Pungarta Inkamala.

Be careful to hold the pot steady in one hand while you use your other hand to paint or draw.



(right) Finished artworks by students from Healesville Primary School

Two Dimensional pot



Step 1

- Draw a pot shape onto a A3 piece of card using a black marker pen, then draw your design onto the body of the pot.



Step 2

- Use coloured markers and coloured pencils to complete your pot design.
- Choose colours which will match the theme of your pot.

Step 3

- On another sheet of paper, draw a lid shape that fits to the opening of your pot. Make the neck of the lid long so as you can stick it behind your pot once it is completed.

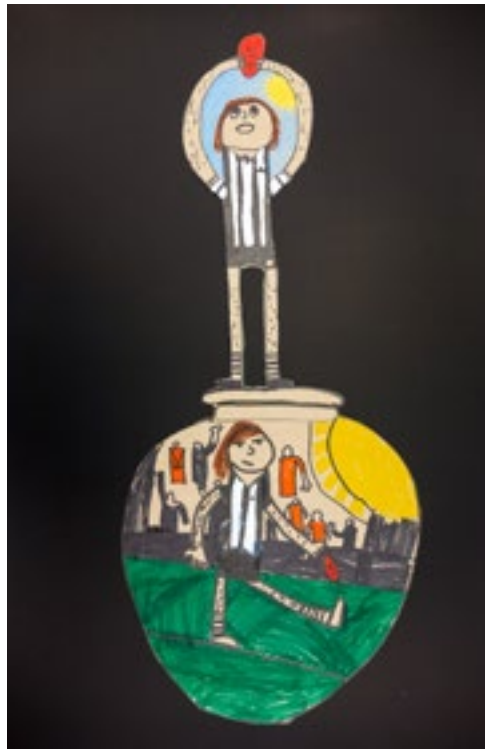
Step 4

- When you have completed the final details cut out your pot and your lid. Fit them together and use masking tape to join them on the back of the artwork.





Camp
Rosselle



The Macedonian marvel
Harvey



Surfing with the ants at Venus Bay
Dylan



Bunjil
Wedged-tailed eagle
Rocky

Step 5

- Once you have completed the pot, mount it onto some black paper.

Display your pot





Think about how you might display your artwork. Here are some photos of how the National Gallery of Victoria displayed the Hermannsburg Pots in the 2015 exhibition *Our Land is Alive*.

Make a list all of the things in the exhibition that match the theme on the pots.



Notice how the pots have been placed in players positions and how the red dirt of the Hermannsburg football oval has inspired the red floor of the exhibition.

All of the AFL club flags have been display above. The Western Aranda Bulldogs' flag hangs proudly in the centre of the flag group.



Can you see the display of footballs flying across the ceiling?



See how the National Gallery of Victoria has placed this terracotta pot on a plinth and under some protective clear case. Pictured are past St Kilda footballer, Gilbert McAdam (on left) and friend.

Display Label

Create a display label for your artwork which includes:

- Your name
- Where you were born and the year you were born
- The title of your artwork
- The date the artwork was created
- Where the artwork was created
- What it is made from (include all of the materials)
- A description about the pot.

Place this label beside your displayed artwork.

Caroline Kamaarra Forbes

Western Arrernte born 1981

**The Krakouer brothers,
covered vase**

2015 Hermannsburg, Northern Territory
earthenware

Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living Australian Artists, 2015

The Krakouer brothers, Jimmy and Phil, played for the North Melbourne Kangaroos during the 1980s. Jimmy was renowned for his quick moves, courageous play and ability to pass to his brother from almost any position on the field. Phil Krakouer also showed great talent. Their teamwork led them both to win the leading goal kicker award for the Roos three years in a row (1985–88).

**Hermannsburg Potters:
Indigenous Art
Football and Community**

To find out more about the Hermannsburg Potters and their work you might also be interested in looking at other resources in this package.

These include

- Explore and Create
- Look and Explore
- Bush Foods
- Making Pots
- Language

Rona Panangka Rubuntja
Western Arrernte born 1970
The Crow (Andrew McLeod), covered vase 2015
Hermannsburg, Northern Territory
earthenware
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living
Australian Artists, 2015
Copyright courtesy of the artist

