This term the children have been exploring shapes and patterns. We have investigated with a range of medias from books, you tube videos and within our community. We introduced imagery from an Aboriginal artist Bronwyn Bancroft, using her books “Shapes of Australia” and “Why I Love Australia”. These books have been used as a stimuli, with the purpose to guide the children’s ideas and consider the relationship between symbols, line, pattern and it’s connection to imagery.

Through this exploration the children’s creations with art and blocks have become more complex and detailed. Structures have developed from 2D structures to 3D towers. We’ve added light, reflection and texture to these creations as well.

Through this learning journey the educators have encouraged children to slow down, look around and consider what we have available in the built and natural environment. We have seen a shift in thinking and the children are developing the skills to work together, question and experiment. Children are learning that shapes, line and patterns are all around them and that when put together we can create more complex shapes, drawings and structures.

Our shape and pattern project has also taken us down an avenue to explore ideas around inclusiveness. What would you do if you didn't have arms and hands…..does that mean you cannot paint or draw? With investigation we have trialled mouth painting and next term we will look at foot painting. This did resonate with many children….with the next question…. "How would people play with their toys, climb or eat?"

A more recent project which we will continue to investigate next term is "cause and effect". Raighden brought in a volcano that he made at home and we experimented with what happened when you add Bicarb soda and vinegar together. The reaction was very exciting!

Archie brought in a box with a range of materials from home and in there was some feathers. The children realised that when the feathers went near the heater this too caused a reaction. When the feathers were placed on top of the heater and when the air was pushing out the feathers they would fly up….some nearly touched the ceiling, the force was so strong!! We made predictions on how high the feathers would travel and then experimented with our own breath, to see if it would have the same effect.