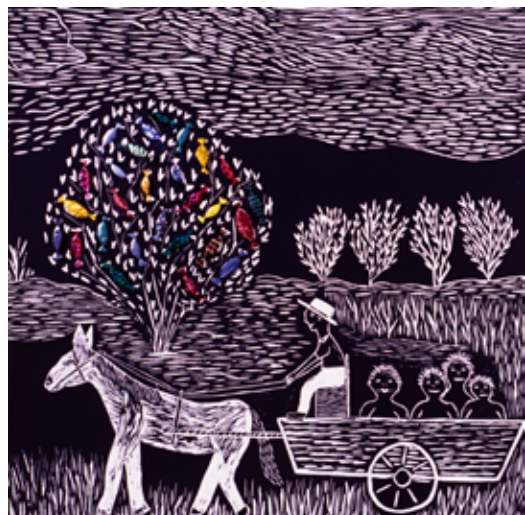


Laurel Nannup



Lolly tree, 2001 woodcut, 590x590mm

The following descriptions apply to the printmaking techniques Laurel Nannup has used in her artworks in **A Story to Tell**.

Etching

Etching is a form of intaglio printmaking, whereby ink is forced into fine grooves made into a plate, the plate is cleaned and a print is taken onto damp paper from the ink remaining in those grooves using a printing press.



Children at Wandering Mission on their First Communion Day, 2007, photographic screen print, 235x370mm

Themes and stories in the exhibition

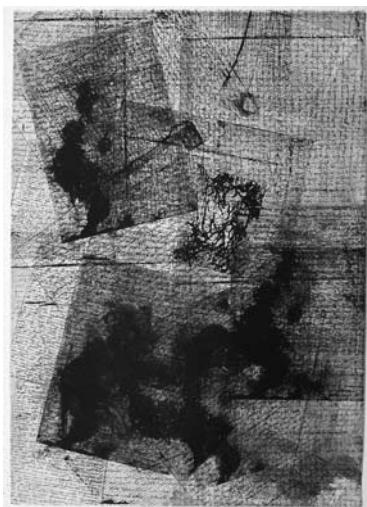
Laurel's Story

The two large works (below left) mainly contain text and give form to Laurel Nannup's attempts to remember her stories and to write them down or, in her own words "trying to catch hold of my memories"

The story of Laurel's life as told in **A Story to Tell** begins with her grandmother Mrs Tottie Hart, illustrated in the etching (below right) whose country was south around the Darkan, Collie, Williams district. As a young child, Laurel and her family spent some time living in Darkan before spending most of her younger childhood years living with her family around the Pinjarra area.



Untitled 1, 2001
etching, 1070x760mm



Untitled 2, 2001
etching, 1070x760mm



Granny Hart, 2001
etching, 350x300mm

A Story to Tell...

Family life

Laurel's father, Peter Nannup, worked for a number of different farmers in the Pinjarra area and the family moved around a lot, making camps in the bush amongst the trees on different properties.

Laurel and her brothers and sisters learnt many things from their father whilst living in these bush camps. He taught them about bush wildlife, bush tucker and bush survival - what to look for and how to find water.

"We often went bush with Dad. He showed us animal tracks and taught us to tell by the tracks just how long ago the animals had gone past. He taught us how to make snares for roos. We would find their pad or path going through the fence, and there we'd set a snare."

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*, 2006

The hand-coloured photographic screen print (above right) depicts Laurel's mother, father and sister, Cecelia outside the family's camp in the bush near Pinjarra.

Laurel fondly recalls this period of her life with many of the works in the exhibition illustrating events from her childhood. Laurel is keen to communicate the fact that although the family struggled and had little in comparison to many at the time (and much less compared to families today), they were happy and enjoyed what they had.

"That same Christmas Dad bought himself an old Ford ute. The night before Christmas morning, Mum made some jelly and custard. She had a tin of pudding and cream. We had no fridge so Mum put the jelly and custard in the back of the ute to set. So for Christmas breakfast we had jelly, custard, pudding, cream, damper, kangaroo and our mugs of tea. We never worried about lunch, although we did have something to chew on, and we always got a Christmas stocking with some goodies in it. We enjoyed what we had."

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*, 2006

The etching and aquatint, *Oranges in our bathers* (above right) illustrates Laurel's memories of she and her friends and siblings "wagging school," swimming in the river and collecting oranges in their bathers from an orchard on the other side of the river.

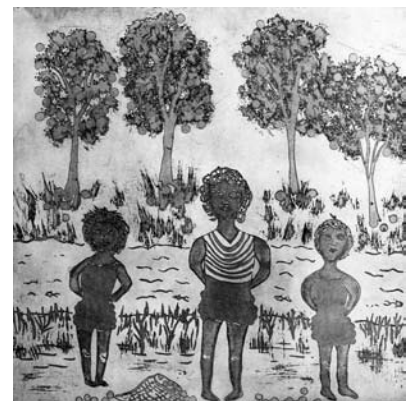
The woodcut (right) depicts Laurel making her first Holy Communion at the age of seven, whilst living with her family on the reserve at Pinjarra.



Mum, Dad and Cecelia, 2007, hand coloured photographic screen print, 275x410mm



Old Ford ute, 2005, woodcut, 430x567mm



Oranges in our bathers, 2001 etching, 603x600mm



First communion at Pinjarra, 2001 woodcut, 585x585mm

Laurel Nannup

Activities - Family life

Middle to Upper Primary School

Look through your family's collection of photographs of places you have lived and houses you have lived in. Sort them into categories according to years. Choose a favourite photo - one that has people in it too. Photocopy and enlarge the photograph to A4 size and trace the photograph. Make a black and white image of the picture just like Laurel Nannup's screen print **Mum, Dad and Cecelia** (previous page) using black artline pens. This can be used to make a screen print or a lino print.

Remember the cars your family has owned. Think about your favourite one and make a drawing of it from your memory, like Laurel Nannup's car in her print **Old Ford ute**. Draw things around and/or in the car e.g. the front garden, inside the garage, on the street, family members etc. This drawing could be used as the basis for a large painting or a lino print.

Lower to Middle Secondary School

Make a composite collage which tells a story about you and your family. Use photographs, photocopies of photographs, magazine/newspaper articles you and your family may have collected, pieces of old lace/clothing that belonged to family members, drawings, solvent transfers of photos, found objects and other memorabilia (you could even draw a family tree). Arrange these pieces artistically on an A2 or A3 page (you could paint or decorate this first) to create an artwork that tells a story of you and your family life.

Mission life

At the age of eight, the Native Welfare Department took Laurel, her sister and her cousin away from the Pinjarra region and their families to the Wandering Mission. Laurel recounts this experience both in words and through the woodcut entitled **Leaving home** 2001.

"One day Mum asked us if we would like to go to Wandering Mission. Being only a small person, I thought this was going to be exciting... My next memory is of a big, black car pulling up and a white lady getting out. Then we were put into the car, sitting there crying for our mum... We felt so alone and just wanted to go home to Pinjarra. Everything was so cold. My sister was only six years old and I was eight.

Many times I wondered why Mum let us go. We never got to ask her.

We saw our parents during the Christmas holidays, and if they came to the mission they were allowed to stay for a few days."

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*, 2006

Mission life involved farm work such as hay stooking, milking cows as well as other kinds of work. Laurel recounts how cold it was at the mission, the children having little in the way of clothing and no footwear.



Leaving home, 2001
woodcut, 602x600mm



We never got to open our mail, 2001
etching, 587x586mm

A Story to Tell...

They rarely saw their parents and any personal mail they received had always been opened and read before it was handed on to them as is recounted in the etching **We never got to open our mail**, 2001 (previous page).

Laurel also remembers girls trying to run away from the mission back to their families. They were always found by the staff and taken back, often tipped off by farmers in the area who spotted them on their land.

"Father would hop into his car and go and pick them up. The girls always got a punishment for running away, like extra work or being grounded."

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*, 2006

The hand-coloured photographic etching (above right) depicts the Wandering Mission convent.

Many of the works in **A Story to Tell** illustrate humorous events and good times experienced by Laurel and the other children at Wandering Mission. **Sliding Sister** is an etching and aquatint with a humorous, cheeky edge - it depicts one of the nuns at the mission sliding along the timber floor of the dining room, having slipped on watermelon seeds dropped by the children eating the fruit.

"Poor Sister, she should not have smiled at the kids, because they just busted themselves laughing - so cruel."

Laurel Nannup, *A Story to Tell*, 2006

Good times experienced at the mission are illustrated by works such as **Swings down at the creek** and **Damper Day at the springs** (illustrated below).

At the age of seventeen Laurel began to work for farming families, firstly just during the Christmas holidays, then later, leaving the Mission and going into full time work with a family in Karlgarin.



Wandering Mission convent, 2007
hand coloured, photographic etching, 282x415mm



Sliding sister, 2001
etching, 600x600mm



Swings down at the creek, 2007
hand coloured etching, 290x415mm



Damper day at the springs, 2007
hand coloured etching, 278x415mm

Laurel Nannup

Project/activity ideas

Telling your stories

Indigenous Australians' roots are in this country but many Indigenous families also have relatives that came to Australia from other places. Non-indigenous Australians can all trace their family's roots back to other countries. Many Australians came to this continent from the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

It can be an interesting exercise to find out where you have come from and what characters have been in your family. You can find out many interesting stories of relatives and ancestors through doing some research and talking to older relatives in your family. Through gathering research material you build up a picture of your family history and where you fit and you can then tell some of your own stories through writing and making artworks.

Upper Primary School

Find your oldest relative and record a video or audio interview with them about their life, focussing especially on when they were your age. Make a list of questions you want to ask before the interview. You could ask about the following: where they lived, what they remember about their house at the time, what school they went to and what the school was like, how they got to school, what their favourite toy was, how much pocket money they got, what sport they played and what they liked to do on the weekend.

Ask yourself the same questions and compare the answers. Make an artwork (could be a painting, drawing or mixed media piece) which includes a portrait of this relative, a portrait of yourself and drawings that relate to the things you discovered in the interview. You could also include some text - some of the sentences your relative spoke, compared with your own answers to the same questions.

Lower Primary School

Make some drawings and paintings about special events you remember in your life so far:

- The best birthday party you ever had or went to.
- The best family holiday you have been on.
- The best day out (e.g. at the football with Dad, a picnic in the park, at the museum).
- You and your favourite pet
- The best Christmas Day you can remember.

Use a variety of media including coloured pencil, acrylic paint, felt pens and crayons.

Middle to Upper Secondary School

Research the history of one or both sides of your family and find an interesting relative about whom you could make an artwork. You will need to talk to other family members, look at old photo albums, use the Batty Library (in the Alexander Library, Perth Cultural Centre), write to/email relatives overseas etc to gather enough information. Discover ways you identify with this relative - what is it about his/her stories that are attractive to you? Document all of your research in your visual diary/journal.

Design a digital artwork that includes aspects of yourself and this relative. You could work with a digital morphing program on the computer to fuse aspects of your face with your relative's and/or you could include text, illustrations of events in their life and yours. Scan photos and other text to include in the work. The resulting artwork could also be used for a painting or printmaking project.

A Story to Tell...

Printmaking projects

Primary School

Lino printing

Make a line drawing of your head and shoulders using a mirror. Include all of the patterns in your clothes, your facial features, your hair and other details. Look at Laurel Nannup's woodcut entitled **Me** (see page 4) for reference. Use this drawing as a design for a lino print. Print the lino block onto white paper and then onto coloured paper and fabric, if you have some spare.

Mono printing

Use one or more drawings you have made about special events you remember in your life (see page 12). Photocopy the drawing and use it to create a print from glass.

Follow these steps:

1. Use a roller to roll out a thin film (needs to be extra thin, almost translucent) of lino printing ink on a piece of glass or perspex.
2. Place the photocopy facing up over the ink.
3. Use a pen or pencil to trace over the lines of the photocopy, being careful not to rest your hand heavily on the paper.
4. Lift up the photocopy - a print will have appeared underneath.
5. You can replace the photocopy on another piece of glass or perspex with another colour rolled out and make more lines on your print.

Alternatively, make a print directly from the glass or perspex by following these steps:

1. Roll out a thin film of lino printing ink.
2. If desired, place a frame made from thin paper over the ink so that there will be a straight edged square or rectangle of ink.
3. Using tools such as scrapers, pop sticks, old brushes etc, draw a design into the ink (the tools should scrape the ink away from the glass/perspex to form the design).
4. Place paper over the glass/perspex and rub lightly with your hand to transfer print.

Secondary School

Intaglio - Engraving

Collect pieces of text and sketches that you have done that relate to you and your life. They could be things that you have hand-written e.g. pages from your diary or journal, complete with sketches, scraps of writing e.g. notes to yourself, shopping lists etc and/or doodles. Photocopy everything and make a collage of these pieces, using Laurel Nannup's etchings **Untitled 1** and **Untitled 2** (see page 8) as reference. You may want to cut and tear pieces and only take fragments of things. Play around with the layout as much as possible.

Once you have a final design follow these steps:

1. Cut a piece of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) etching plastic (thin, semi-transparent, flexible plastic sheeting available from plastics wholesalers) to fit the design.
2. Place design under the plastic - you should be able to see through the plastic to the design underneath.
3. Using a sharp tool such as an etching needle or potter's needle, scrape design into plastic.
4. Ink up and print as you would any other Intaglio print.

Lino Printing

Think of a particular event in your life that was enjoyable/humorous/memorable and complete

Laurel Nannup

a drawing depicting that event. Look at Laurel Nannup's woodcut prints **Watermelon Patch** and **Us Kids in Trouble** for reference. Follow these steps:

1. By hand, make the drawing suitable for a lino print by using a black artline pen to black out areas that will print and leave white parts for those that will be carved out.
2. Alternatively, scan your drawing and import it into the Adobe Photoshop program.
3. Apply any of the the sketch filters "Stamp", "Photocopy" or "Graphic Pen" to render the drawing suitable for a lino print design.
4. Reverse design and transfer to lino.
5. Carve design.
6. Print an edition of 3 from the lino block.

You could extend this project by making ink paintings, collages and drawings and printing the lino block over the top of these to create unique state prints. You could also print on different coloured paper e.g. use white ink on black paper and onto fabric.



Watermelon patch, 2001
woodcut, 590x590mm



Us kids in trouble, 2007
woodcut, 462x617mm

Screen Printing

Collect photographs of yourself at different ages, with different significant family members and with your friends. Collect written, photographic and other 2D memorabilia (e.g. trinkets, magazine clippings, clothing swing tags, sketches) that relate to you and your life. Follow these steps:

1. Scan everything into a software program such as Adobe Photoshop and make a collaged image of this material, suitable for a single coloured photographic screen printed design.
2. Change the mode to Greyscale or Black and White.
3. Experiment with the "Photocopy" or "Stamp" sketch filters to manipulate and simplify the image.
4. Print the image and use it to create a photographic screen stencil (e.g. a Riso stencil). Art suppliers can provide information on other photo screen printing systems.
5. Alternatively, produce a hand made collage and photocopy it to create a stencil.
6. Attach stencil to underside of silk screen, mask out other areas of screen and print an edition of at least four prints.

You could extend the project by hand-colouring one of your prints as Laurel Nannup has done in **Big Mum, Little Mum** (see page 7). You could also create a collage or ink painting first (as long as its surface is quite flat) and print over this.

A Story to Tell...

Useful references and websites

Croft, B. L. (2001) **Indigenous art: Art Gallery of Western Australia**. Perth, WA: Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Nannup, L. (2006) **A story to tell**. Perth, WA: UWA Press for the Charles and Joy Staples SW Region Publications Fund.

Stanton, J. E. (2004) **On track: contemporary Aboriginal art from Western Australia**. Perth: WA: University of Western Australia, Berndt Museum of Anthropology.

Stanton, J. E. with Hill, S. (2000) **Aboriginal artists of the South-West: past and present**. Perth WA: University of Western Australia, Berndt Museum of Anthropology.

The Stolen Generation and Indigenous families

Wikipedia with links to other useful sites

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolen_Generation

Dreaming online site

<http://www.dreamtime.net.au/indigenous/family.cfm>

Bringing them home - home page

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/rsjproject/rsjlibrary/hreoc/stolen/>

The Carrolup art style & Laurel Nannup's art

Information about Carrolup art style

<http://www.abc.net.au/greatsouthern/stories/s1592066.htm>

Information about Laurel Nannup's exhibition Boodja Country, 2005

<http://www.pica.org.au/art05/Nannup05.html>

Curtin University media release 2005 - Laurel Nannup

<http://announce.curtin.edu.au/release2005/C15605.html>

Printmaking information

About woodcut/woodblock printing

<http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/wxyz/woodcut.html>

<http://www.noteaccess.com/MATERIALS/Woodcut.htm>

About Intaglio printmaking

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intaglio_\(printmaking\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intaglio_(printmaking))

<http://www.imagemakers.mb.ca/intaglio.html>

http://www.artelino.com/articles/intaglio_printmaking.asp

About Serigraphy (screen printing)

<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-serigraphy.htm>

<http://www.dickblick.com/categories/screenprinting/>