

## *Australian Flora & Magpie*

### **Lily Sayer**

For my first major practical I created a piece called 'Australian Flora and Magpie' which features a variety of Australian plants and an Australian magpie which I photographed while on a trip to the Adelaide botanical gardens. The theme of my artwork was to look at Australian plants and animals which show the beauty of the natural environment Australia offers.

I chose to use native flora such as the waratah, bottle brush and gum leaves as well as the magpie as I believed they would be easily identified and connect well with each other in a lino print. My artwork shows the use of these plants in a garden with a magpie resting on a branch. I have created a summer Aussie backyard garden using texture and style using the medium of lino printing, to create a busy composition of a variety of natural flora and fauna.

My initial idea was to do a bird sitting on a bird bath with natural plants surrounding it but, with some research, I decided to have the bird on a branch surrounded with natives. I researched lino artists Sybil Andrews, Andrea Lauren, and Rachel Newling who all create very beautiful and intricate lino prints and influenced my decision to use lino for my first practical art piece. I was heavily influenced by Rachel Newling who creates Australian themed lino prints which she hand paints using artist quality water-based archival and lightfast paints. Rachel first draws her desired image onto the lino then cuts it out using varied shapes and lines to create texture within her lino.

Using Rachel's technique I created my own image using a range of photographed plants from the Botanical Gardens. I decided to use the Australian wildlife as my subject because I really liked the way Rachel portrayed her Australian themed artworks and I also believed that this subject would look beautiful printed in black. The meaning of my piece is to show the diverse plants and scenes we have in Australia and how each relies on each other to survive. I was able to show the different textures and patterns that our wildlife has on it through using different techniques when cutting out the linoblock.

I was able to use the lino and lino tools to carve out an Australian garden scene which showed texture and pattern. I connected my work with the work of Rachel Newling by using her technique of filling the page up with subjects as well as textured backgrounds.

My final piece shows a good use of lino techniques however if I was to do this again I would be more precise and neater with my cutting on the lino to create sharper more define images. I think that I have been successful in my first major as I have completed a folio and a practical which correlate each other.