

# Barrunbatayi (Dreaming) Reconciliation Memorial

## The Cross: The Story of the Painting

Artist: Richard Campbell

In the middle of the cemetery stands a 3.2 metre high cross painted in bright colours of red and yellow ochre, gold, orange, red and white and covered in symbols and images from the sacred stories of the Christian faith and the Dunghutti people.

The bright colours tell a story of hope, new life, renewal and resurrection standing strong and tall on the cross in the midst of graves that have memories of loss, sadness and death. The 'splatter' style of painting and the intermingling of all these colours on the cross convey a sense of mystery, the sacred, the Dreaming and the fullness of life in the resurrection.

The circles are a symbol of life and unity. At the top of the cross is circle for God the Father and the circles at either end of the cross beam are of Jesus and Holy Spirit. All these stories come together and are united in the image of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in the centre of the cross. The life giving circles on the main beam of the cross are symbols of the apostles, Mary and Joseph.

The red paint symbolises the blood of Jesus who died on the cross to put an end to hatred and hostility, to reconcile us to one another and to God and to bring God's gift of new life and peace.

On the other side of the cross are two important symbols for the Dunghutti people: Barralbarayi is a Dreamtime story of the Dunghutti people and is connected with Sugar Loaf mountain near Bellbrook. The Gurrgiyn or Praying Mantis is the totem for the Dunghutti people.

This story of the painting was told by Richard Campbell to Fr. Paul Sullivan sm on the occasion of the Blessing of the Memorial Plaque placed at the foot of the cross in memory of Fr. Bernie Ryan sm on 6.7.2015. The colours, stories, symbols and images on the cross reflect the commitment, life and ministry of Fr. Bernie.