Reflections of Memories

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Bernie Narkle
Acrylic on paper, 2026

An intuitive, self-taught artist, Bernie Narkle was drawn to painting through the influence of his grandfather Philip Narkle and other relatives who were artists. Their creativity became an important source of inspiration, shaping his own artistic journey.

Bernie describes how for him, focusing on a painting is like meditating.

“It allows me to disconnect from everything else. I often work from an aerial perspective, imagining myself as a bird or looking down from an aircraft as I move across the landscape. It feels instinctive to close my eyes and picture the land from above, knowing where particular places sit within Country. I think this comes from a deep sense of connection to the land. Wherever I've been, I can imagine it from a
bird's-eye view, looking down across its contours and features.
I pay close attention to intuitive feelings - moments of déjà vu, or the sense of ease or unease experienced in different parts of the bush. Those feelings become part of the work, guiding how I paint and how I represent Country.

In this commission, the lines represent the children walking from the centrepiece that represents the Reserve and the families, down to the beehive to collect the honey.

At the top right is the hive and the outer circles the bees, the honey inside, then the trail breaks off from that to show them walking down to a quiet place in the bottom right corner where they’re sitting down with their bowls and they’re enjoying a feed of honey. The left side represents where they’re walking down to the river to catch longnecked turtles and then they’ll walk back off and find a quiet place to sit down and eat the turtle”.

This painting has been purchased for the Shire of York Art Collection.