

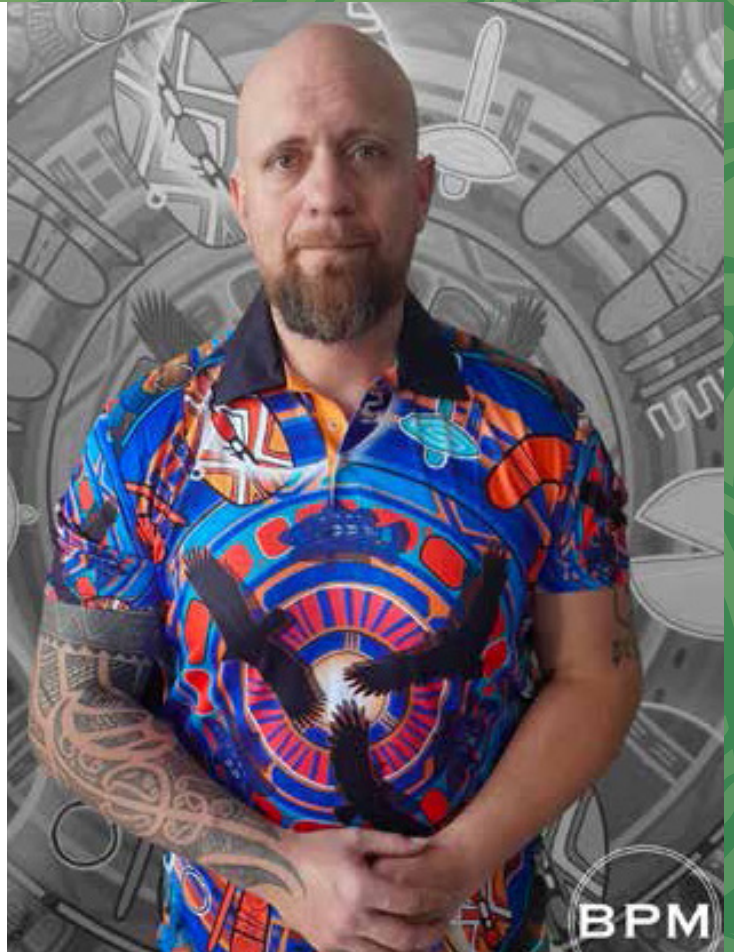
## Artist profile

**Beau Pennefather Motlop**  
Jirrbal, Wagoedaggum and Ngapuhi

Beau grew up in Cairns, Tropical North Queensland from the age of eight years old. His background includes Aboriginal from the Jirrbal tribe of the surrounding Cairns region, Torres Strait Island descent from the Wagedoegam tribe of Mabuiag Island as well as Ngapuhi from New Zealand. His Torres Strait Island Totems are Crocodile, Snake, Stonefish and Remora, while his Aboriginal Totem is the Dingo.

In 2006 Beau started to take his art practice seriously and began experimenting with various mediums including pencil, pastels and acrylic paints. He now does the majority of artwork digitally.

Beau loves to create depth and dimensions with colours and size differences, using an abundance of detail and intricate patterns, but also likes to balance out his artwork with emptiness and quiet. His motifs and circular patterns are a unique combination drawn from his three Indigenous heritages.



## Artwork meaning

### Ancient Guardians

Rainforest shields are unique to Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' culture and are found across the Wet Tropics of Queensland. They display art that represents the cultural identity of Rainforest Aboriginal groups.

This shield symbolises the cultural values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The designs incorporate mountains and waterways to portray Wet Tropics landscapes. The circular design in the middle illustrates the continuing ecological cycles of animals and plants, which live symbiotically within the region.

Spectacled flying fox are responsible for seed dispersal and pollination to ensure the health of native forests. Cassowary help maintain the diversity of rainforest trees by dispersing seeds and are the only animal to carry large fruits long distances. Both species are vital to the health and continuation of the rainforest through natural regeneration. The 'U' shapes depicted on the animals symbolise people. This shows the connection between people and nature—emphasising the importance of protecting the region and its wildlife.