

# Artist Activities

## Horse rider sculptures with David Wallace

David Wallace claims to have been born with wire in his veins.

David grew up in Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) south-east of Alice Springs, and now lives in Titjikala in the Northern Territory. When he was young, he would go with his cousin out into the bush where they built a toy station, including bores, water tanks, windmills, stockyards, cattle and horses, from recycled materials.

After leaving school, David worked as a stockman, breaking in horses, fixing bores and mustering cattle. His sculptures are based on his experiences of travelling and working the land, and station and community life in Central Australia.

Now, David makes sculptures from salvaged materials. He uses what is available, wire, scrap metal, copper from old motors, fabric, leather, plastic, card, and even old roller blades, to create animals like goannas, kangaroos and eagles, to stockmen, rodeo riders, and cameleers.



*"We used to hang around the stockyard watching the men work the cattle and horses. It was exciting. Very noisy and dusty with men yelling and cattle bellowing. They would count the cattle, brand them and get them ready for market."*



# Making a horse and stockman from recycled materials



## You will need

- Wire, pipe cleaners or cardboard for frame
- Raffia, wool, string, or material
- Scissors

## Step 1.

Bend your wire so it has four legs, a tail and a longer piece for the head. You might need a few pieces to do this. If you're using pipe cleaners, use a few together to make it stronger. To make it a little easier, you might also like to try tracing a shape of a horse and a stockman and cut out the shape to begin the wrapping process.

## Step 2.

Find something to wrap around and around to build the body of the horse. This can be soft wire, string, raffia, pipe cleaners, or thin bits of material, to make the skeleton of the horse stronger.

## Step 3.

Next make a person with pipe cleaners and sit them on the horse. If you have some small scraps of material, you can use them to make clothes for the stockman, or a hat from stiff paper, a milk carton, a drink can or thin cardboard.

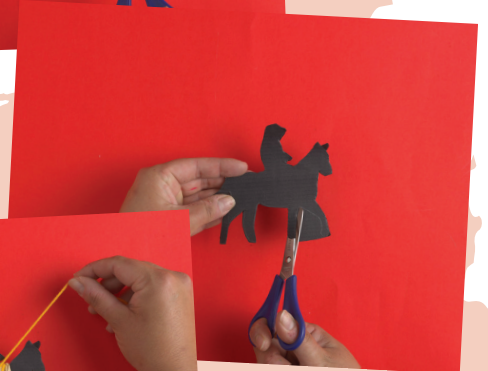
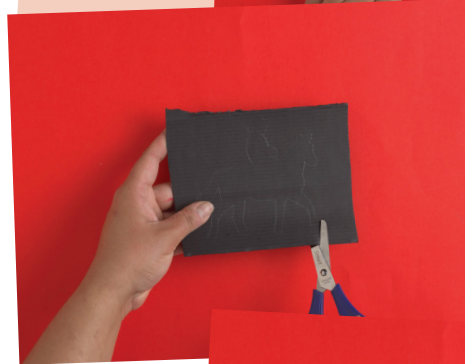
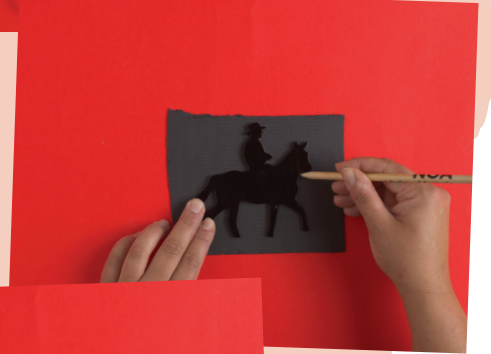


Image top: David Wallace with one of his sculptures



Tapatjatjaka Art and Craft  
Titjikala Community NT



Australian Government  
National Collecting Institutions  
Touring & Outreach Program