The bush burial—
Juan Davila’s paintings are not relaxing or peaceful. They make us think about events that are happening in our society and issues of concern to us all.

In painting this work, Juan Davila was inspired by Frederick McCubbin’s painting *A bush burial*. However, McCubbin’s work of art was completed over 100 years earlier in 1890. In his work, McCubbin tells the story of the first settlers in Australia who lived hard lives and suffered great losses. Davila’s painting tells a story of new settlers in Australia, of refugees coming to Australia. They too have lived hard lives and suffered great losses and Davila wants us to think of these things.
Question
Look at Juan Davila’s painting *A bush burial* (2000) and Frederick McCubbin’s *A bush burial* (1890). Which one do you like best? Give reasons for your choice.

Research
Investigate Davila’s *A bush burial* and list all the things you can see in this painting. From these clues, work out what you think is happening and what the painting means.

Activity
Create a cartoon that deals with a new start in a foreign land. It might be any country or any time and may be about anything that can happen to a person in the course of such a big event. Or, create a cartoon that tells a story about Indigenous people losing their place in their own land. Think about the feelings and emotions these events might bring arouse.