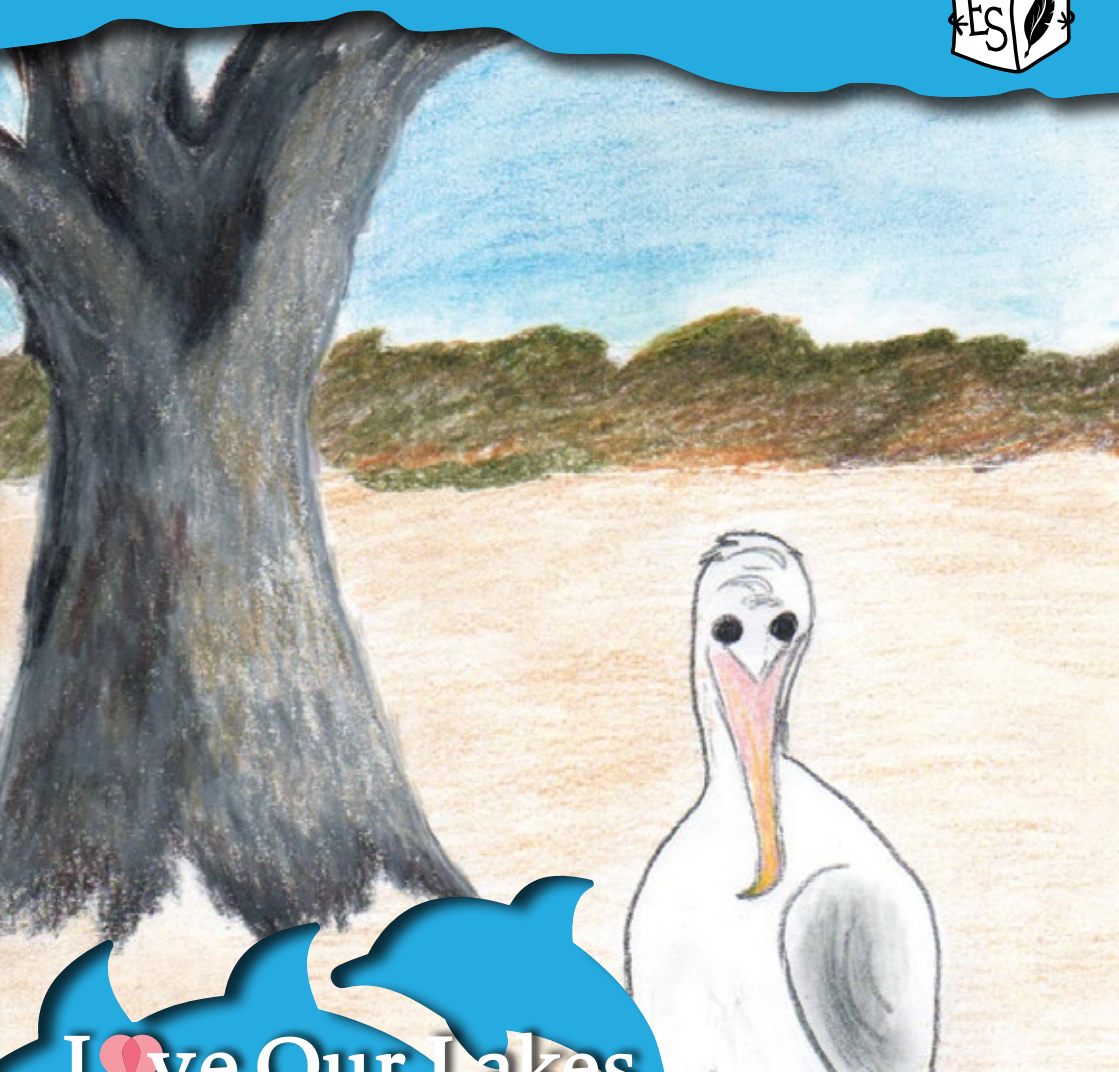


# Boorun's Adventure

Prep to Year 6  
Airly Primary School



Love Our Lakes

## Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Gippsland Lakes are precious; we need to protect them and pass them on to future generations. 'Love our Lakes' is about a shared responsibility to participate in caring for the Lakes and catchment. The Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee has an important role in assisting the Victorian Government and the community to Love Our Lakes. [www.loveourlakes.net.au](http://www.loveourlakes.net.au)

---

## Victorian Association of Environmental Education

The Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) is an independent professional association whose purpose has energised educators from all sectors to contribute their time and expertise to ensuring that environmental education and education for sustainability continue to be valued. [www.vaae.vic.edu.au](http://www.vaae.vic.edu.au)

---

## James Yeates Printing

James Yeates Printing are a family company and produce commercial printing from simple flyers, business stationery and cards, to books and full color promotional brochures. James Yeates Printing have kindly supported this Enviro-Stories program. [www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au](http://www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au)

---



Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area. [www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

# Boorun's Adventure

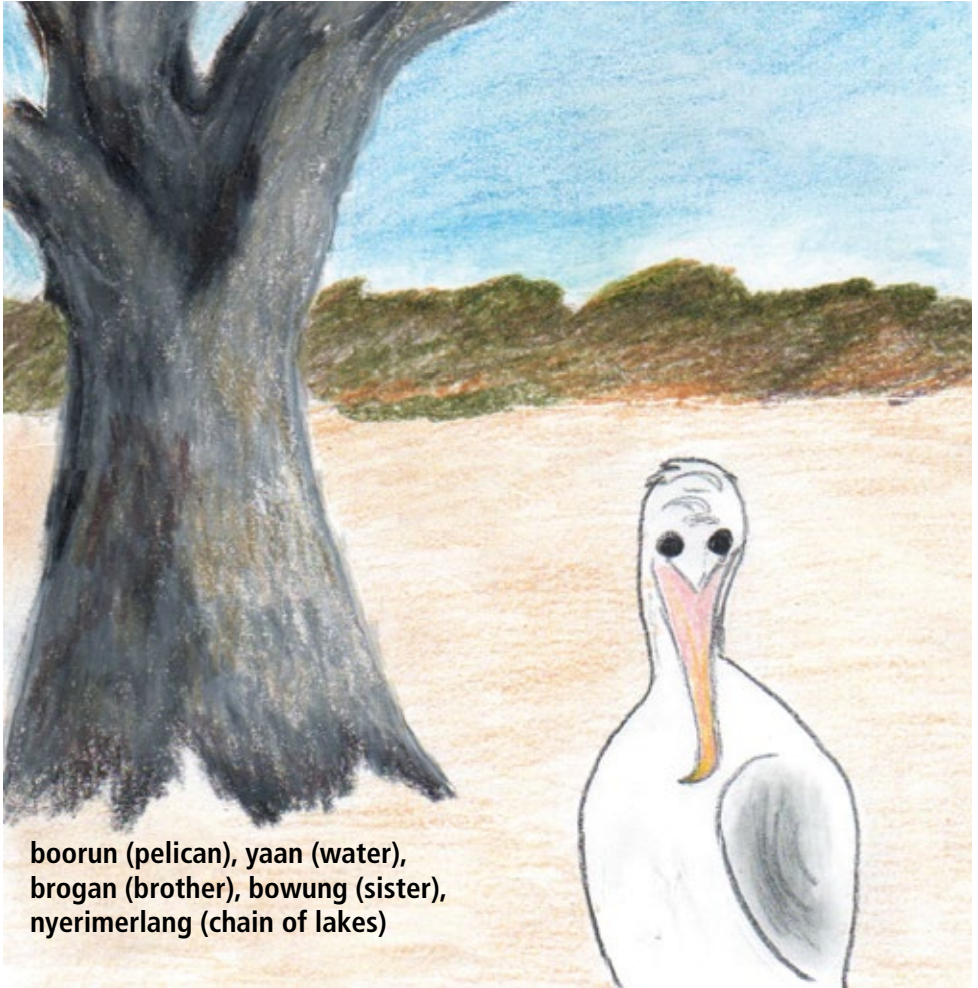
Authors: Prep to Year 6  
Teacher: Geraldine Carter  
School: Airly Primary School



© Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee 2014,  
[www.gippslandlakes.net.au](http://www.gippslandlakes.net.au)

Design by PeekDesigns, [www.peakdesigns.com.au](http://www.peakdesigns.com.au)

Printed by James Yeates Printing, [www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au](http://www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au)



boorun (pelican), yaan (water),  
brogan (brother), bowung (sister),  
nyerimerlang (chain of lakes)

Boorun the pelican plopped down heavily.

“Yaan...water!” He moaned when he saw the empty billabong.

“The hot sky has sucked up all our yaan and won’t give it back. Brogan and Bowung were right to leave for nyerimerlang. I must try and go there too.”

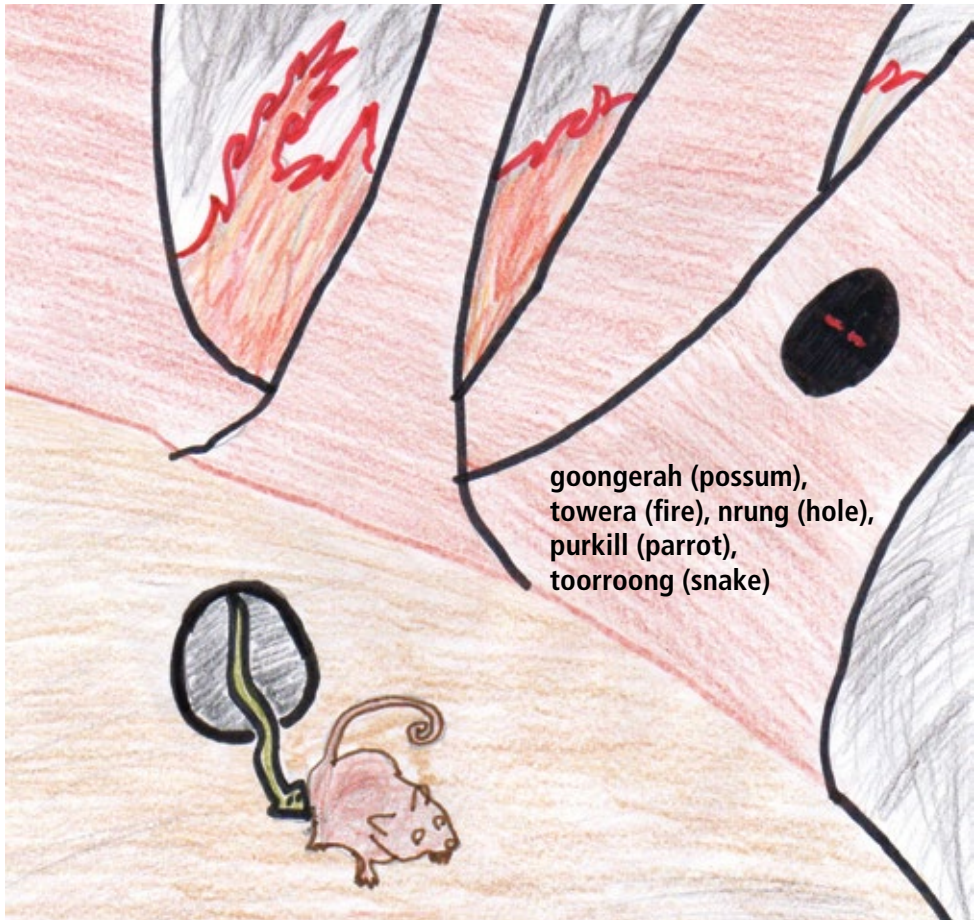


Suddenly Goongerah burst out from the bush.

“TOWERA!!!” She screamed before diving down into a newly dug nrung to hide.

Just as quickly as she went down, she came bounding out again screeching like angry purkill. “Ahhh, Toorroong!”

Toorroong, angry at being woken, had lashed out and bitten her on the leg.



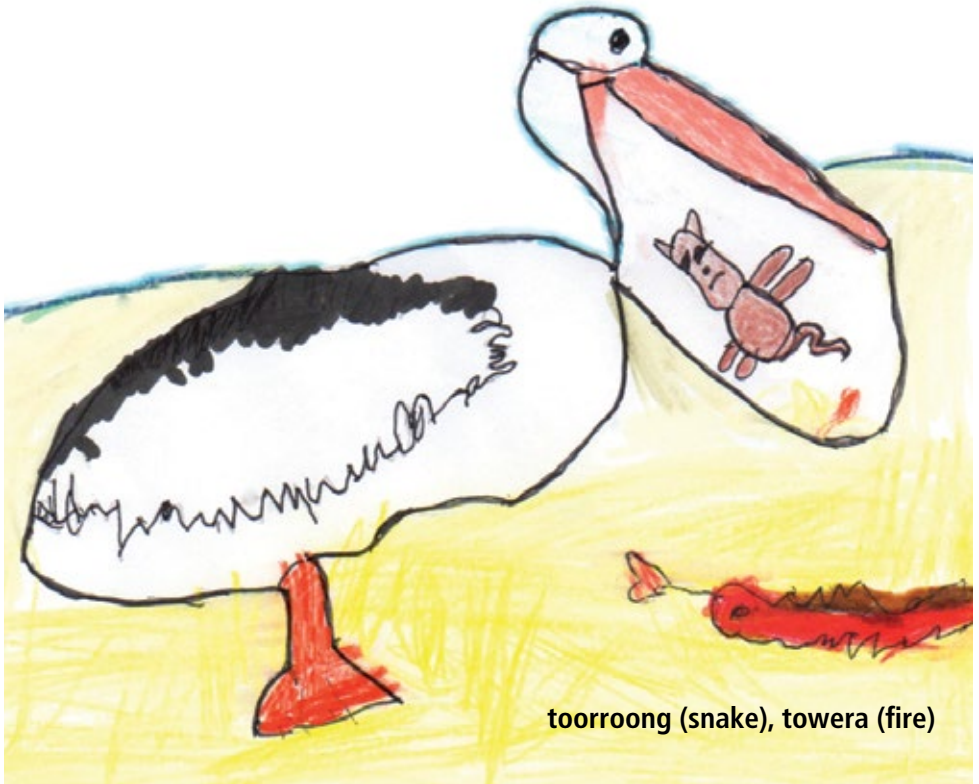
Boorun swooped down and yelled angrily at Toorroong for biting Goongerah.

Boorun turned to Goongerah and said, "Hurry and get in my mouth Goongerah. I will carry you away from the towera."

"I don't think so. You will eat me," Goongerah replied.

"Hurry up or we will both be burnt to a crisp," Boorun ordered.

Hesitantly, limping in pain from Toorroong's bite, Goongerah climbed in.



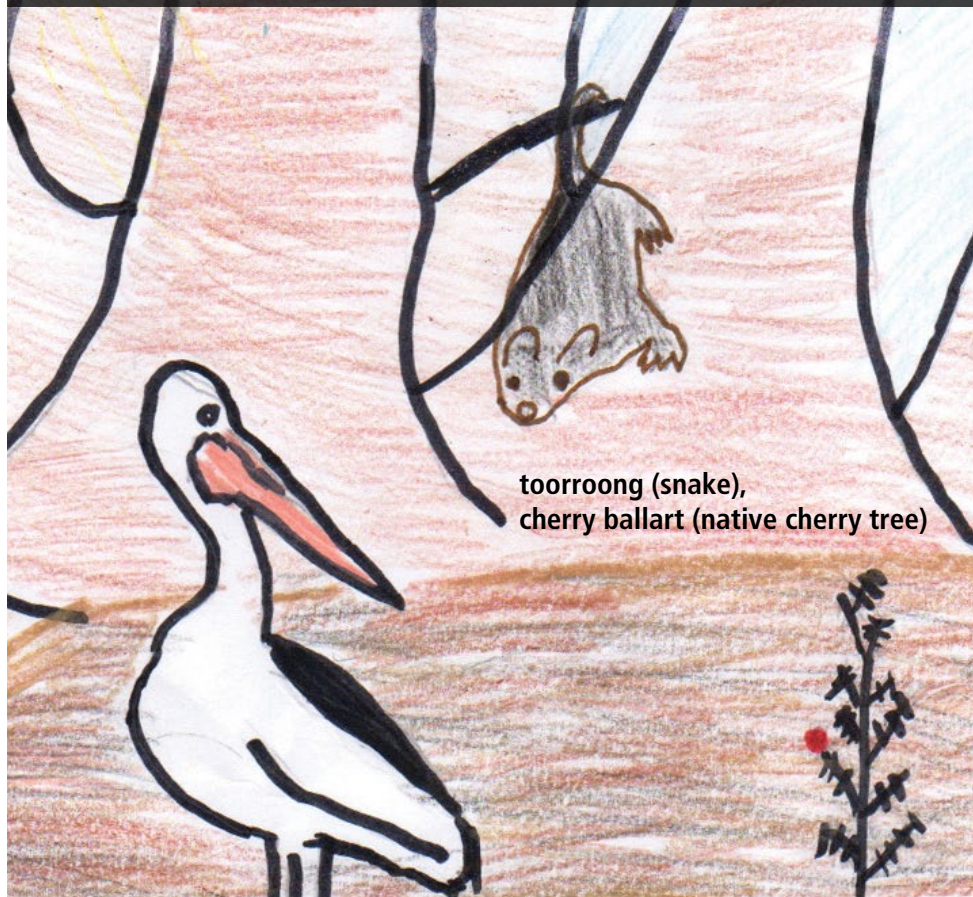
toorroong (snake), towera (fire)



“Where are you taking me?” Goongerah cried, afraid she would be eaten.

“Be still!” Boorun ordered. “I think there are still some cherry ballart trees near here. The sap is a great bush medicine for Toorroong’s bite.”

“Look, one cherry tree left,” Boorun said landing near a small tree whose once green, needle-like leaves had turned to a crisp, brown colour in the dry weather.



toorroong (snake),  
cherry ballart (native cherry tree)



Boorun scratched at the tree with his hooked beak until sap started to run.

"Rub the sap on the bite and stay very still," he told Goongerah.



"Thank you," Goongerah said, feeling relief from the pain of Toorroong's bite.

"Yes...thank you." Squeaked a small voice coming from Goongerah's shoulder.

"Was he there before?" asked Boorun, examining the insect that had appeared on Goongerah's shoulder.

"What is that?" Goongerah cried hitting at her shoulder.

"Hey stop! I am a friend," yelled the little insect.



toorroong (snake)

“Calm down,” Boorun shouted.

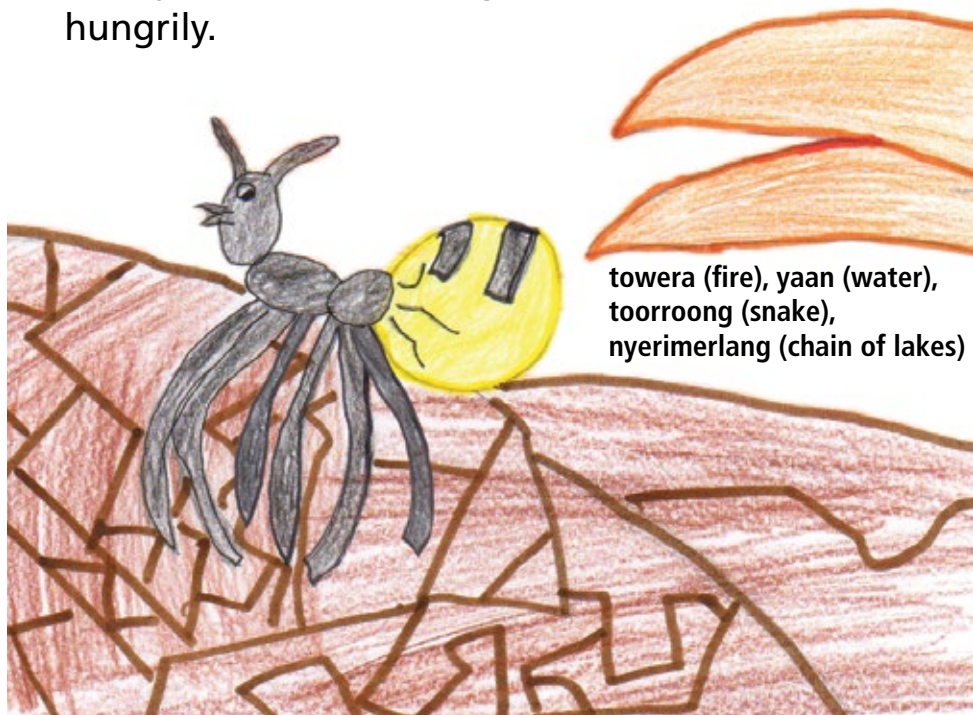
“Why should I? First there’s no yaan, a towera starts, then Toorroong bit me and now I have a weird bug on me,” Goongerah complained.

“I’m not weird, I’m a bullant!” explained the bug.

“He looks tasty!” Boorun asked, clicking his beak widely.

“Don’t eat me. We need to leave and go to the nyerimerlang. There’s better tucker on the way. I can help you find it.”

“Okay, but we’d better go fast,” stated Boorun hungrily.



towera (fire), yaan (water),  
toorroong (snake),  
nyerimerlang (chain of lakes)



“Mremunaty. I’m hungry,” whinged Goongerah.

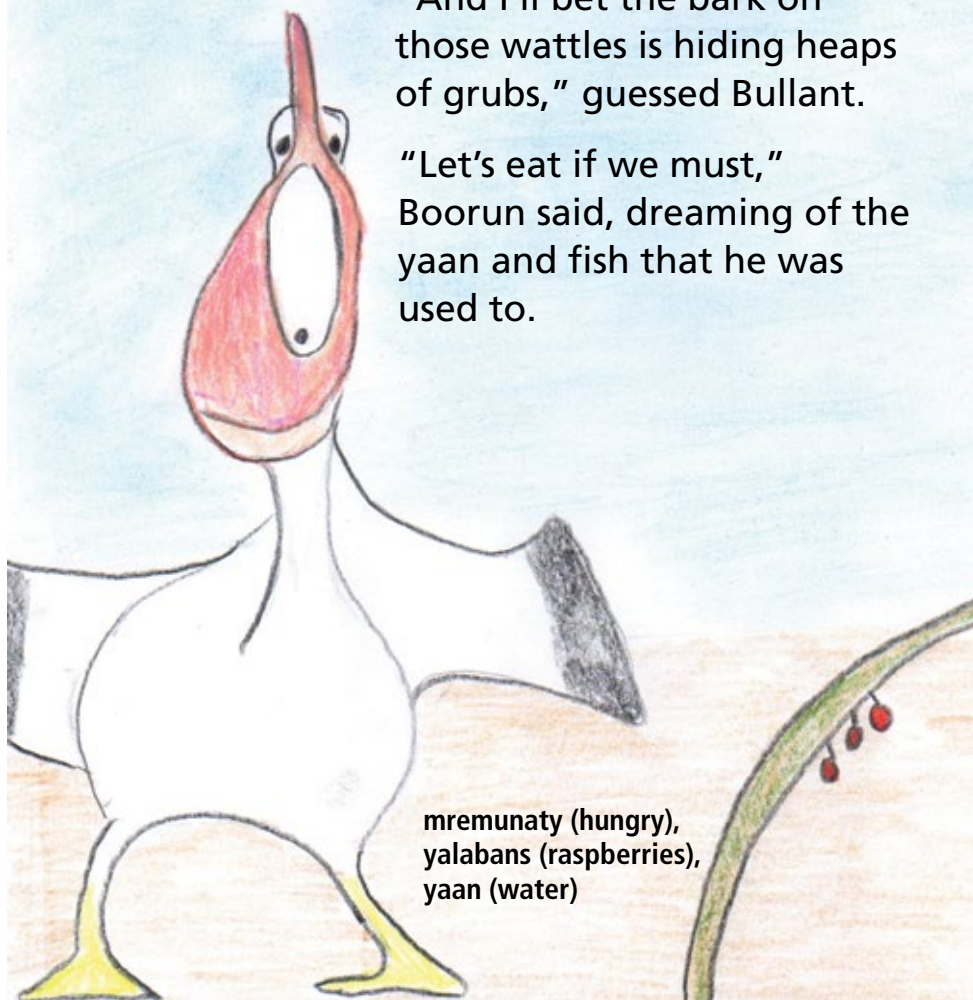
“Shoosh! I’m trying to fly,” gargled Boorun.

Bullant saw a bush with scrumptious yalabans and called out, “Look!”

“Yummy yummy for my tummy,” thought Goongerah.

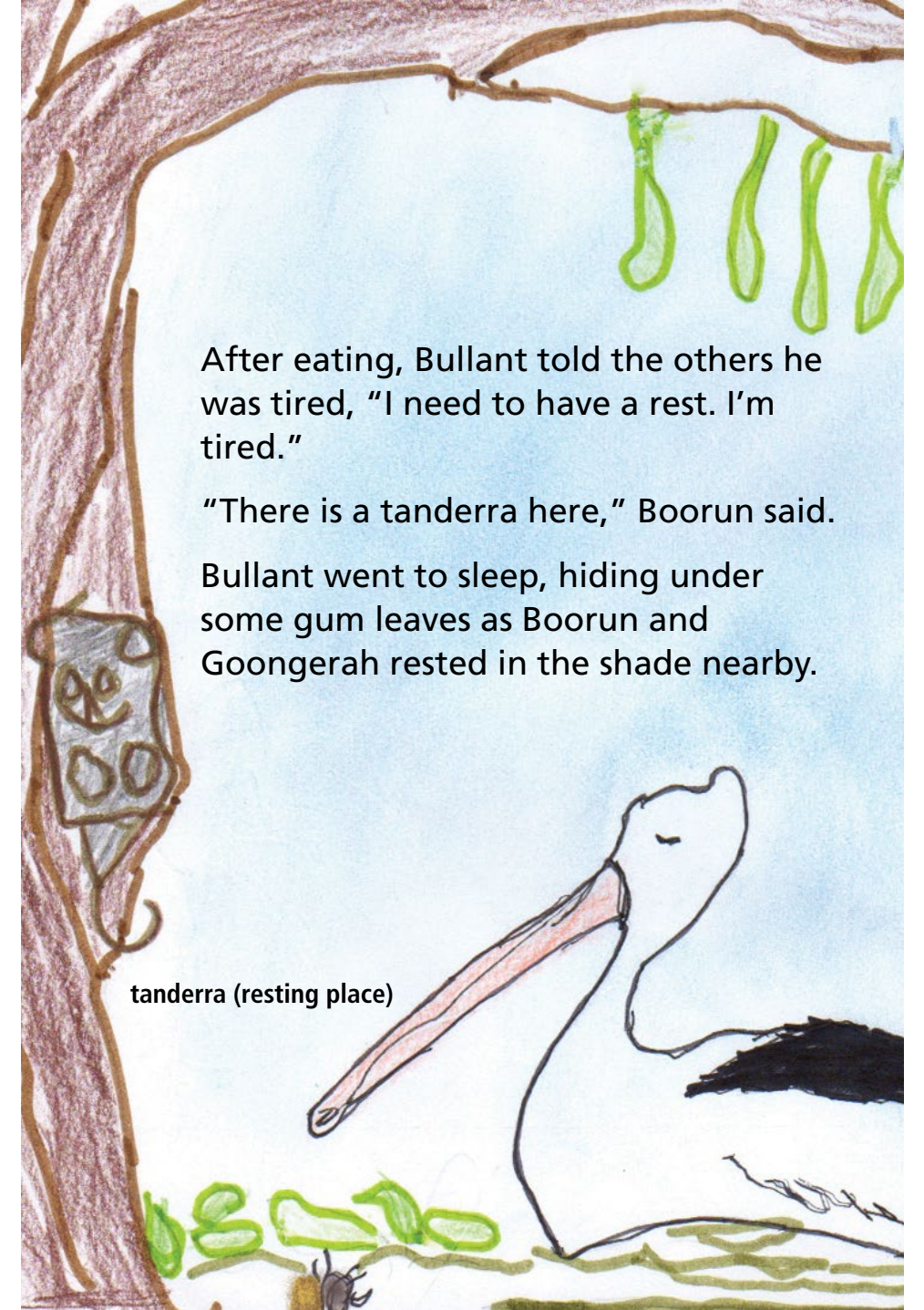
“And I’ll bet the bark on those wattles is hiding heaps of grubs,” guessed Bullant.

“Let’s eat if we must,” Boorun said, dreaming of the yaan and fish that he was used to.



mremunaty (hungry),  
yalabans (raspberries),  
yaan (water)



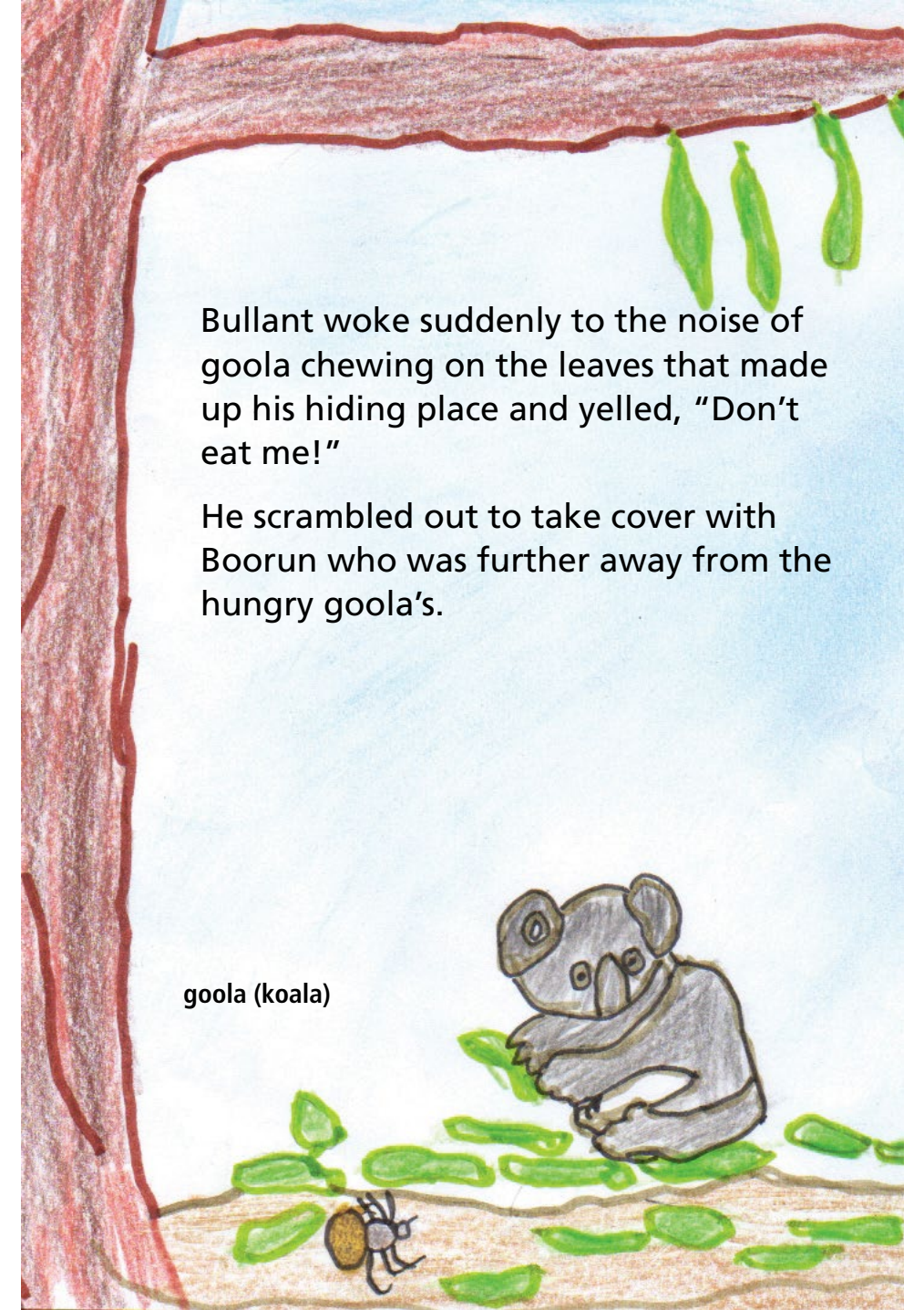


After eating, Bullant told the others he was tired, "I need to have a rest. I'm tired."

"There is a tanderra here," Boorun said.

Bullant went to sleep, hiding under some gum leaves as Boorun and Goongerah rested in the shade nearby.

tanderra (resting place)



Bullant woke suddenly to the noise of goola chewing on the leaves that made up his hiding place and yelled, "Don't eat me!"

He scrambled out to take cover with Boorun who was further away from the hungry goola's.

goola (koala)



They woke up to an alluring smell. To their hungry bellies, it was something that smelled good! Very good!

They crept up and saw some Gunaikurnai sizzling a skinny djira on their campfire.

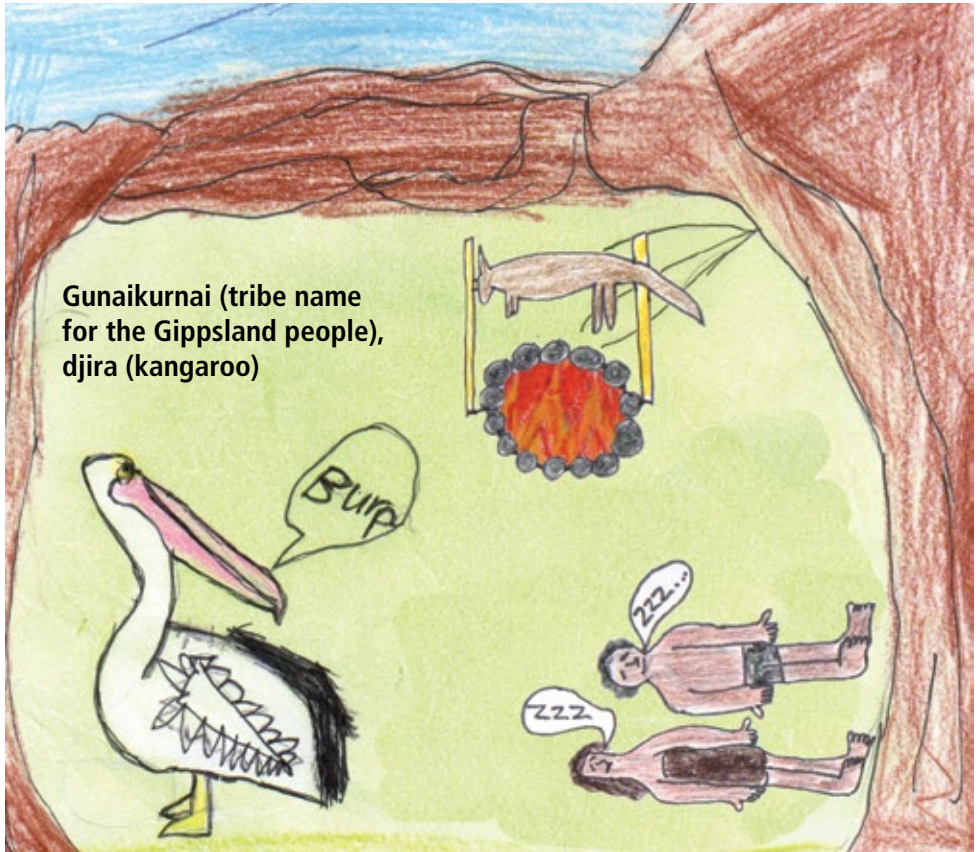
“Mmmmm yum,” Goongerah and Bullant said at the same time. Although none of them usually ate djira, this smelt good, and they knew it would give them the energy to keep going.

“We must wait till they sleep or the Gunaikurnai might make bush tucker of us too,” Boorun told them.



Gunaikurnai (tribe name for the Gippsland people), djira (kangaroo)





Eventually the Gunaikurnai went to sleep after eating their djira.

“Let’s go eat. But do it quietly,” Boorun warned as they grabbed at the small amount of meat left.

“Burp! Excuse me,” Boorun said.

“Oh, that’s disgusting,” yelled Goongerah.

The djira provided all the energy Boorun needed to get them all to Marlay Point. He was soon paddling his sore wings in the lake's water.

He felt fish swimming under him and ducked down his hooked beak. He came up with two kiemm. Finally they had real food. The three had a big meal and lay down relieved to have made it to the Gippsland Lakes.





warrun (sky)

They woke to the haunting sounds of a didgeridoo and saw men dancing. They were singing and chanting to the great warrun. Then they stopped and waited. Slowly the clouds built in the warrun and it began to rain. It rained and rained and rained. The peoples' prayers had been answered.

Boorun, Goongerah and Bullant smiled as they knew that the rain would bring new life to the area, fill up all the billabongs and help refresh the lakes and keep them healthy.



The new yaan flowing into the lakes brought all the animals out. Boorun noticed Brogan and Bowung gliding across the water. He gasped and they swam towards him, greeting him with a big hug and kiss.

“Hello,” he said excitedly. “I am so glad to have found you safe. You will never believe my hard journey here...” and Boorun told them of his adventures with Goongerah and Bullant.



yaan (water), brogan (brother), bowung (sister)

*Airly Primary School would like to acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the traditional custodians of the Gippsland region.*

*We would also like to thank  
Greening Australia and  
Gunaikurnai man Alfie Hudson*



*for holding a workshop for the school about Aboriginal Culture at Marlay Point on the Gippsland Lakes.*

*The workshop contained elements of dance, language, bush tucker, Dreamtime stories and telling stories with symbols. This was the inspiration for Airly to tell their own story.*

## **Glossary of Gunaikurnai language used in this book**

boorun - pelican	nrung - hole
bowung - sister	nyerimerlang - chain of lakes
brogan - brother	purkill - parrot
djira - kangaroo	tanderra - resting place
goola - koala	toorroong - snake
goongerah - possum	towera - fire
gunaikurnai - tribe name for the Gippsland people	warrun - sky
kiemm - bream	yaan - water
mremunaty - hungry	yalaban - raspberries

From **Wurruk** by Vaughan Nikitin, [www.chaosfilter.com/wurruk/](http://www.chaosfilter.com/wurruk/)



2014 Prep to Year 6  
Airly Primary School

# Love Our Lakes

[www.loveourlakes.net.au](http://www.loveourlakes.net.au)



Gippsland  
Lakes  
Ministerial  
Advisory  
Committee

