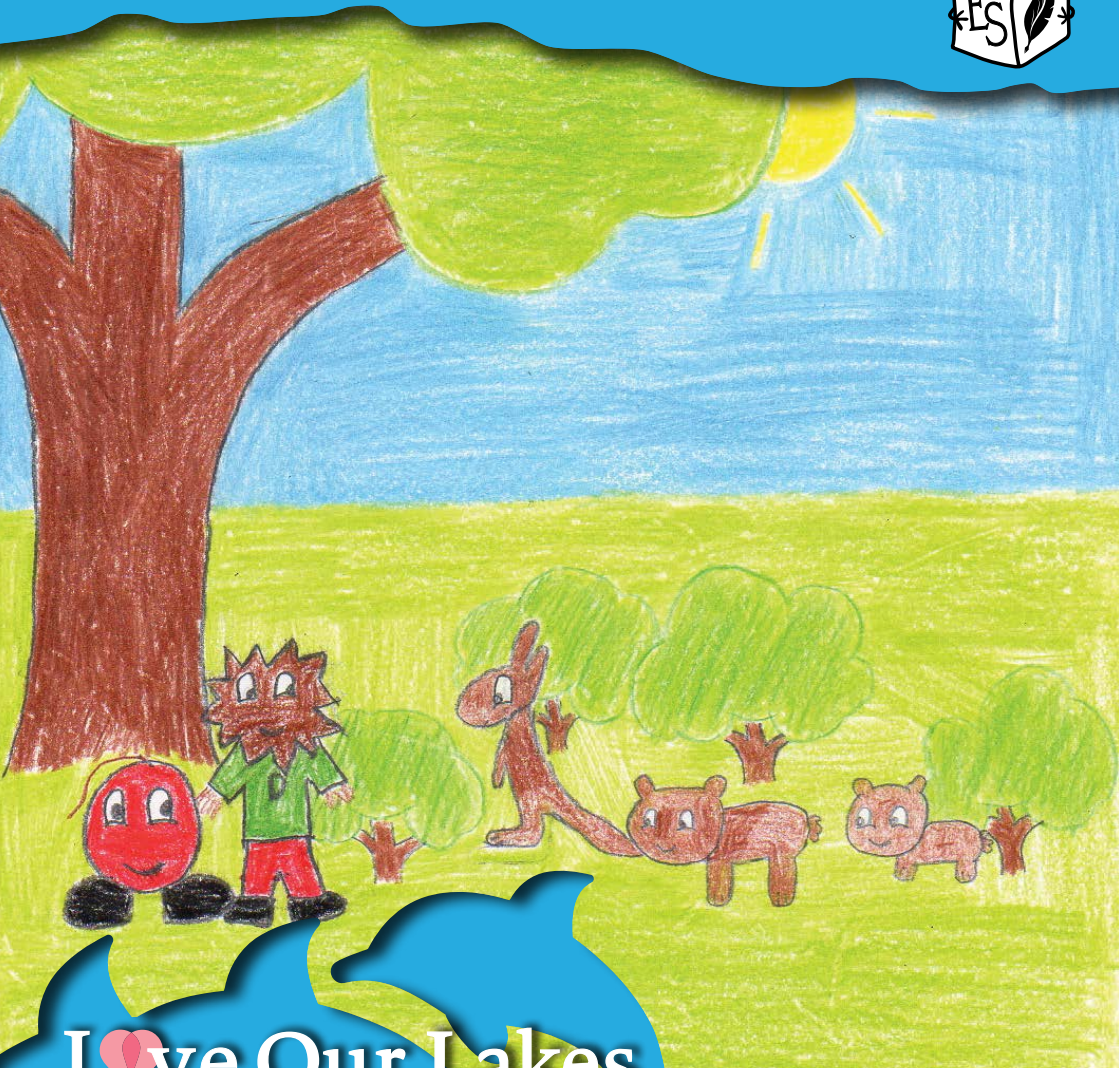


Dust and Boom go to the Country

Dane Irvine
Bundalaguah 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

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.vaee.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



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

Dust and Boom go to the Country

Author: Dane Irvine

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Teacher: Jenni Johnson

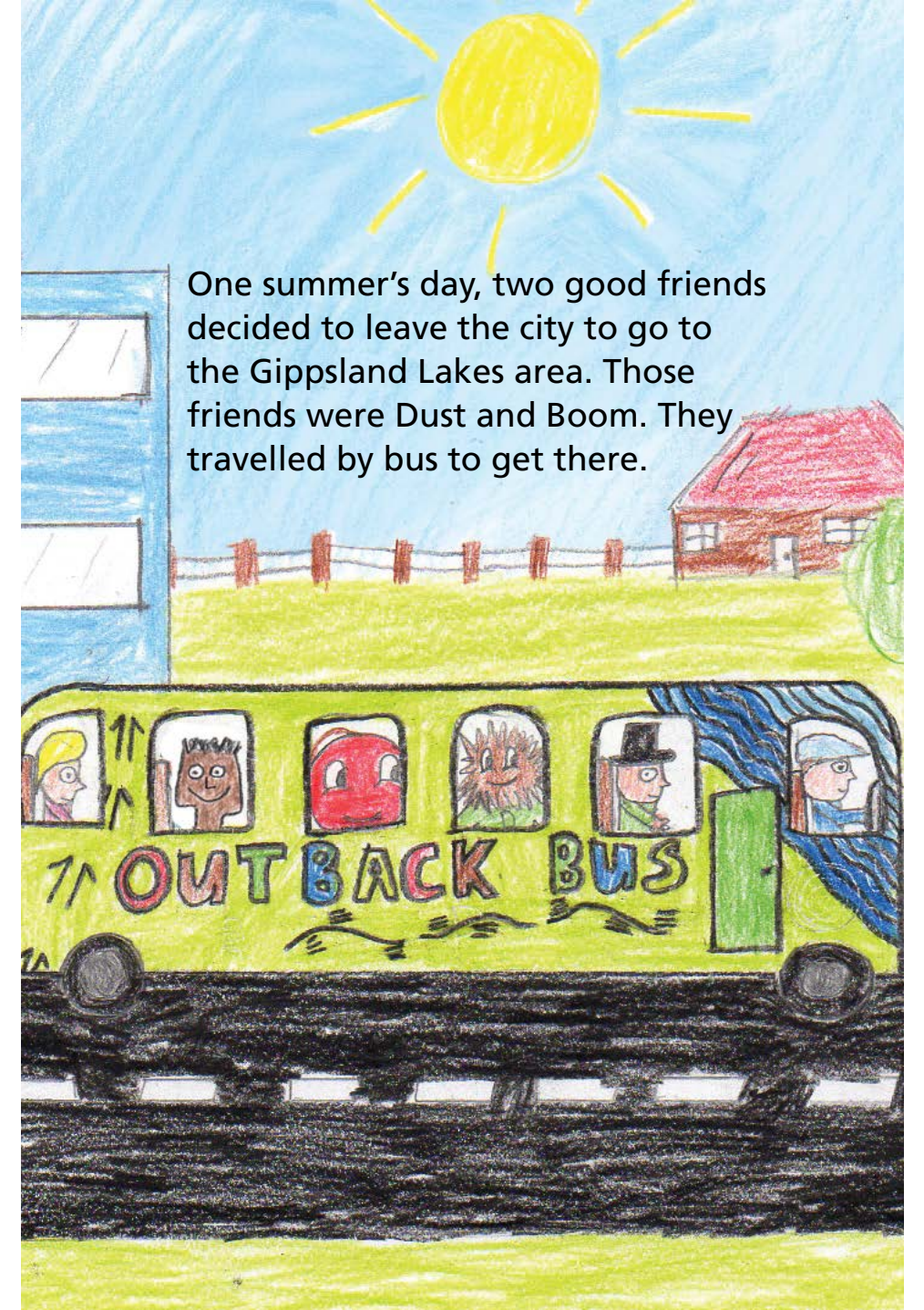
School: Bundalaguah Primary School



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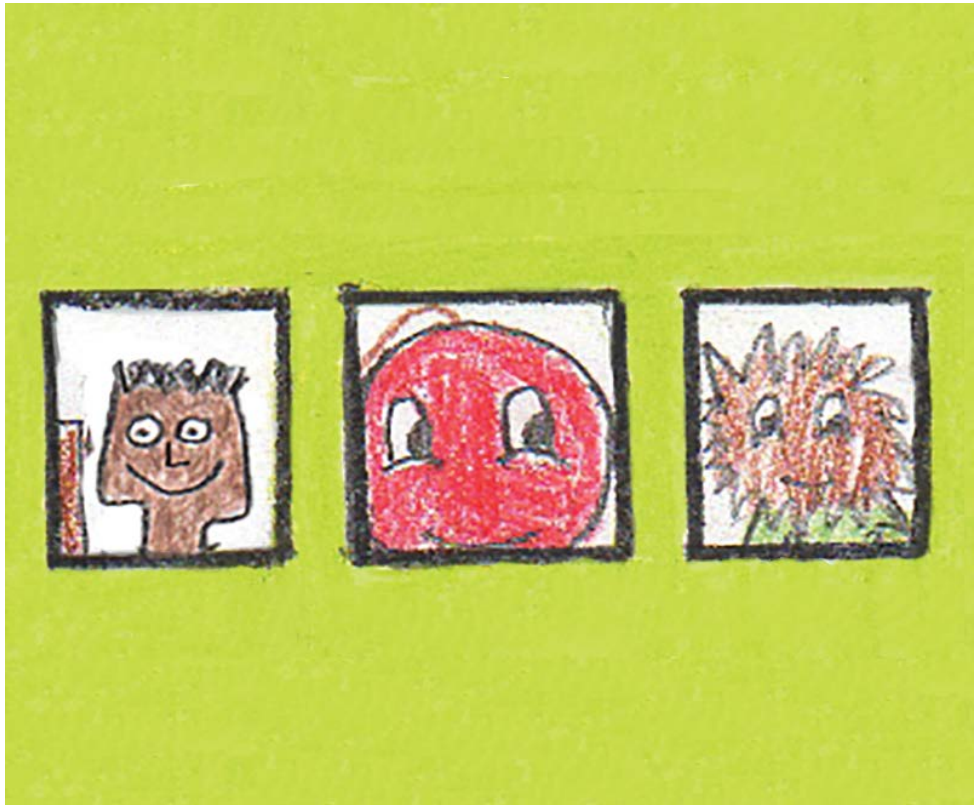
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One summer's day, two good friends decided to leave the city to go to the Gippsland Lakes area. Those friends were Dust and Boom. They travelled by bus to get there.

They were hoping that along the way they would see lots of native animals and learn about the traditional people of the area.

Luckily on the bus they met Alfie, a Gunaikurnai man. Alfie was returning to his country from the city. He promised to teach them about the area.





Alfie pointed out kangaroos, koalas and a lot of kookaburras. He taught them the Gunaikurnai words for these animals.

"A kangaroo is called *jirrah*, a koala is *goola* and the kookaburra is *gwak*", he told them.



The bus broke down just before a rickety bridge that crossed a river. Dust and Boom decided to get out and keep going, as they wanted to see more of the area.

The bridge looked dangerous, so they decided to swim across the river.



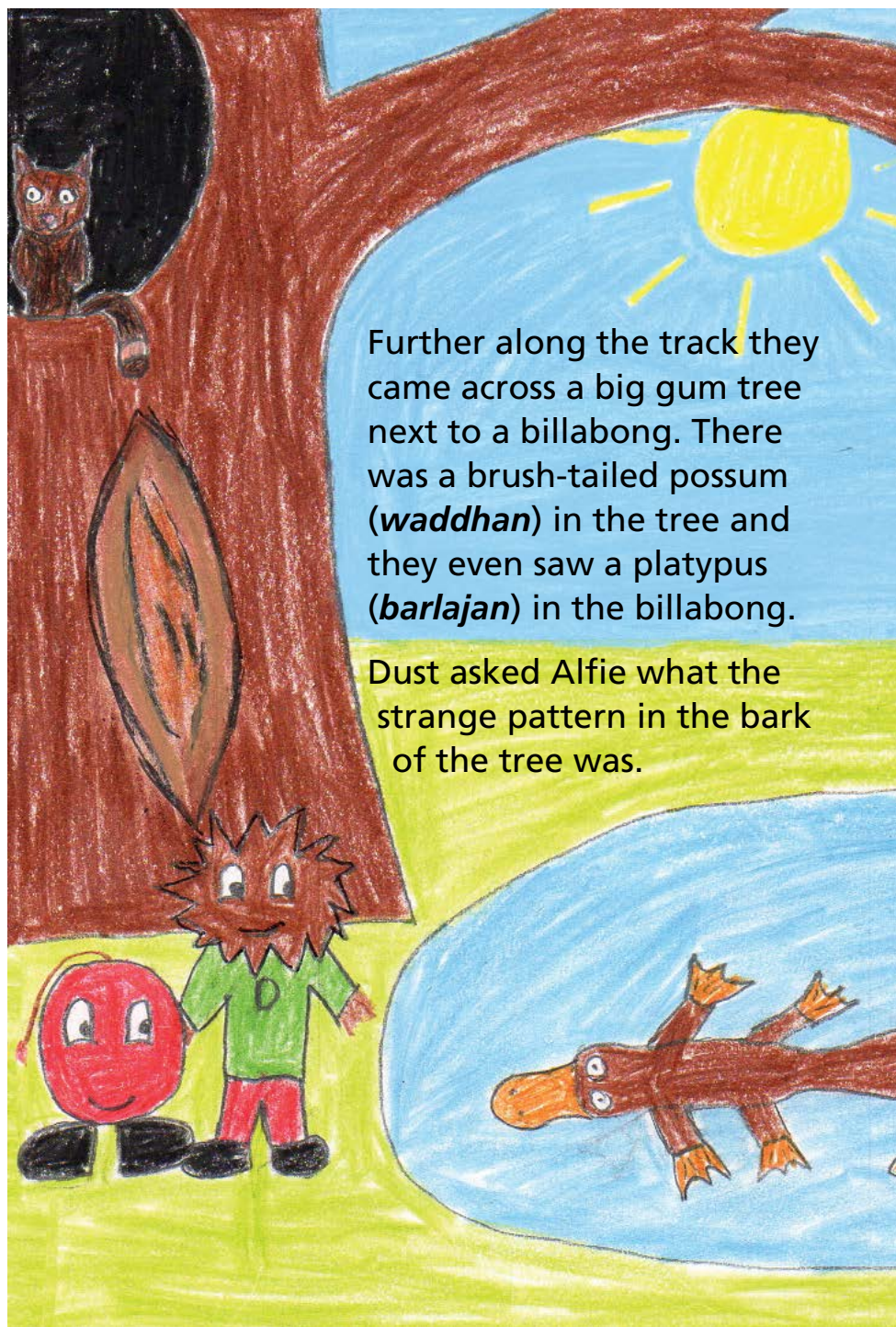


While they were in the river they saw cockatoos (*braak*) flying overhead.

Boom looked up and saw a big fat crocodile in the river. They both panicked and swam as quickly as they could to the other side where they were safe again.

Alfie rolled on the ground laughing at them.
"You silly city slickers! That is only a big floating log. We don't get crocodiles in Gippsland!"





Further along the track they came across a big gum tree next to a billabong. There was a brush-tailed possum (*waddhan*) in the tree and they even saw a platypus (*barlajan*) in the billabong.

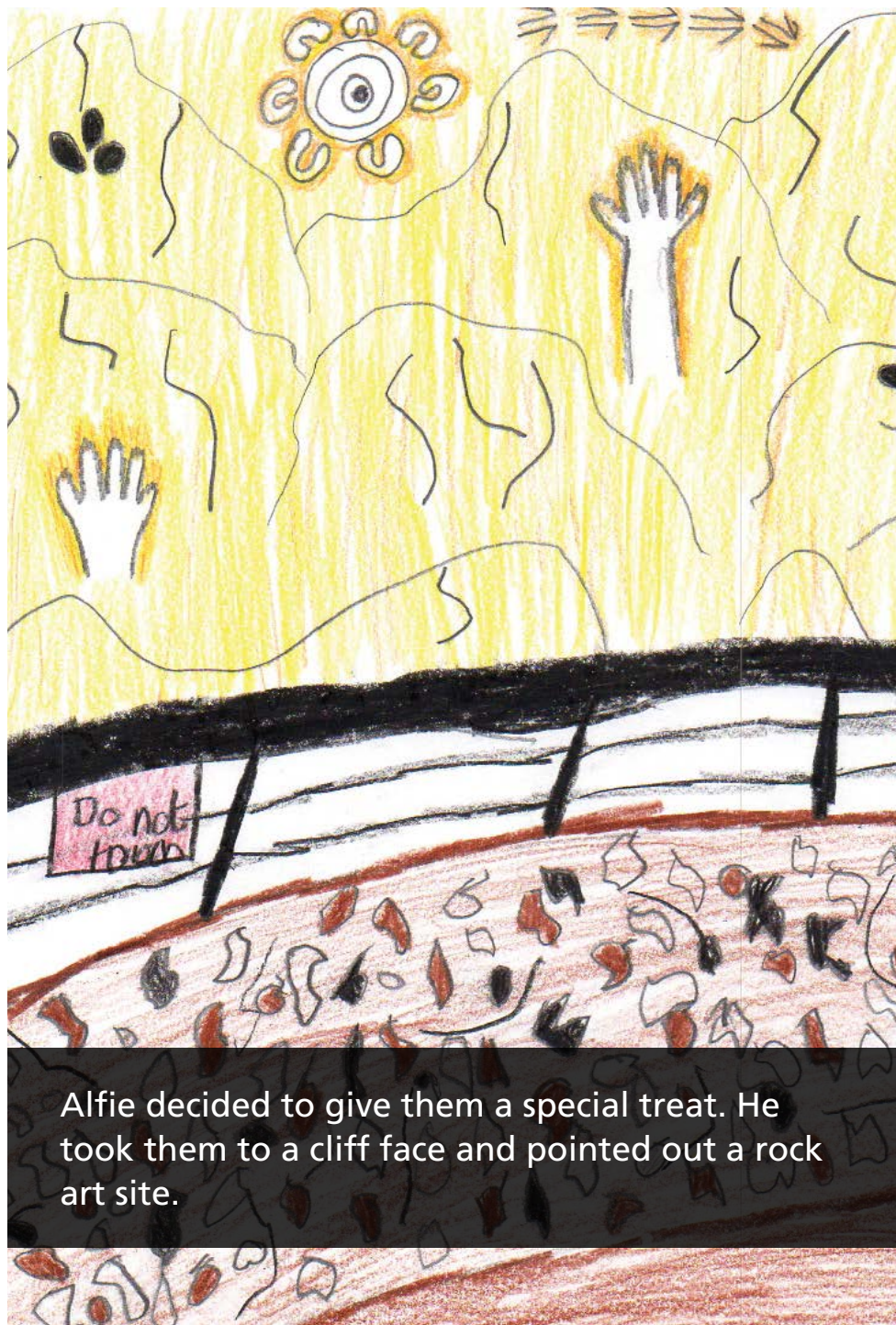
Dust asked Alfie what the strange pattern in the bark of the tree was.

Alfie told them that this was a scar tree. His Gunaikurnai ancestors used stone axes to remove the bark from the tree to make canoes.

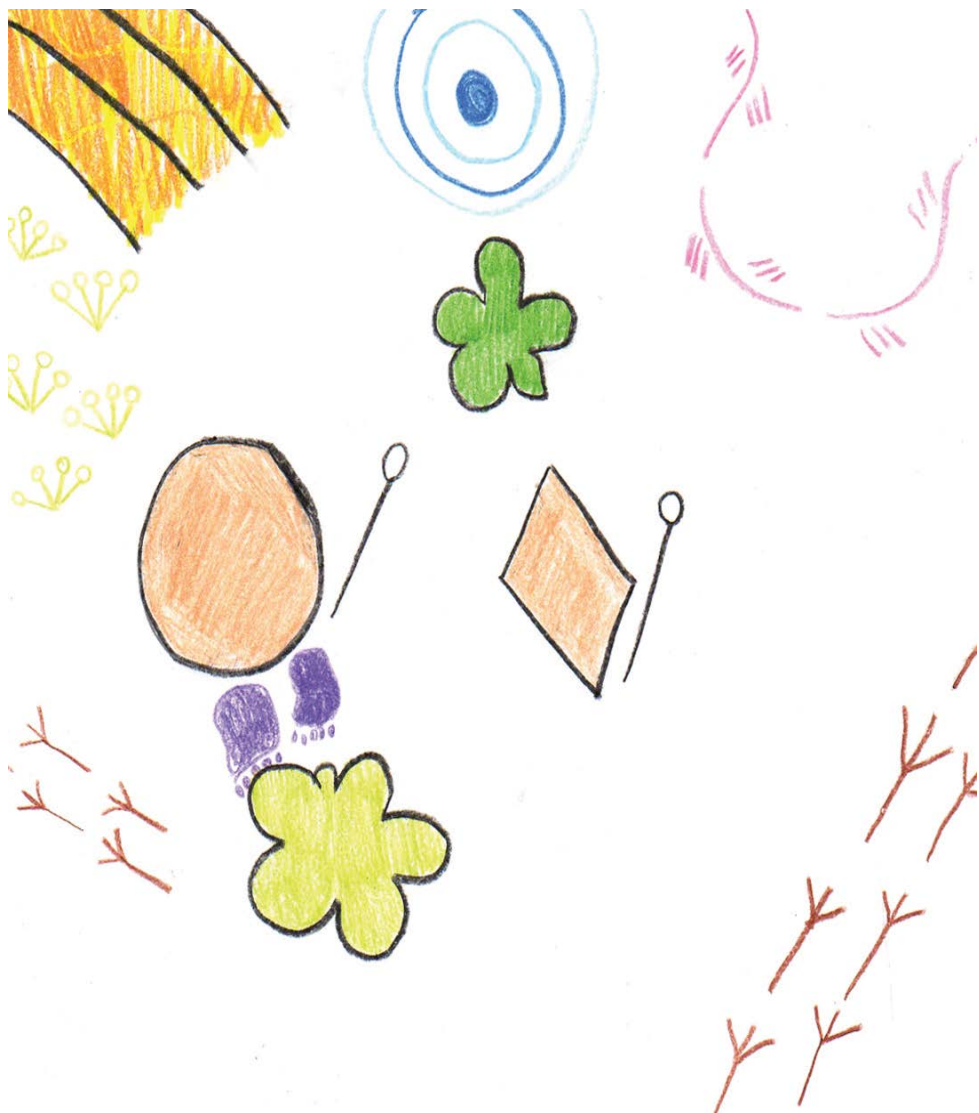




Suddenly, as they walked passed a bunch of bushes, a wallaby (**bawi**) and two wombats (**narrot**) ran out.



Alfie decided to give them a special treat. He took them to a cliff face and pointed out a rock art site.



Alfie told of how his people use symbols to tell stories. He used a stick to draw some symbols on the ground and taught Dust and Boom what they meant.


They kept on walking until they came to a dry rocky outcrop. They saw a bandicoot (*bembung*) scamper away.

Then they turned around and saw what looked like a bunyip hiding behind a huge boulder.

"Are bunyips real?" they asked Alfie, scared out of their wits.

"You see some strange things down here in Gippsland," Alfie warned. "Perhaps we should get moving."





The next native animals they saw were a dingo (*warragul*) and a goanna (*bataluk*). The goanna (*bataluk*) was sunbaking on a big rock near the waterhole.



It had been a long day and Dust and Boom decided it was time to catch the city bus home. Alfie told them they could catch a bus at the nearest petrol station. On the way they saw a brown snake (*tooroong*) and in the corner of the station they noticed a redback spider (*mermandho*).



On the trip back Dust and Boom kept trying to spot as many animals as they could. They saw a wedge-tailed eagle (*gwannamurrang*) soaring high up in the sky. Walking along the side of the road was an echidna (*kowern*).

Eventually, in the distance they could see the city. They reflected on their journey and both agreed they loved the Gippsland Lakes area and would visit more often.



Bundalaguah 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 Bundalaguah to tell their own story.

Glossary of Gunaikurnai language used in this book

brush-tailed possum	<i>waddhan</i>	echidna	<i>kowern</i>
kangaroo	<i>jirrah</i>	goanna	<i>bataluk</i>
kookaburra	<i>gwak</i>	cockatoo	<i>braak</i>
platypus	<i>barlajan</i>	wallaby	<i>bawi</i>
wombat	<i>narrot</i>	bandicoot	<i>bembung</i>
dingo	<i>warragul</i>	redback spider	<i>mermandho</i>
snake	<i>tooroong</i>	wedge-tailed eagle	<i>gwannamurrang</i>

Translation courtesy of the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages.



Dane Irvine
2014 Bundalaguah Primary School

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