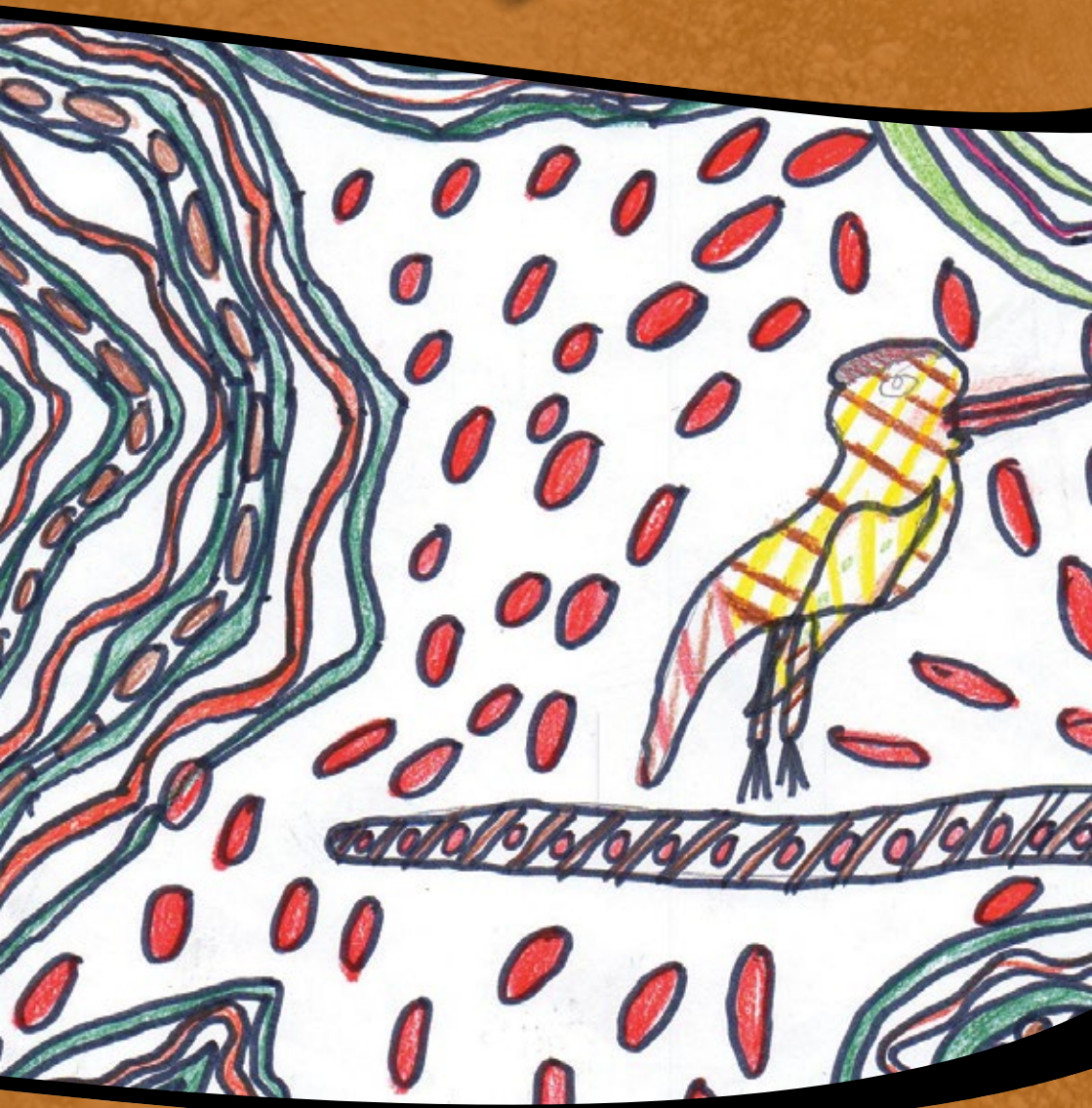


# Aboriginal Life



Chloe Wilks and Gus Simmonds  
Euchareena Public School



# Enviro Stories

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)**

In 2014, the “Tools, Totems & Tucker” Enviro-Stories program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about local Aboriginal cultural - in particular Wiradjuri culture. This program was sponsored by the Central West and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

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## *Central Tablelands Local Land Services*

The Central Tablelands Local Land Services region is located in central New South Wales and covers an area of approximately 31,365 km<sup>2</sup>. It includes the major towns of Bathurst, Blayney, Cowra, Lithgow, Molong, Mudgee, Oberon and Orange. It falls predominantly within Wiradjuri Aboriginal country and small parts of Dharug and Darkinjung country.

**[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands)**

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## *Central West Local Land Services*

The Central West Local Land Services region is home to around 110,000 people and covers the central west slopes region around Grenfell, Forbes and Wellington to the western plains of Nyngan and Coonamble. The major Aboriginal nations that the central west region overlies are the Wiradjuri, Wailwan, Wongaibon, Kawambarai and Kamialroi. These nations also extend into other Local Land Services regions.

**[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest)**

# Aboriginal Life

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The “Tools, Totems and Tucker” Enviro-Stories Program has been proudly supported by the Central West and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

The “Tools, Totems & Tucker” collection consists of the following books:

## **Sponsored by Central Tablelands Local Land Services**

- Aboriginal Totems
- Our Living Land
- Aboriginal Animal Tracks
- Aboriginal Life
- The Dreamtime Trilogy

## **Sponsored by Central West Local Land Services**

- Burnum finds his way
- How the Koala got his claws
- Storm Boy and Uncle Farren
- The Peculiar Platypus
- The Rainbow Serpent is back!

ISBN: 978 1 74256 700 6

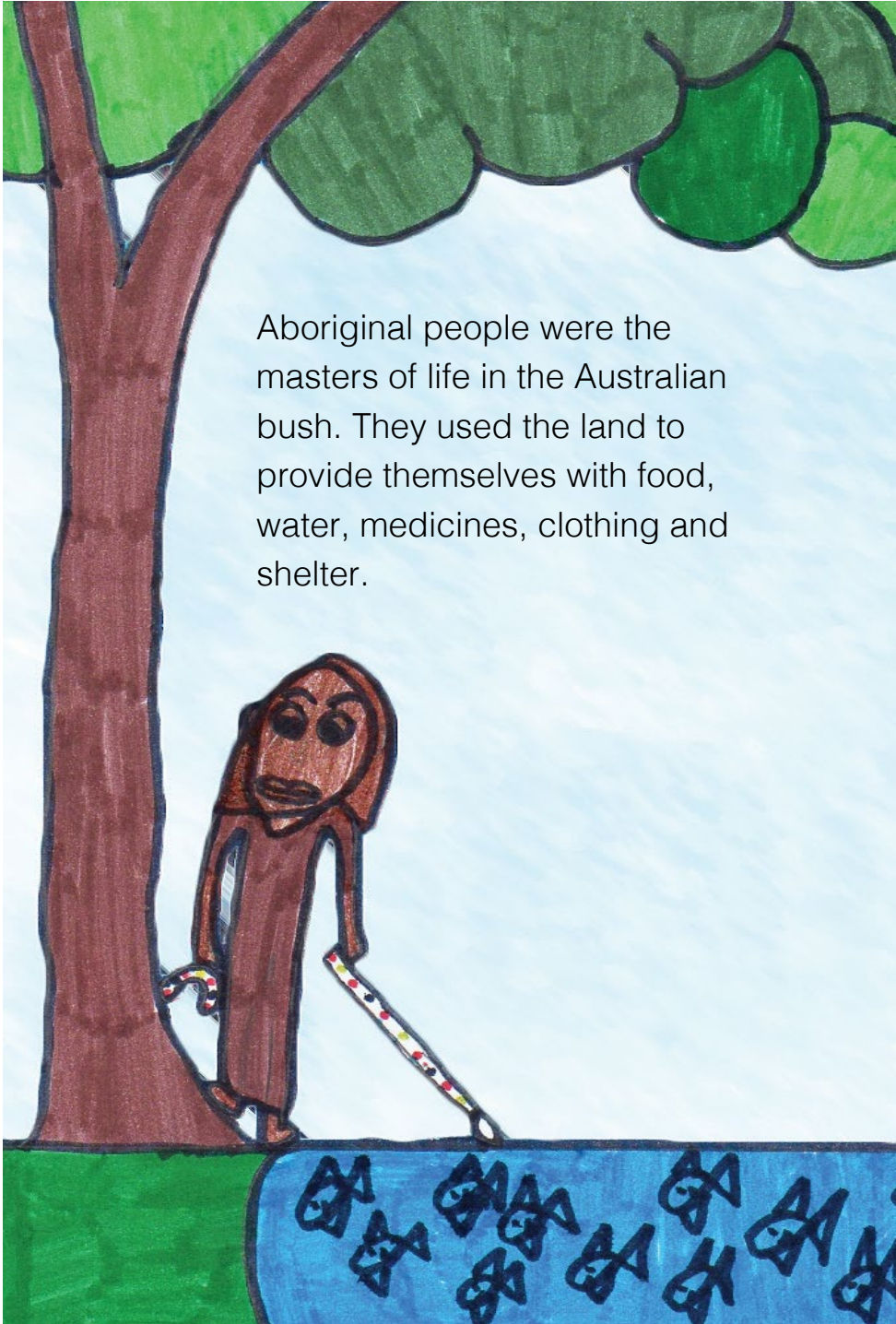
The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeekKdesigns initiative.

Graphic design by PeekKdesigns, [www.peekkdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekkdesigns.com.au)

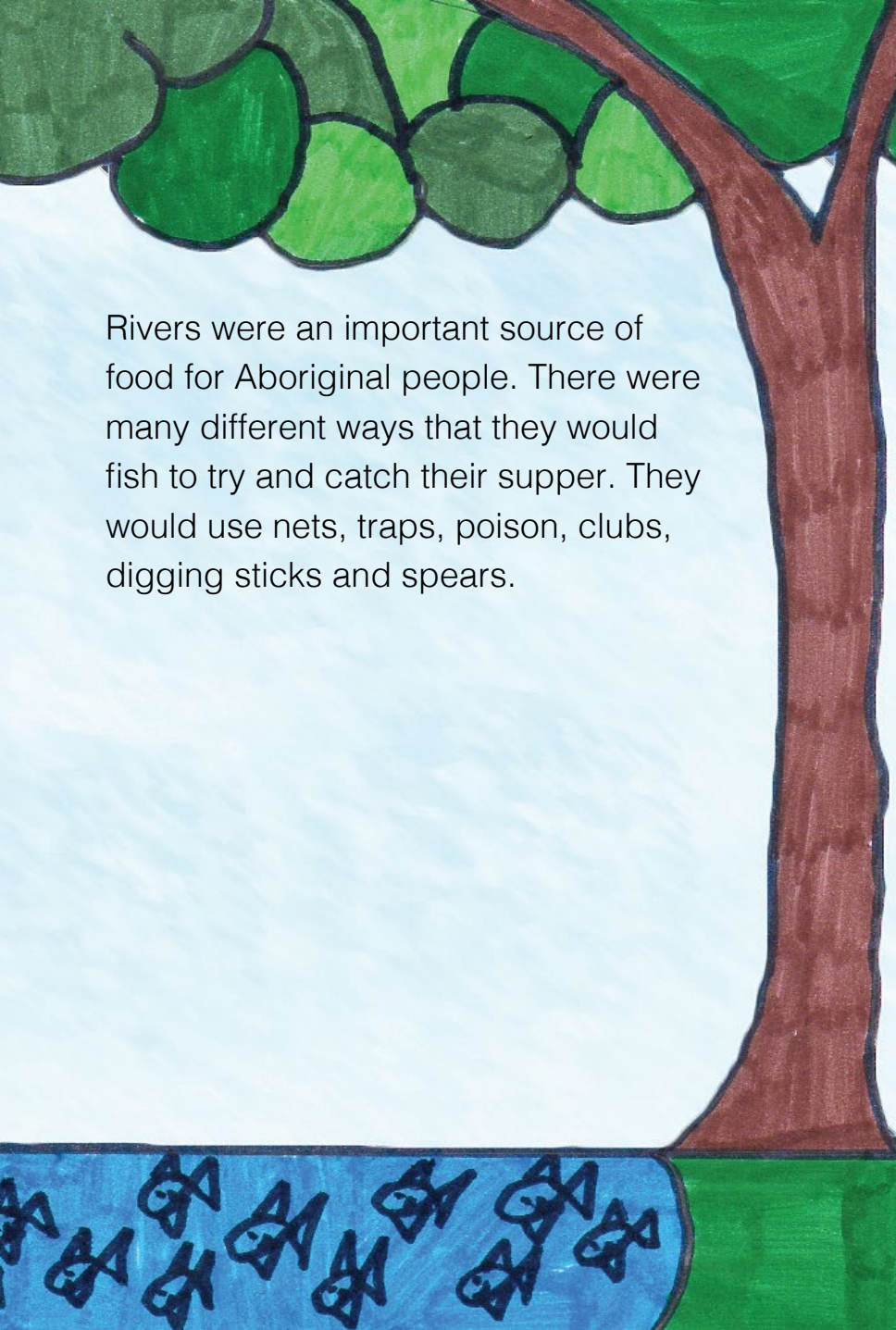
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Aboriginal people were the masters of life in the Australian bush. They used the land to provide themselves with food, water, medicines, clothing and shelter.



Rivers were an important source of food for Aboriginal people. There were many different ways that they would fish to try and catch their supper. They would use nets, traps, poison, clubs, digging sticks and spears.



When the river was full, Aboriginal people speared, netted and caught fish from canoes. They would also dig for yabbies and mussels in the mud.

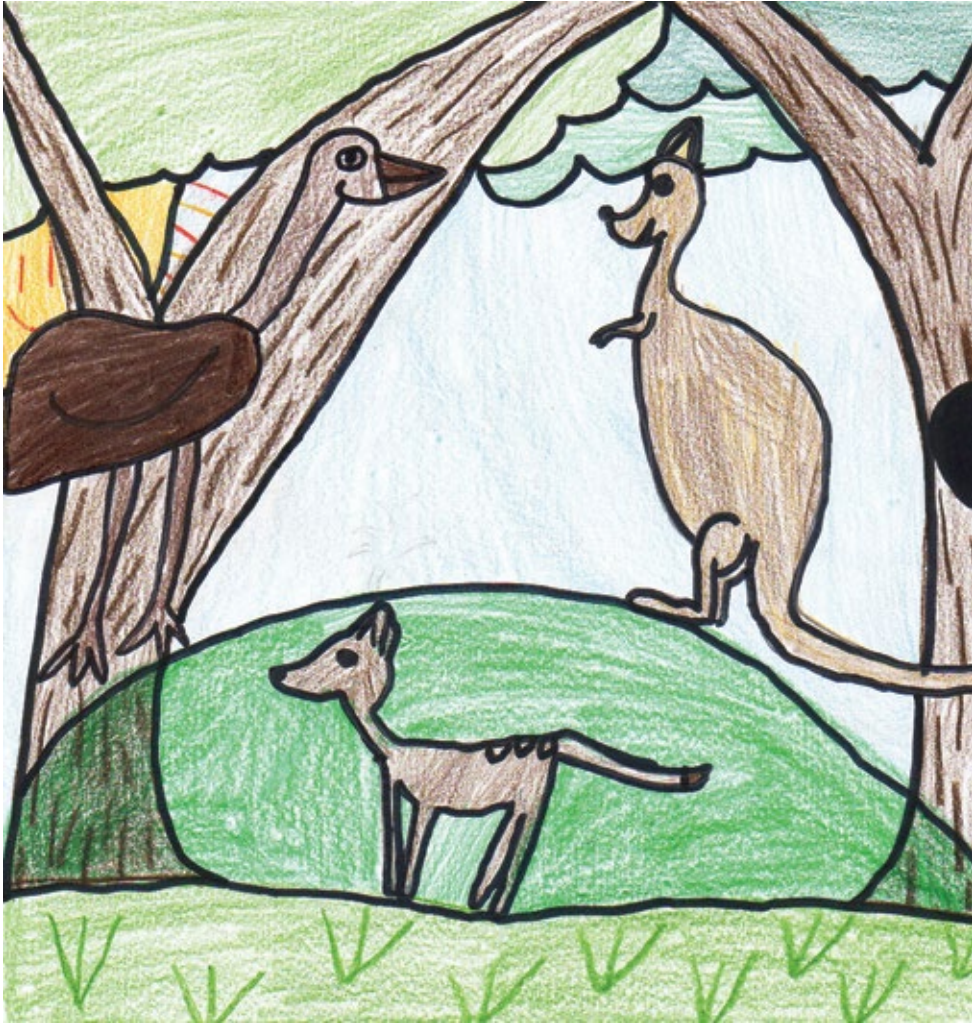
When the river was receding, traps and poison was used to catch yabbies and fish.

Aboriginal people built different traps in the rivers to catch fish and yabbies. They used stone to build rock pools that acted as traps in the river. Fish could find their way into the traps but couldn't get out. They would then be speared or netted.

Sometimes people pounded the water and trapped the fish in special baskets and nets.

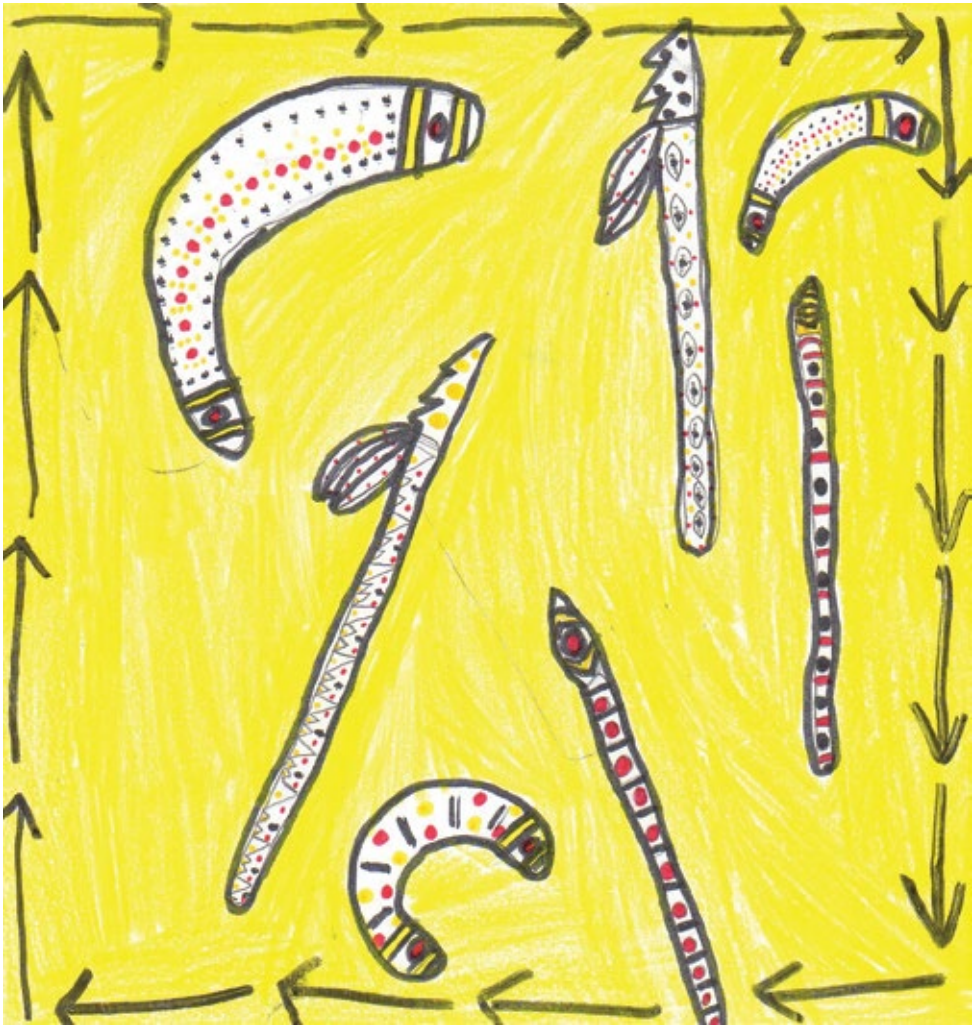
Poisons were also made from plants that could be used to stun fish.





When there was not much water, or it was the wrong season for fishing, Aboriginal people would hunt and eat land animals. They would hunt emu, kangaroo, wombat, possums and all sorts of animals.





They used a range of different tools and weapons to hunt including spears, boomerangs, nets and traps.

Spears could be made from wood with stone or bone blades.

Woomeras, made from wood, were used to help throw spears or as a shield.

Boomerangs were used to hunt animals and for digging.

Boondis were a club that could also be used as a digging stick.

Canoes were made from tree bark cut off a living tree with stone axes.





Aboriginal people also hunted birds with boomerangs, nets and spears.

They even carved foot-holes in trees to reach animals who lived high in the canopy.

To gather food from nature Aboriginal people made bags, digging sticks, grinding stones and coolamans.

A coolamon is a bark container like a bowl that was cut using stone axes.

Bags were woven from reeds or made from animal skins.

Hardwood sticks were used for digging up insects, small animals and underground roots and yams.

Stones were used for grinding seeds and other plant material so they could be eaten.

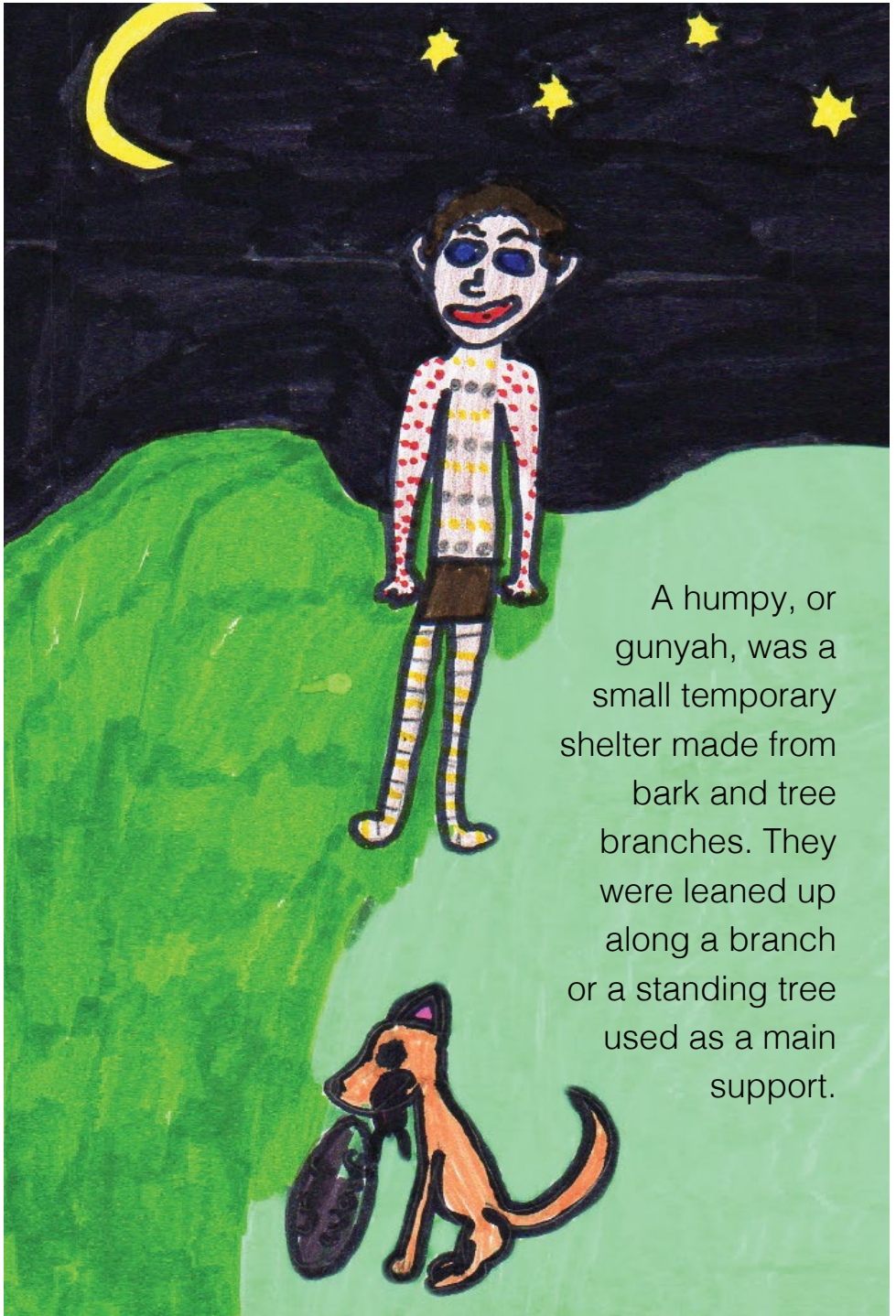




The women and young children were responsible for gathering food. They used digging sticks to dig up roots and witchetty grubs. They would pick leaves, nuts, seeds, fruits and also catch small lizards.



Aboriginal people used bush medicines made from plant materials such as bark, leaves and seeds as well as some animal products. Sometimes a tribe would have a medicine man or healer who would treat them. They would pass on the knowledge of bush medicines.



A humpy, or gunyah, was a small temporary shelter made from bark and tree branches. They were leaned up along a branch or a standing tree used as a main support.







Aboriginal people have enormous respect for the place where they live. They know that if they look after their environment then it will provide them with food, water and shelter.





Gus Simmonds and Chloe Wilks  
Euchareena Public School, Year 3 and 5 2014

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