

Burnum finds his way



Ruby Stitt and Kristal Girot
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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

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.

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 km². 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

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

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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!

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Long ago in Australia there was a boy from the Wiradjuri tribe name Burnum. His name means 'Great Warrior.'

Burnum liked collecting berries with his mother but hoped that one day he could go hunting with his father and uncles.



One day, while his mother and aunts were starting the fire, he saw his father and the hunting group slip into the bush and head for the Lachlan River. Burnum wanted to go but he was too young.



So while no one was looking, Burnum fled into the bush to look for his father. He ran and ran until he suddenly realised he didn't recognise his surroundings. He was lost.

Burnum sat on a rock wondering how to get home, when out came...Platypus.



“Hello Platypus. You’re the Wiradjuri totem. I’m lost and I’m starving,” informed Burnum.

“Follow me! Dig down under this River Red Gum and you’ll find some tasty bush tucker, the witchetty grub,” Platypus told him as they started digging.



Burrnum's belly was full after a delicious meal with Platypus. He was very thirsty and needed a drink.

He was wondering what to do, when out came...Kangaroo.



“Hello Kangaroo. I’m lost and I’m so thirsty,” stated Burnum.

“Follow me to find a paperbark tree. It has water in its trunk. You must be so thirsty,” encouraged Kangaroo as they began looking for a paperbark tree.



Burnum wasn't thirsty anymore but now he was really cold. He started looking around for some fire sticks to light a warm fire but he couldn't find any.

When out came...Kookaburra.



“Hello Kookaburra. I’m lost and I’m cold,” remarked Burnum.

“Follow me. I found some fire sticks by the river. Making a fire should be easy because you’ve been helping your tribe burn off,” replied Kookaburra as they began their fire.



Burnum was now warm but he had no idea where his tribe was. He sat on a log thinking he would never get home.

When out came...Possum.



“Hello, Possum. I’m lost and I can’t find my tribe,” sighed Burnum.

“Follow me. Follow the river south to find your tribe.” Possum showed Burnum how to find south using the stars and told him the Southern Cross Dreamtime story.



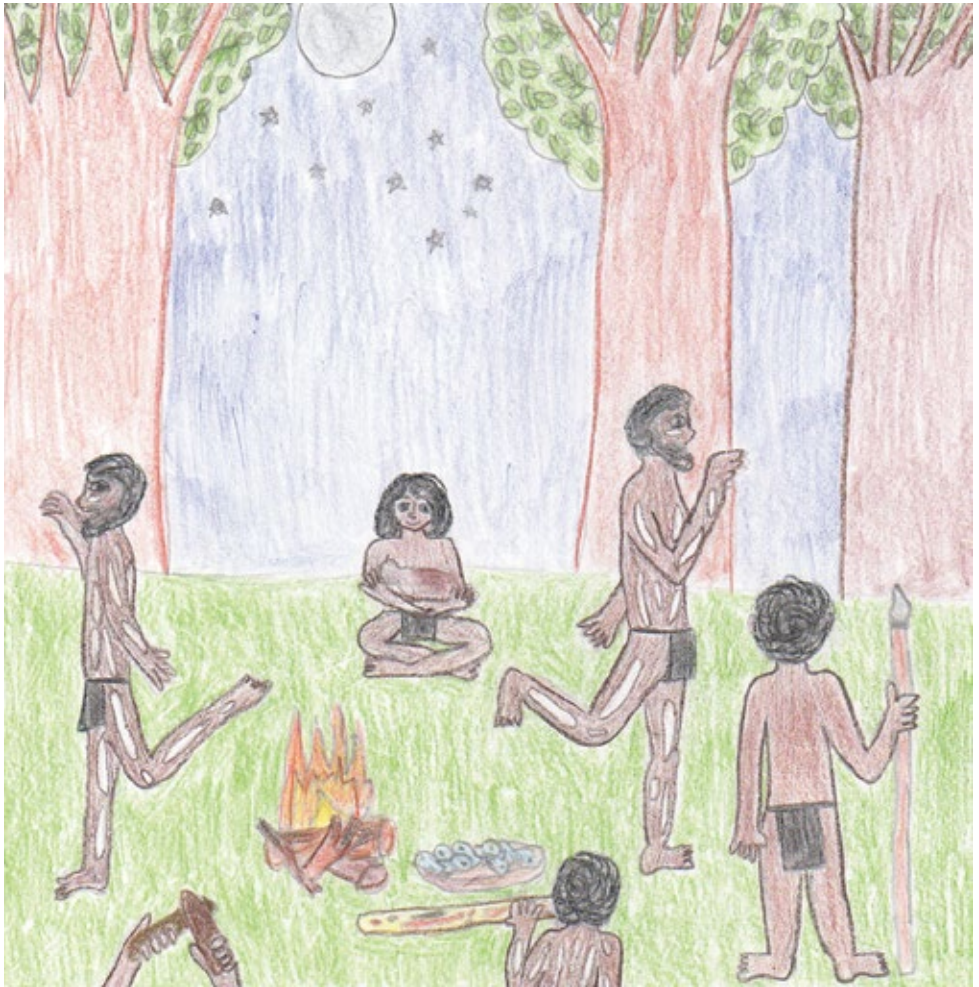
Burnum started following the river south, using the stars. Everything was silent except the frogs croaking and the owls hooting. He walked along feeling happy that he was going to find his tribe.

As he entered a clearing out came...his TRIBE!

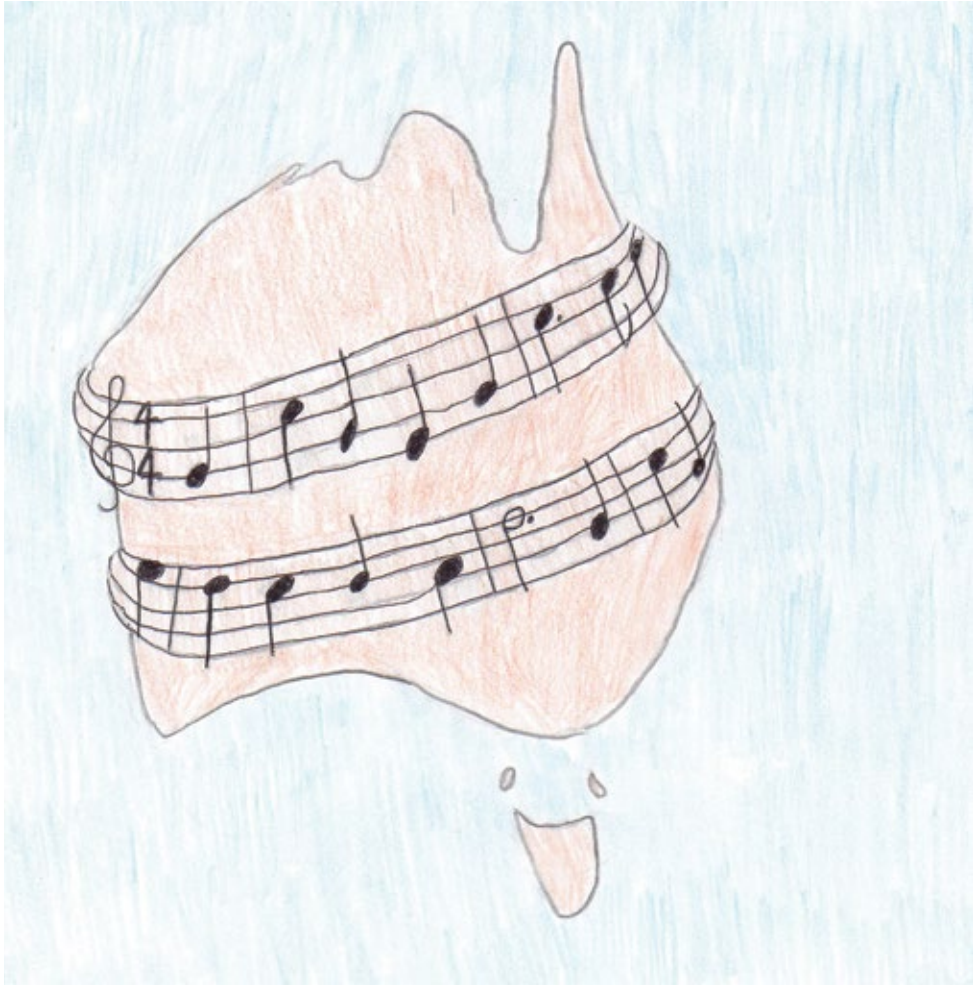


They were very happy to see him.

His father said, "Well done! You survived in the bush," and handed him a fishing spear. Then Burnum, his father and the fishing group went down to the Lachlan River to catch dinner.



That night, Burnum and his proud tribe sat by the campfire eating the fish that he had caught. He told his adventure to his tribe and they sang and danced his story into the ancient Aboriginal song lines.



Aboriginal song lines connect each tribe's stories with songs. They use the song lines to find their way. Even if they're in an area with another language, they use the beat to remember the landmarks.



Burnum had proved he could hunt, fish and survive in the bush. He was now on the way to living up to his name and becoming a “Great Warrior.”



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Forbes Public School, Year 6 2014

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