

# Our Living Land



Chelsea Cross  
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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](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)**

# Our Living Land

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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 710 5

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Traditionally, Aboriginal people lived very differently to how we do today. They had different sources of food, they made tools and shelters differently, they celebrated differently and they had different beliefs.

There is not one single group that makes up Aboriginal Australia, but it is more of a collection of different peoples. In the late 1800s there were up to 750 social groupings and a similar number of languages.

Today we refer to these different groupings as Aboriginal Nations. Each Nation has their own beliefs, customs, culture and languages.







An example of an Aboriginal Nation is the Wiradjuri Nation. The Wiradjuri Nation includes the area around Euchareena Public School.

The Wiradjuri Nation stretches all the way from Central New South Wales to the Murray River border with Victoria.



In Aboriginal culture everyone has a special totem. A totem is a symbolic animal or plant that is handed down through the family.

Totems help connect people with their country and the past, present and future. It is very important that Aboriginal people take care of and protect their totem.





Aboriginal people also believed that they had to take care of the environment and protect the plant and animal habitats. They thought that if they took care of their country it would provide water, food and shelter for them.

Aboriginal people believe that certain special places help connect them with their ancestors. Some other special sites are places where Aboriginal people lived, rock art sites, burial sites, ceremonial grounds and massacre sites.



Dreamtime stories are stories that are passed down many generations, through song, dance, painting and storytelling.

These stories link the people with ancient times. They also help to tell of the laws and beliefs of the Aboriginal people.

One of the most well known Dreamtime stories is the Rainbow Serpent.



Art was a common way for Aboriginal people to tell their stories. They crushed rock, called ochre, and added water to make paint. The ochre was usually an earthy colour like brown, orange, red and yellow.



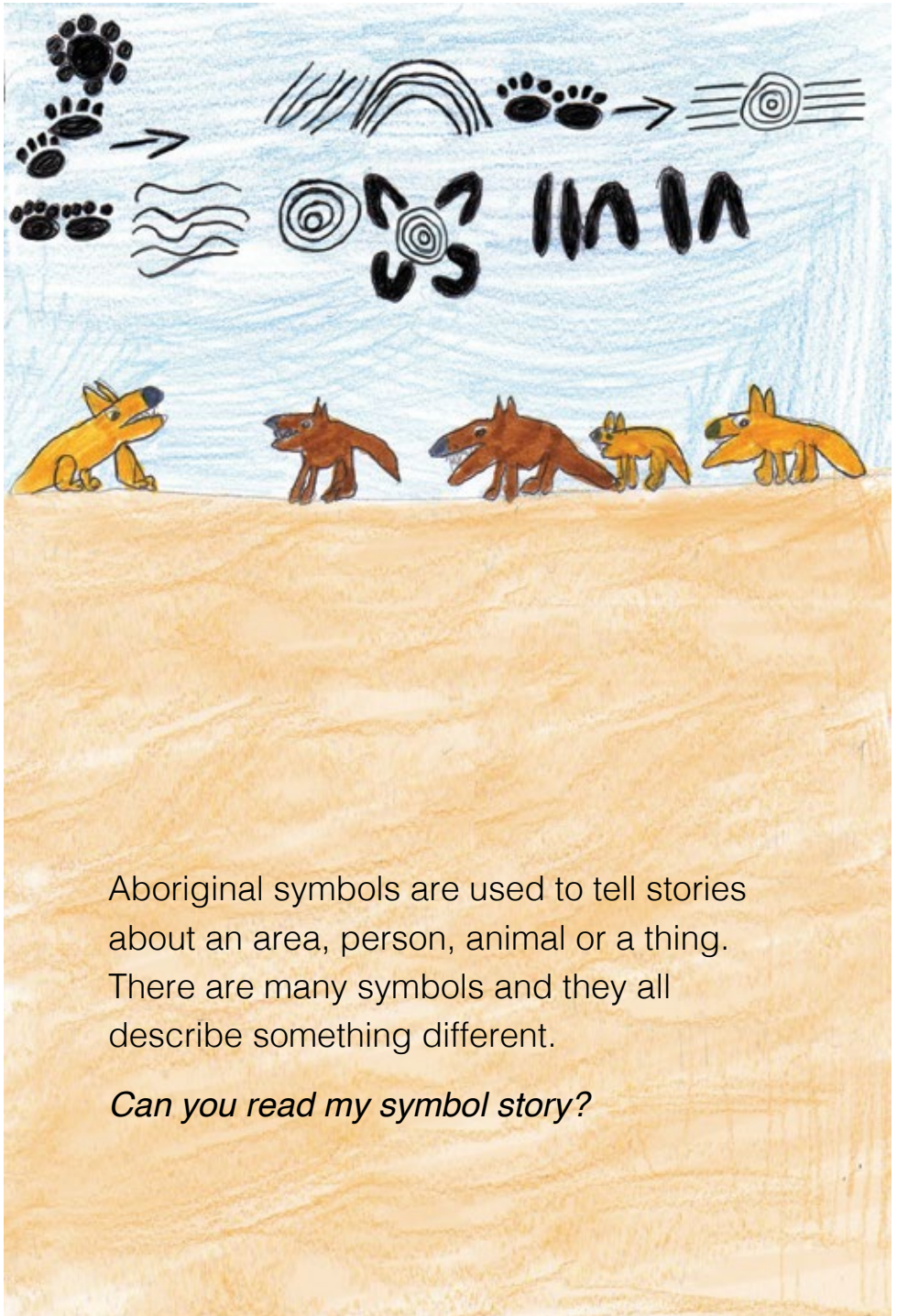


Rock art was an important way for Aboriginal people to tell stories about their lives, history, songs, beliefs and customs

Other types of Aboriginal art were sand art, woodcarving, weaving, tool making and sculpture.







Aboriginal symbols are used to tell stories about an area, person, animal or a thing. There are many symbols and they all describe something different.

*Can you read my symbol story?*

This story is about travelling dingoes.

The **dingoes** start their journey at **daytime** and they **walk** for a while when it starts to **rain**.

After the rain there is a **rainbow**.

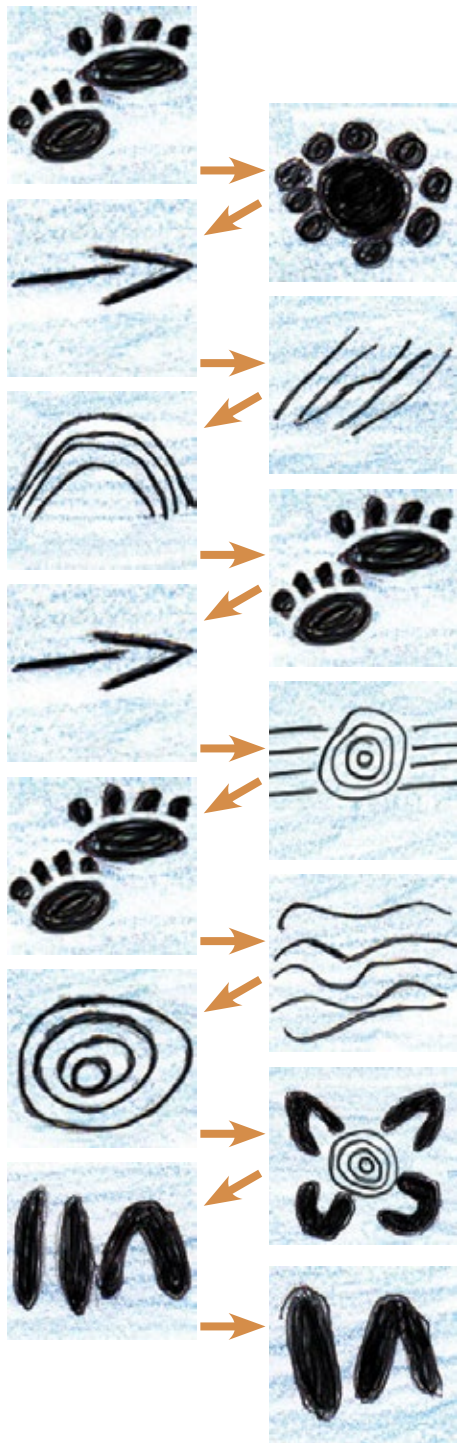
The **dingoes** keep **travelling** until they come across a **waterhole** where they stop to rest.

The **dingoes** see some **smoke** and come across a **campsite**.

They see **people sitting** around the fire.

A **man** and **woman** come over to the dingoes.

Now the dingoes help with hunting food and help to protect their tribe.







Music is one way that Aboriginal people use to connect with their culture.

Song, music and dance are important to help tell the many stories of both their current lives and the Dreamtime.



Aboriginal ceremonies use mime, music, dance and song to celebrate events and tell stories of the history of their tribes.

Important ceremonies include the Burbong, the initiation when a boy becomes an adult, and the burial ceremony known as sorry business.

Today, there are still many festivals and ceremonies that celebrate Aboriginal culture.



A corroboree is an event where Aboriginal people interacted with the Dreamtime through dance, singing, music and costume.

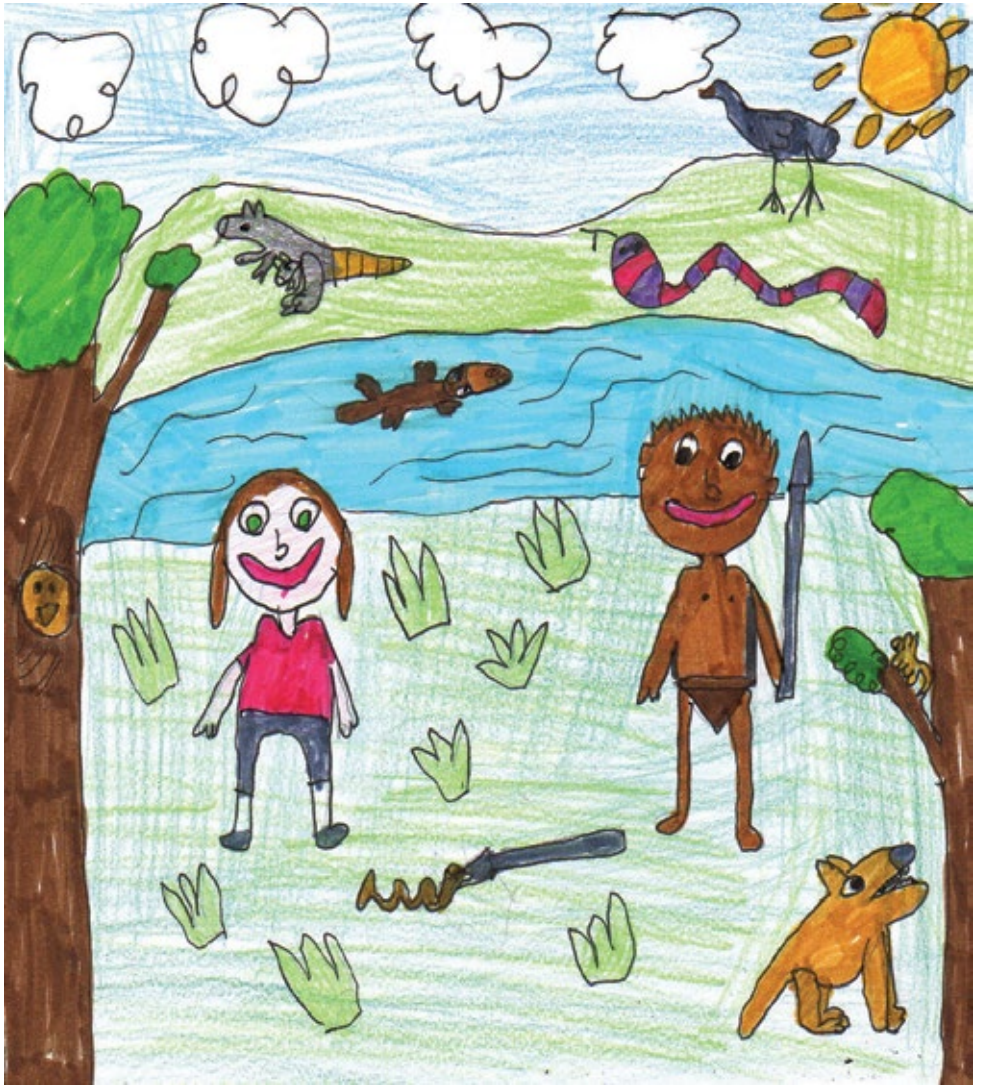
Singing, didgeridoos and clap-sticks were used to make the music. The didgeridoo is one of the oldest musical instruments in the world.

The dancers were painted with ochre and adorned with feathers, bones, leaves, bark, skins and other decorations.

Many of the dances are based on mimicking the animals that share their country. These unique dances get passed down through the generations.







Aboriginal culture, history, art, dance and beliefs give glimpses into the lives of our Indigenous Australians. We can learn from the richness of their unique culture and way of life.







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Euchareena Public School, Year 6 2014

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