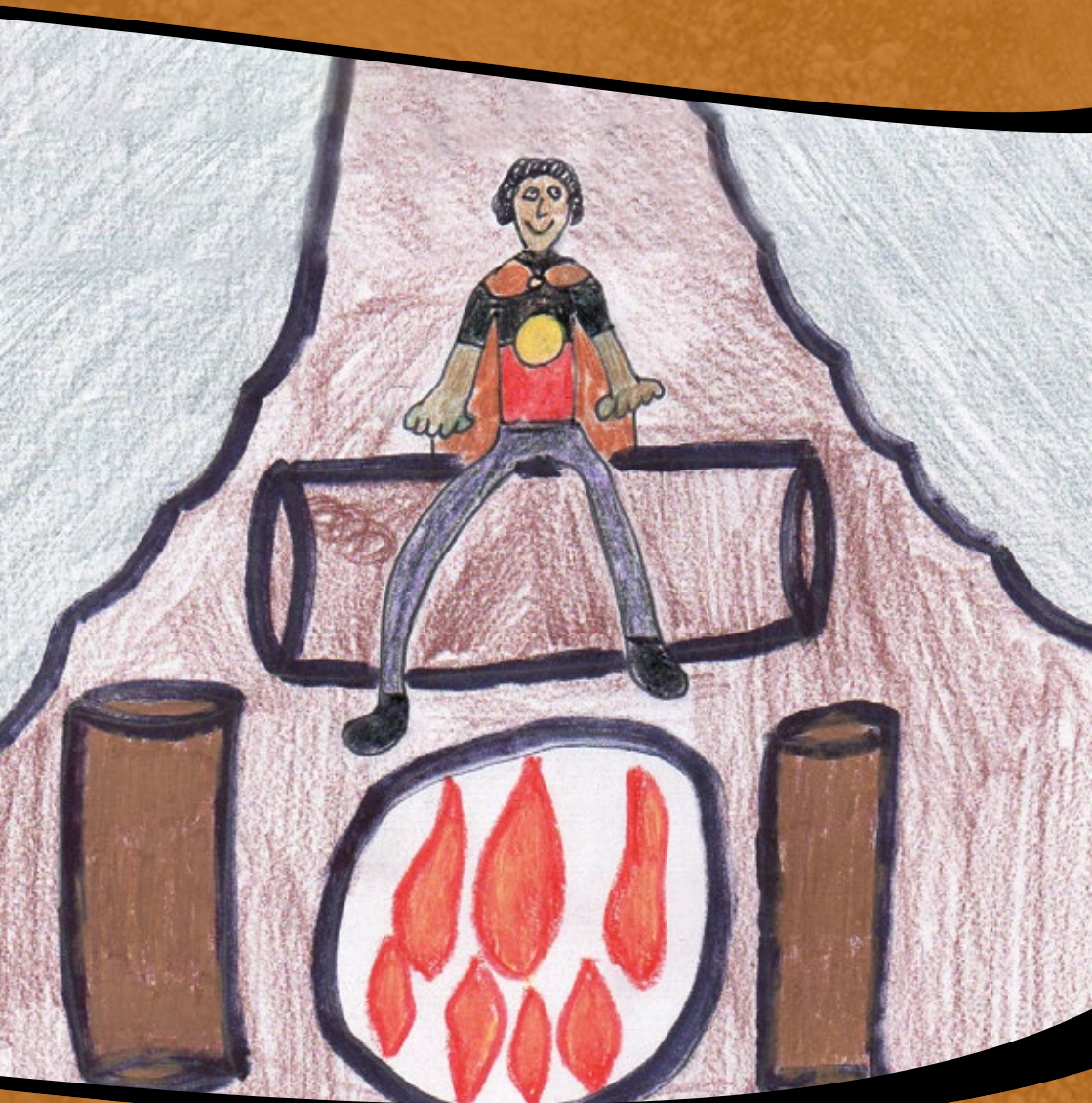


Stormboy and Uncle Farren



Hamish Todd
St. Laurence's Primary School, Forbes



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

Stormboy and Uncle Farren

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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 708 2

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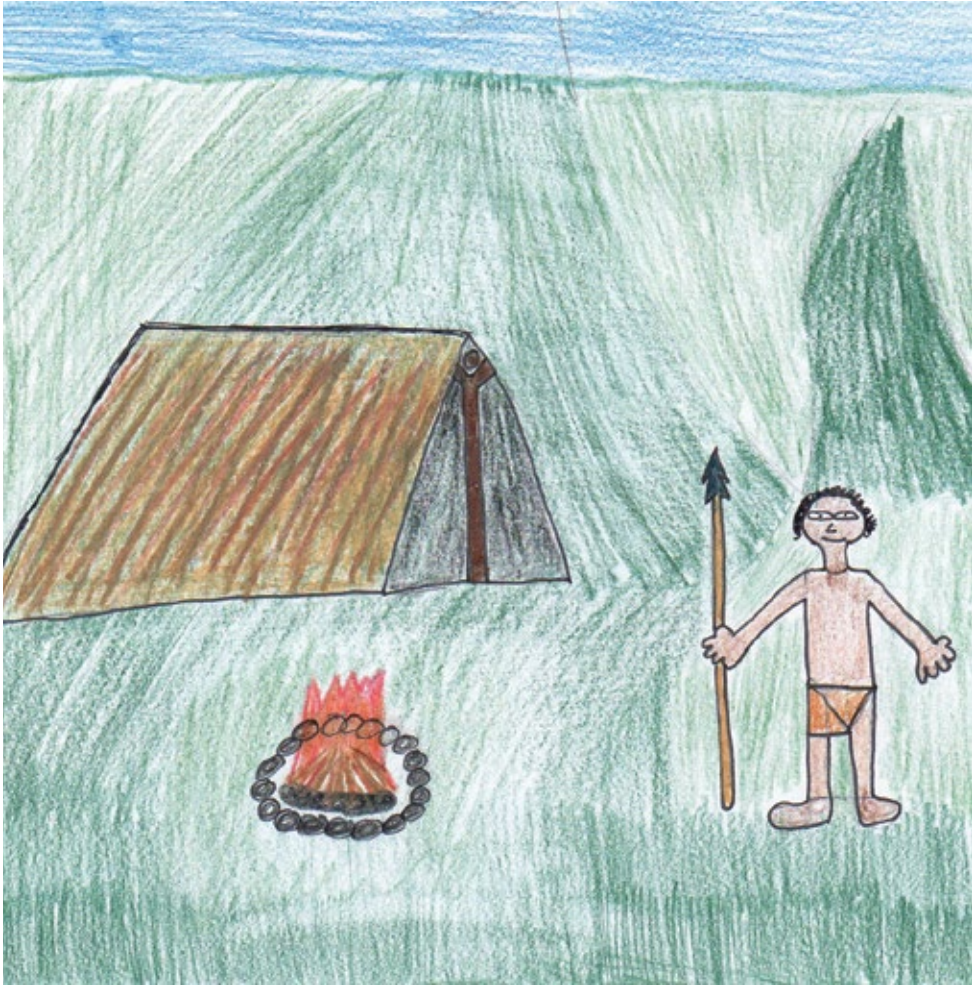
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My name is Stormboy and I live with my family on a farm just outside of Richmond, near Sydney. We are proudly Aboriginal but most people say I don't look like it.

One day Uncle Farren came to visit us.



Uncle still lives in a much more traditional way in outback New South Wales.

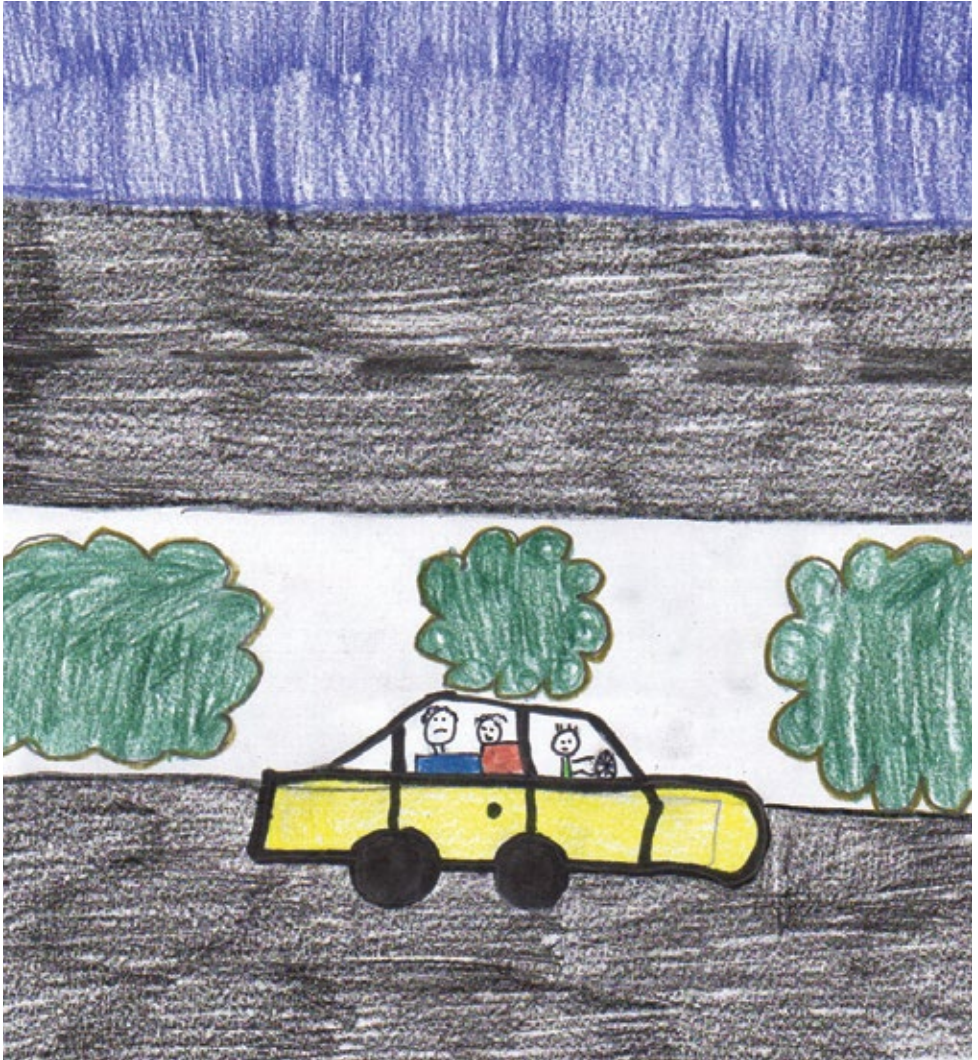
Us kids love hearing all the stories from our traditional Wongaibon lands.

Uncle Farren didn't want us to lose our connection to the land, so he visits to share some of his Dreamtime stories with us. He told my mother that he had a special surprise for my brother Delwyn and I on his next visit.



When he finally arrived on the train, our family all went to meet him at the station. People were all staring at him because he was wearing his awesome kangaroo skin cloak, which he saved for special occasions.

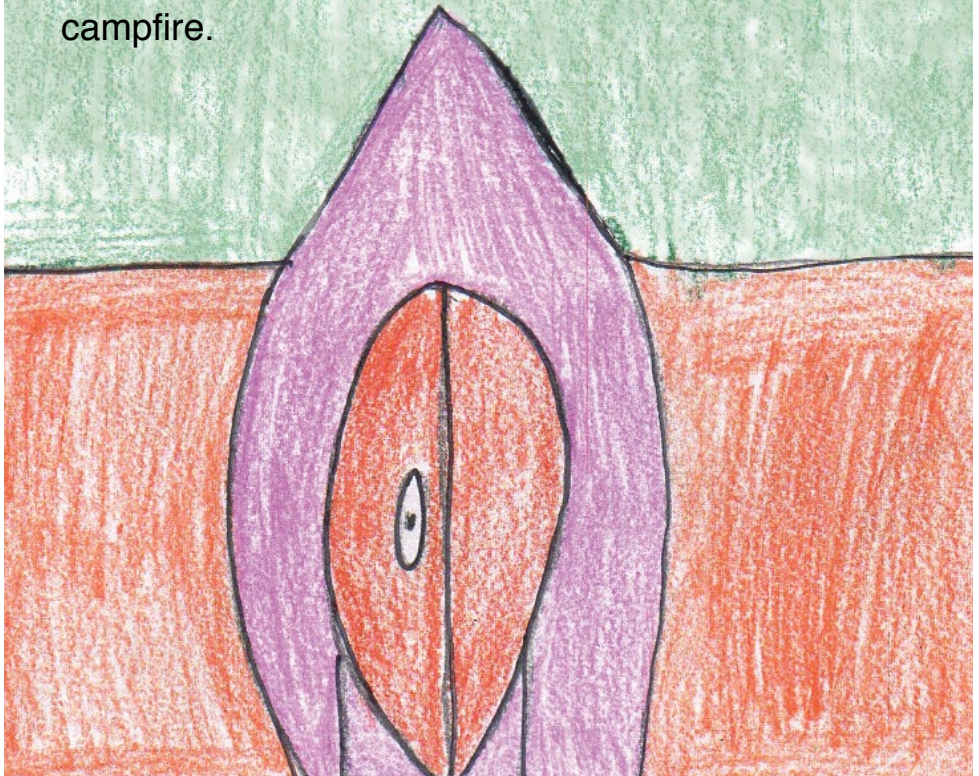




We all crammed into our car with Uncle Farren's bags squished in beside us. We begged him to tell us about the special surprise. Delwyn was about to burst as he gets so excited about surprises, but Uncle wouldn't tell us.

Back at home we got Uncle Farren unpacked and we settled down for lunch.

Delwyn and I couldn't wait to show him the awesome campfire we had built the day before. Uncle Farren always told his best stories around the campfire.



We sat around on big logs while Uncle began to speak.



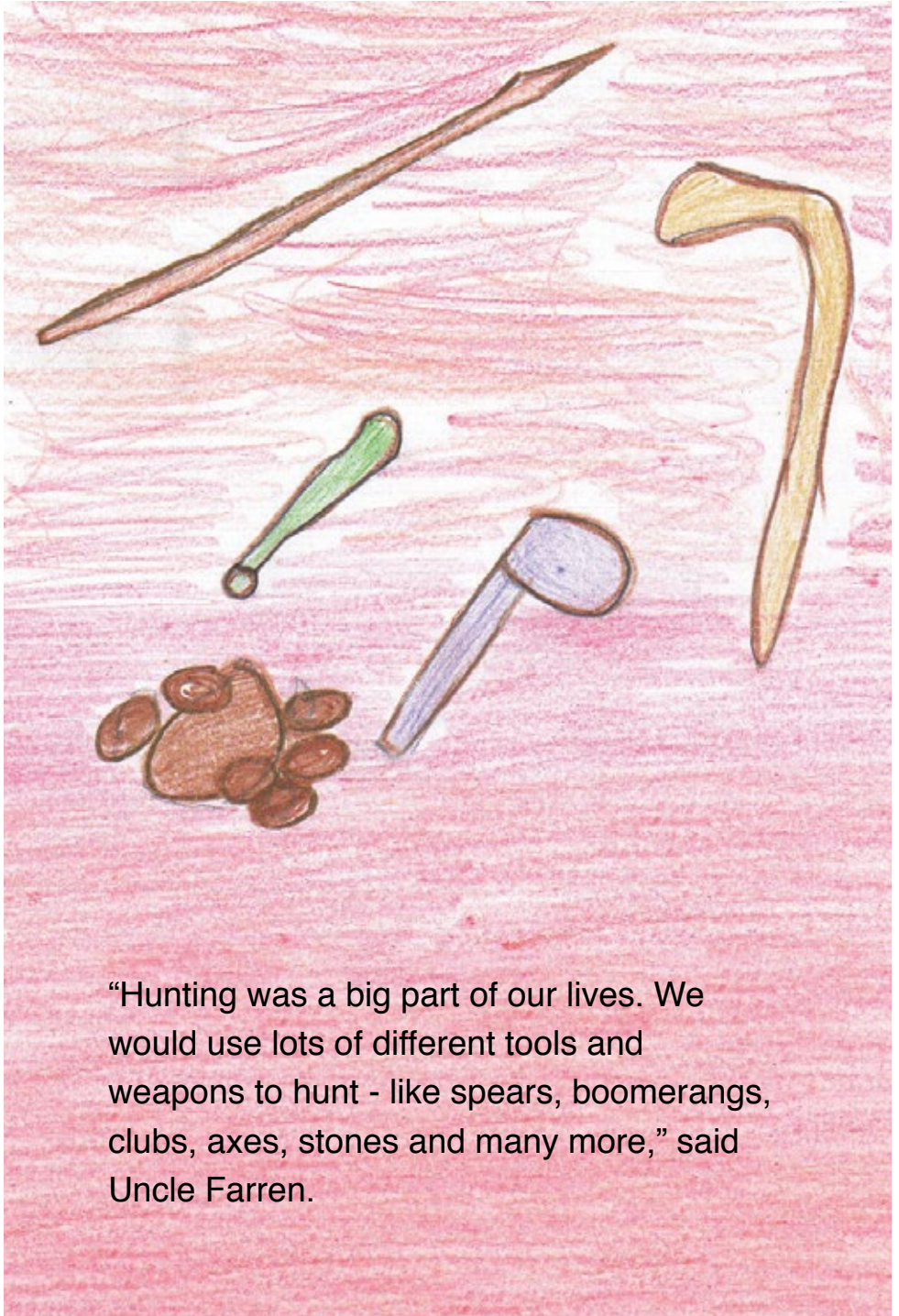
“A long time ago, when I was the same age as you Stormboy, life was very different to how you live today.

We lived in simple huts, called gunyahs or humpys. They were made from big sticks and lots of leaves and bark for the roof.”



“The boys were expected to help the men hunt, while my sisters would gather berries, insects and grubs to eat.”





“Hunting was a big part of our lives. We would use lots of different tools and weapons to hunt - like spears, boomerangs, clubs, axes, stones and many more,” said Uncle Farren.

This was really fun! We loved learning about our culture.

Uncle Farren then taught Delwyn and I how to cook damper. We made it out of flour and water with a tiny bit of salt. Uncle explained that traditionally our ancestors would use a grinding stone to grind down seeds to a powder and use this to make damper.



Finally, Uncle brought out his surprise and we were so EXCITED!

He opened it up and it was...

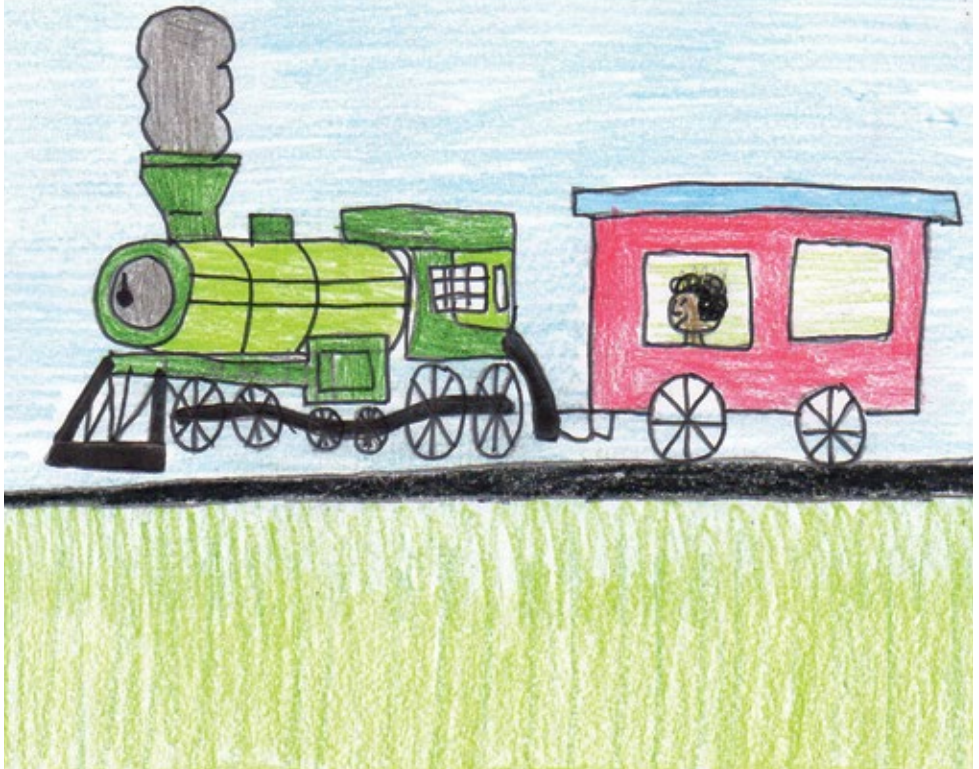


...a huge tray of Aboriginal bush tucker! It looked very different to the food we were used to, but we gave it a go.

We started trying all the different types of food. There was a mix of plants and animals - like beetles and bugs, fish and eels, birds and eggs and lots more.



We always had a great time with Uncle Farren, so it was sad when the time came for him to go. We took him to the train and then headed back home.





When we got home, we all thought about everything Uncle Farren had taught us about our Aboriginal heritage and culture. We realised how lucky we were to have someone in our family who knows the old ways and could teach them to us.

We told Mum that we wanted to know more about where we come from. So now we are hoping to go camping in Wongaibon lands with Uncle to learn as much as we can.



Hamish Todd
St. Laurence's Primary School, Year 6 2014

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