

PROUD WIRADJURI WOMEN



Abby Williams, Taila Herrington and Anisha O'Brien
Brungle Public School



Creative Catchment Kids

Creative Catchment Kids is an initiative of Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. It aims to improve engagement between our funding partners and school students by providing opportunities for positive and authentic ventures that encourage students to develop creative solutions to agriculture and natural resource management issues.

www.wirraminna.org/creative-catchment-kids/

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre

The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre is located in Burrumbuttock, north of Albury in southern NSW. Since 1995, the centre, which is adjacent to Burrumbuttock Public School, has provided opportunities for discovery and learning about the natural environment, the ecology of the local woodlands and the beauty of native plants.

www.wirraminna.org

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

PROUD WIRADJURI WOMEN

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Teacher: Jennifer Lawlor

School: Brungle Public School

Our Culture

In 2016, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about Aboriginal culture in their local communities. The program was generously funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

Creative Catchment Kids is part of Enviro-Stories, a Peekdesigns education program.

Acknowledgement

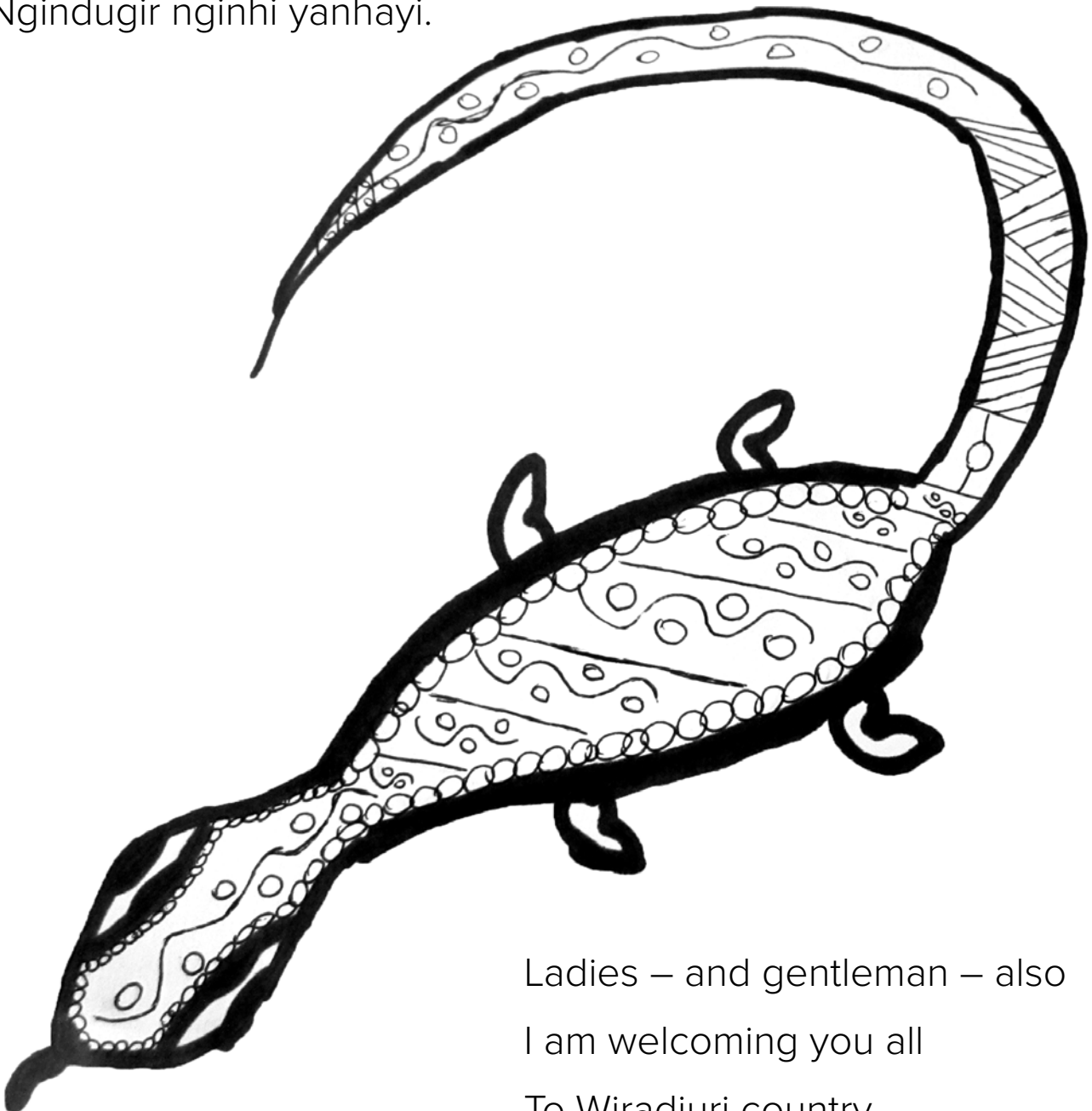
We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and thank them for sharing their knowledge and culture with us.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images and/or names of people who have since passed away.



Our Welcome to Visitors

Yinaagalangbu, gibirbangbu,
Gawaymbanha-dhu nginyalgir
Wiradyurigu ngurambbangu
Wiradyuri mayiny gadhaang,
Ngindugir nginhi yanhayi.



Ladies – and gentleman – also
I am welcoming you all
To Wiradjuri country.
Wiradjuri people are happy that
You all to here have come.



Brungle is a small village at the base of the Snowy Mountains between Tumut and Gundagai, New South Wales. It is a place where many Indigenous Aboriginal people live.

Many Aboriginal people live here because Brungle had a station. A station is a place where Aboriginal people were sent to live. They built huts and lived in them for many years. People still live at the station/mission today, even though they aren't forced to.

The land belongs to the Brungle and Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council and they manage the houses. There are also two Land Council Houses in the village.

Aunty Sonia

Aunty Sonia was born in Gundagai, New South Wales in 1944. Aunty Sonia has lived her whole life in Brungle. When Aunty Sonia was little there was no internet or electricity. They had to use lanterns to see. There was only one tap on the mission so to get water they would have to walk down to the spring down the back of the mission. To do the washing they had to go to the river. Aunty Sonia was only allowed to stay out until dusk. There were no houses, only huts and they had to be swept with gum leaves.





Aunty Sonia didn't go to high school. In her spare time she would come up to Brungle Public School and be a teacher's aide.

When she was 16 years old, her father passed away. Around that time, the RSL built a new house at the station for her family because her father had been in the army.



Aunty Sonia's father's name was Ernest Joseph Freeman. He went away with the army to train on the Nullarbor Plains. Her mother's name was Minnie Eileen Freeman. Minnie would tell all her children many stories. Aunty Sonia had two brothers and a cousin who was just like a brother to her.



Today Aunty Sonia lives towards the village, not on the station/mission. She has eleven grandchildren and enjoys her life in Brungle. She gives her time to assist Brungle Public School in the delivery of its cultural program. Aunty Sonia says the Welcome to Country when we have visiting schools.

Aunty Phyllis

Aunty Phyllis was born in Cowra, New South Wales in 1943. Her birthday is 25th November but her parents said to her that it could be the 24th, a day earlier. Phyllis is actually her nickname and the name she goes by, her real name is Priscilla. Aunty Phyllis lived in Cowra until she was 16, then she moved to Brungle.





Aunty Phyllis didn't go to high school. She remembers the welfare taking the children and all the kids screaming. After she moved to Brungle, Aunty Phyllis would have a yarn to Old Baboo Fred because when she would walk by him he would say, "What are you doing today my girl?" He would always have his pipe, big overcoat and hat on.

When Aunty Phyllis first came to Brungle she stayed at her husband's parents' house. They lived across the fence from the dairy. They lived in a tin hut and as you walked in the door it had a big open fireplace on the left so you could put your billy on. Aunty Phyllis' husband, Buddy, went to the Aboriginal School.

Aunty Phyllis went to Tramby College in Glebe with Josie Williams and Beverly Herrington, where they gained the literacy and numeracy skills they had not learnt in primary school.





Aunty Phyllis has six children; four boys and two girls. The oldest child is Donna, then Wayne, Peter, Dean, Natina and Bruce.

In her family she has four sisters and three brothers. Her mother died in 1957. Her grandmother's name was Bessie Simpson and her grandfather's was Nee Scott.



Aunt Phyllis lives on the Brungle Station/Mission. She has three grandchildren; Danica, Wayne and William who live with her. She is 73 years old this year.

She likes telling her grandkids and great grandkids Dreamtime stories. She tells them about counting their shadows and she always tells them not to go near the river because the bunyips will get them. She also tells them not to go up into hills late in the evening because they might see the *dulagar* (hairy man) and it might chase them off the hill.



Sophy Designs (Sophy Piper-Freeman) is a company between Aunty Sonia and Aunty Phyllis. They use different Aboriginal materials and natural fibres to make hats, bags and clothes.



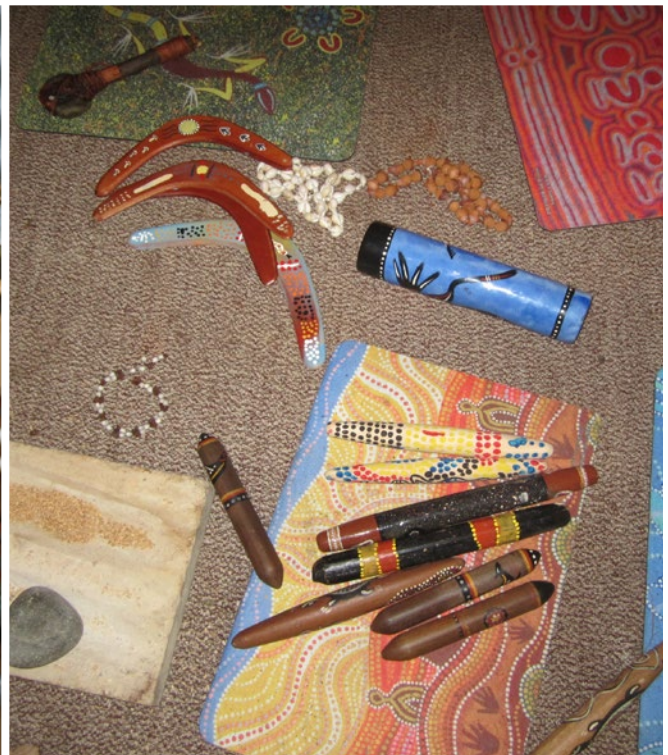


Both Aunty Sonia and Aunty Phyllis were very involved in the establishment of the Brungle Medical Centre. Before the medical centre was built there were many discussions held sitting on the grass at the mission.

The medical centre has now been open for eleven years and Aunty Sonia has been the Centre's chairman since its opening. Aunty Phyllis is on the board of the centre as well.



The Medical Centre is used for many different purposes including a weekly medical clinic with a visiting doctor, fortnightly TAFE classes, a weekly exercise class, health promotions, monthly meetings of the Tumut Patchwork Club, optometrist visits and for a variety of community meetings. They have also established a community vegetable garden in the grounds where vegetables are able to be harvested and used by the Brungle residents.



Brungle Public School is an Aboriginal Environmental Education Centre and we always have schools visiting us. They come to learn about our nation, Wiradjuri.

Shane and Talea from National Parks and Wildlife Service come to help teach as well. Talea teaches us how to weave nets and twist ropes. Shane teaches us about didgeridoos and how to throw a boomerang.



Aunty Sonia and Aunty Phyllis teach us and the kids about the Dreaming room. In the Dreaming room, they tell us stories about Aboriginal life, about the past and what they had to do and use to stay alive. They also show artefacts that were used to get food: like spears to get kangaroos or goannas, ochre bombs for the painting ceremonies, coolamons, clapsticks and boomerangs.



They show us what an Aboriginal phone looks like. It's called a bull roarer. They also show us an emu caller to help track down emus and digging sticks to dig out the Kurrajongs with. They would use the coolamons (like a basket) to gather bush tucker or carry babies in because there were no prams then.

ANIMALS IN WIRADJURI

Echidna wandayali

Emu. dinawan

Kangaroo wambuwuny
 (wombine)

Wombat wambad

Goanna gugaa, girawuu

Black duck. bughanbang

Wedge-tailed eagle . . maliyan

Crow. waagan

Pelican gulambali

Frog gulaangga

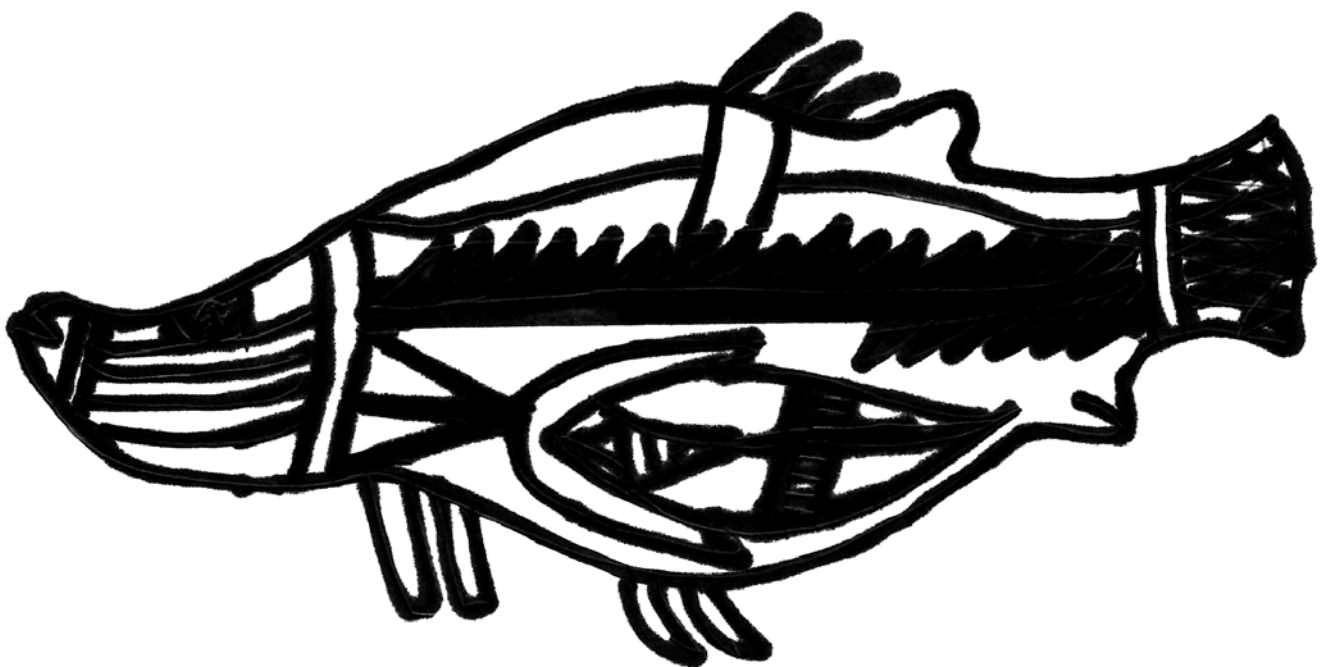
Kookaburra guguubara

Willy Wagtail dyirridyirri

Snake gadi

Dog. mirri

Fish guya



NUMBERS IN WIRADJURI

1. Ngumbaay
2. Bula
3. Bula Ngumbaay
4. Bula Bula
5. Marra
6. Marra Ngumbaay
7. Marra Bula
8. Marra Bula Ngumbaay
9. Marra Bula Bula
10. Marra Marra





We would like to thank Aunty Sonia and Aunty Phyllis for their wonderful assistance in writing this book with us. Without their knowledge and willingness to be involved it would not have been possible.



Abby Williams, Taila Herrington and Anisha O'Brien

2016 Year K-6, Brungle Public School

Congratulations!

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and
the Creative Catchment Kids Program won the
National 2016 Yates Junior Landcare Team Award.

