

# Rockhole to Rockhole



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## FOREWORD

Wayipa ngaanyalampa bukba palyanila

Wiluna is a Martu community where Mantjitjarra is the main Aboriginal language amongst other Western Desert languages. Martu English is widely spoken and our students are learning Standard Australian English as an additional language or dialect. Other languages such as Fijian, Tongan and Mandarin are spoken by families and workers in this small community of about 200 people.

Our stories come from areas around the community that Wiluna students visit with families as they grow up. When they go to these places, they camp, hunt and learn from elders about language, life and how to live it.

We are very proud of our students and their languages. We would like to acknowledge Annette Williams, Stacey Petterson and Tina Williams for their support developing the artwork. Thank you also to Sandra Wongawol for encouraging the students to speak and write in home language.

Thank you to the students in years 5 and 6 who have created this book, they are storytellers, artists and linguists. Thank you especially to Kheshaun Gilbert, Monty Petterson and Anton George for your yarns and the extra time after school where you worked on this project.

May your work be an inspiration to us all.

Pukulpayan ngaagu wangga bukku

Adriano Truscott

Principal

Wiluna Remote Community School



Long time  
long long time  
de old peoples  
de old old peoples  
dey like to go travelin  
travelin to  
rockhole to rockhole.



Dey go out  
dey go way out campin  
campin out  
campin to Pawurnu  
Dey lookin for parnka an kalaya.  
Dey  
dey used to get deir diggin stick  
an spear  
an everythin.

Yarrani yankula!  
Campin out Pawurnu  
kukaku.



When dey get dere  
dey make a track  
a track  
all da way  
all da way round to da rockhole.  
An den dey come back  
dey put another rock round da rockhole.  
Den dey go back  
an settin da camp.  
Make a big ngurra  
an get all da warta ready  
for waru  
for feed for kuka.  
Set up a camp  
close near da  
one rockhole.



In da mornin time  
dey go out untin  
dey stay at dat rockhole for long time  
an den dey will move  
move ta nother rockhole.

Waitin.....waitin.....

In da mornin den  
dem old peoples  
dey go huntin  
huntin all day  
dey go separate way.



Den  
dey come back  
an share da kuka round da camp fire...  
yarn an yarn at da fire  
an stays up all night.  
Tell a juma wajarni  
an den dey keep quiet.  
The mens stay all night  
till dey all go to sleep  
everybody haves a sleep.



An when da sun come up  
dey will wakem all up.  
Time for dem ta go  
they'll be movin  
movin  
to da other rockhole.



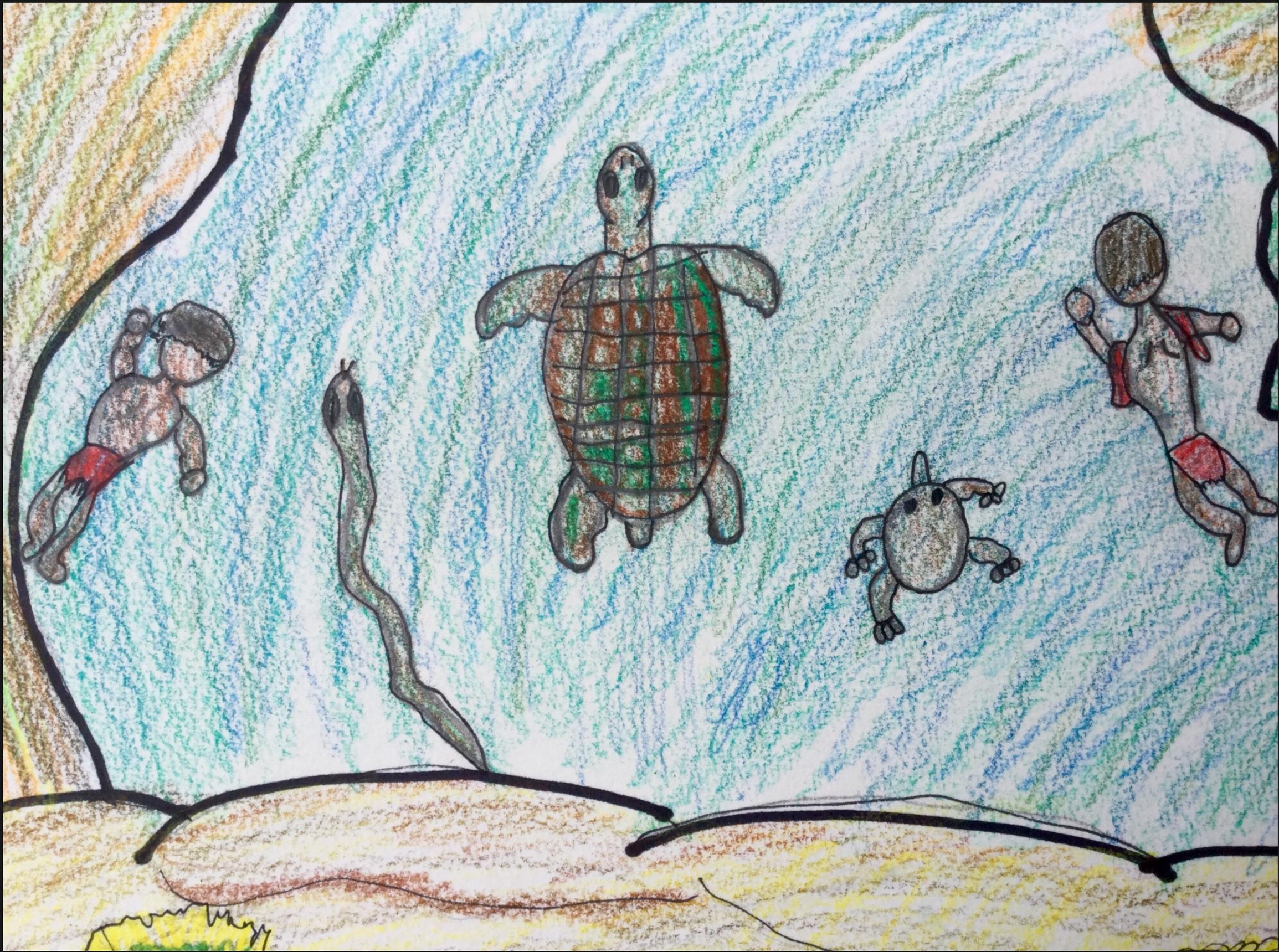
Dey'll paint deirself up  
paint deirself for untin  
cover demself with the spinifex.  
Dey be creepin an hidin  
an spear one marlu.  
Got im!  
Spear still dere  
chase im  
blood on da ground  
e'll drop soon.  
Get da walanu  
an knock im on da head.  
Hold im den  
tie im leg  
so den e can't kick im  
an den e carry im.



Dey see nother track  
dey follow it riight up  
track im down  
cause e'll run away  
den chase it again...  
spear it again.

Got im!

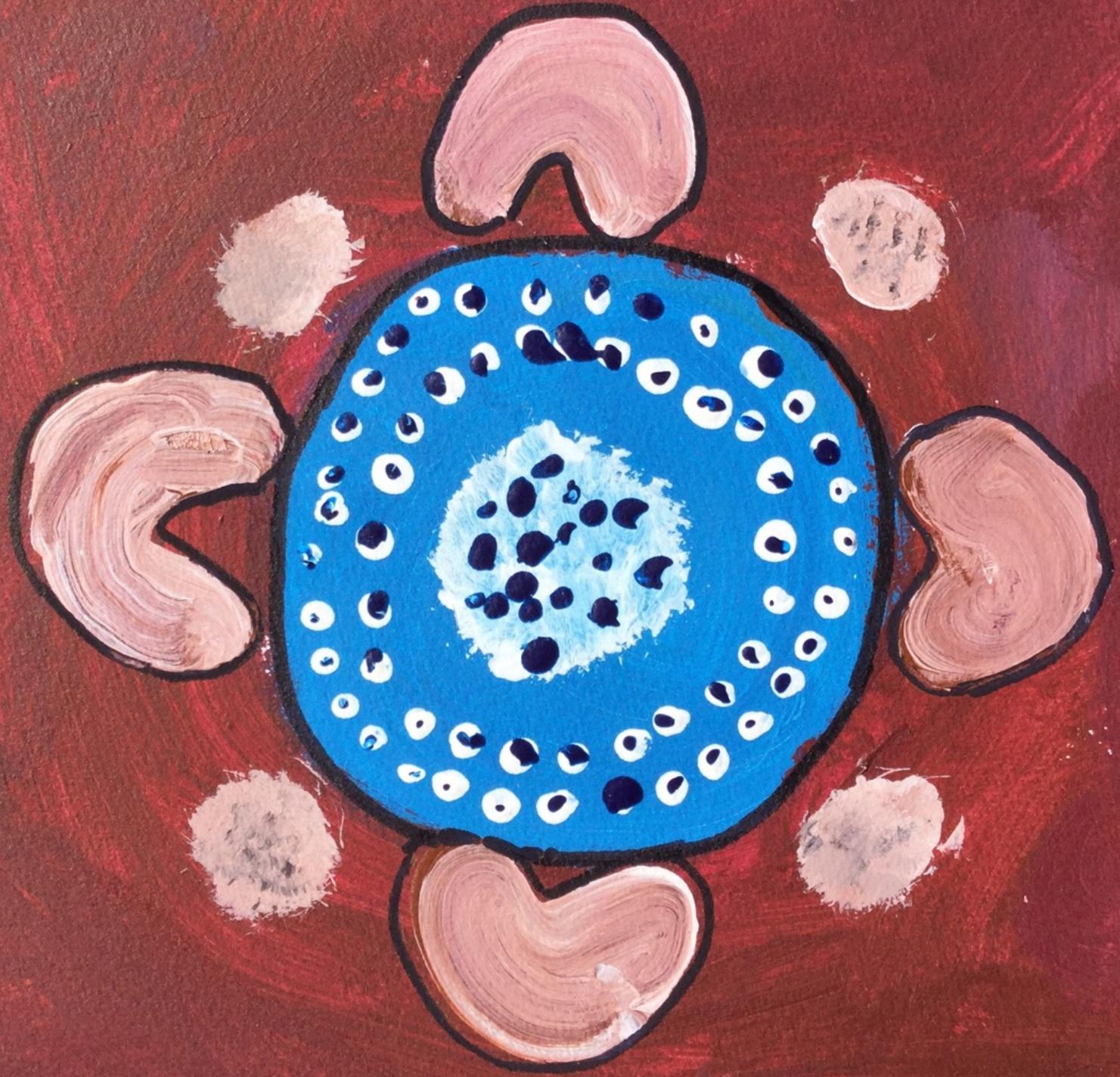
Dey carry it on deir hip.  
Dey look for more  
for big feed.



Two mens dey bin wake up early mornin  
now dey'll have a swim in da water  
den dey see da turtles  
an da frogs an a snake.  
Dey creep up an den dey get im.  
Cook im in da waru  
an eat im all up.  
An dey make a camp  
in da new rockhole.



Den da ladies  
dey'll be diggin  
diggin  
for parnka  
an lungki  
an wukarta.



Dey'll make damper  
an den dey'll have a big feed.  
Dey'll be doin the damper for da kuka.  
Dey bin gettin seeds  
rubbin rocks right up  
den dey push it.  
Dey make it a big ting.  
Flick it over again  
flick it... flick it  
flick it over again.  
Den dey feel it  
soft an lovely!  
Break it up in pieces.  
Dey put da lungki on da damper  
an da parnka fat an kalaya.



Dey sing a song  
a song  
song for da rain  
for da rockhole  
for da rockhole  
to fill up  
an wait...  
wait for da turtle to come  
an da ducks  
an da emu  
an da marlu  
an da partarda  
thas it.

# Glossary

parnka - goanna

kalaya - emu

yarrani yankula - come on let's go

kukaku - for food

kuka - food or meat

ngurra - home

warda - stick

waru - wood or fire

juma wajarni - story

marlu - kangaroo

walanu - boomerang

lunggi - witchety grub

wukarta - honey ant

partarda - bustard (Aboriginal English - bush turkey)





In preparing this story for publication, every effort has been made to preserve as many of the spoken qualities of Aboriginal story-telling as possible. The spelling sometimes deviates from that of Standard Australian English to follow the sounds that are typical of Aboriginal English, and the sentence breaks and punctuation are based on the structure and rhythm of spoken language. The line length is also a device that is used to emphasise rhythm, and the line breaks sometimes serve as visual signals (punctuation marks) separating grammatical (and conceptual) units. Full stops and capital letters are used less often than in Standard Australian English because of the preference in Aboriginal discourses to link (often visual) details to build an uninterrupted composite image or impression. The spelling and punctuation conventions used in this book are derived from a set of principles for the spelling and punctuation of Aboriginal English writing developed as part of the Two-Way Tracks to Learning project for the Department of Education. (Tracks to Two-Way Learning, Focus Area 8, Module 8.6.2 pages 50-51, Department of Education, 2012).



