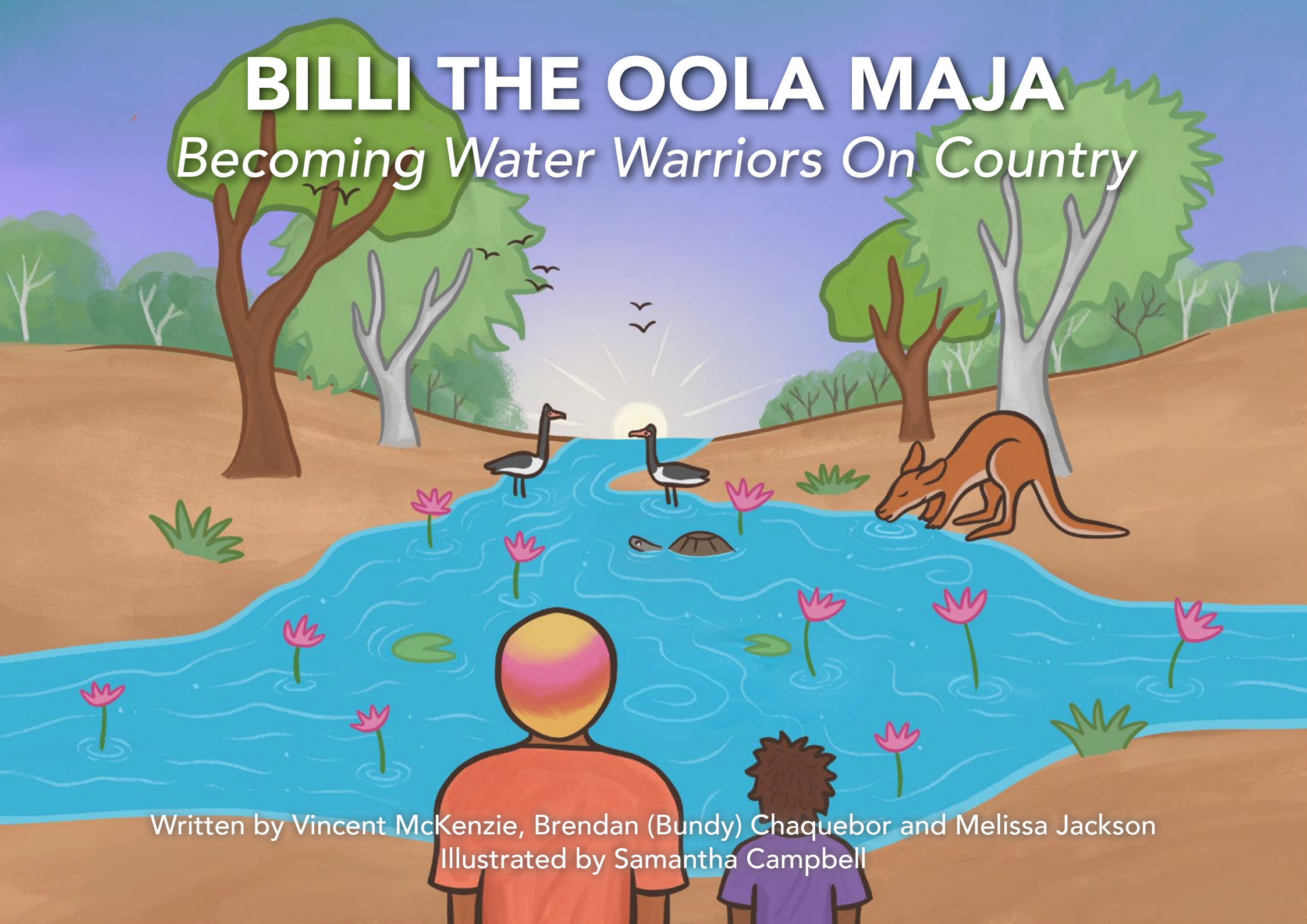


BILLI THE OOLA MAJA

Becoming Water Warriors On Country



Written by Vincent McKenzie, Brendan (Bundy) Chaquebor and Melissa Jackson
Illustrated by Samantha Campbell

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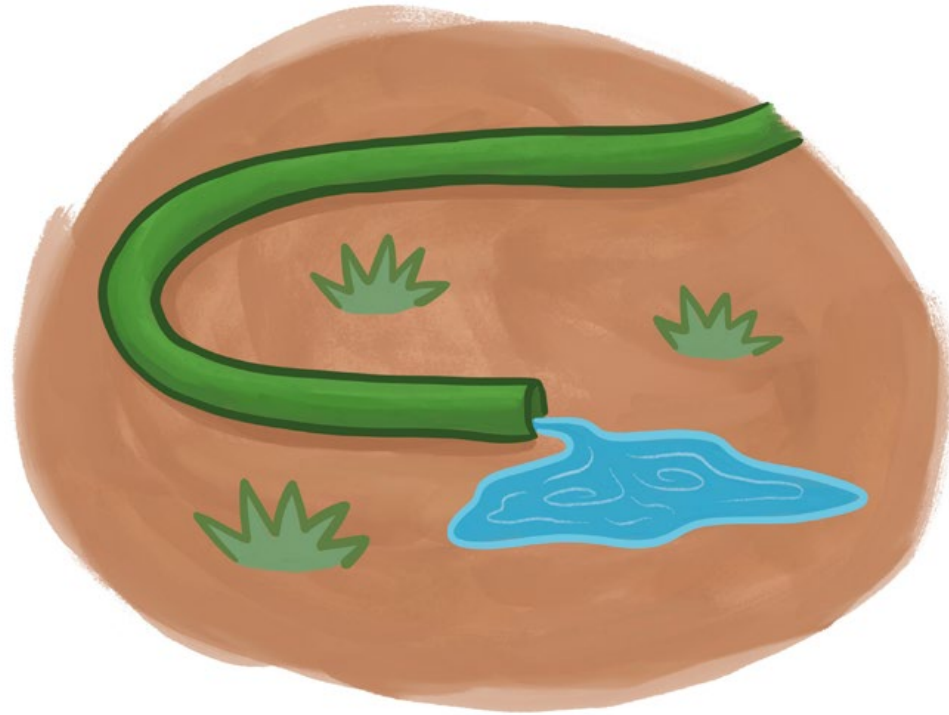


AUTHORS' NOTE

This book is aimed at young learners in primary and early high school to promote conversations about water efficiency and the importance of preserving and caring for water and Country.

Aunty Billi and young Willy are on adventures based in the Dampier Peninsula region of Western Australia, but the messages come from many conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across northern and central Australia.

The Bardi Jawi language words included in bold in the book can be found in the glossary at the back of the book. We hope to help preserve the Bardi Jawi language and use fun, creative ways of sharing important cultural knowledge about water and Country so future generations can have plenty.



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Illustrations by Samantha Campbell at Coolamon Creative (www.coolamoncreative.com.au)

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This is a work of fiction. Names and characters are the product of the authors' imaginations and any resemblances to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Aunty Billi and young Willy were sitting under the shady trees.

Enjoying the day, the smell of flowering gums and sound of buzzing bees.



Billi saw how everything around her that is alive, needs **Oola** to keep it healthy, to survive and thrive.

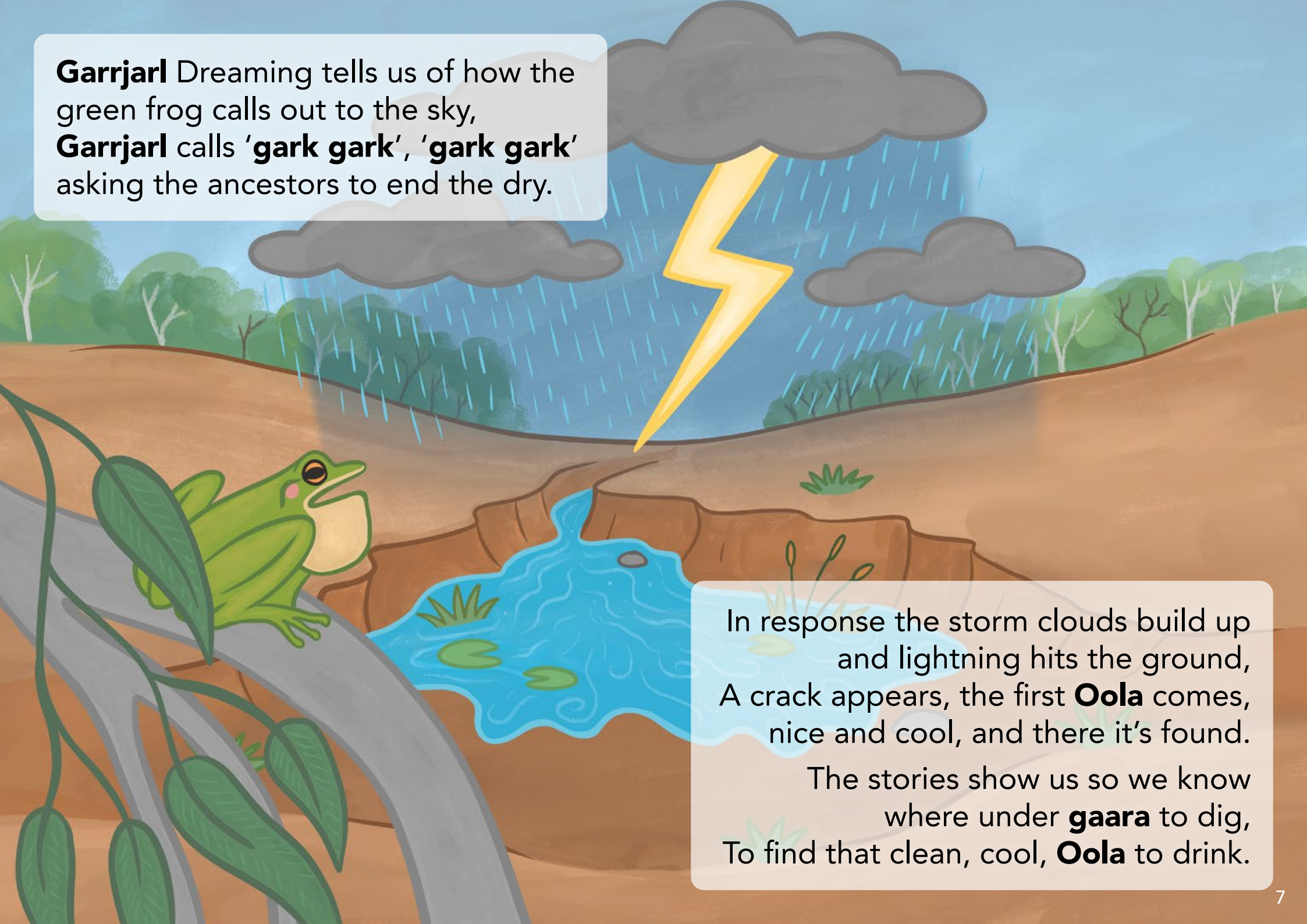
The background illustration shows a landscape with a kangaroo standing on a brown mound on the right, looking towards a small blue pond in the center. The pond has green lily pads and is surrounded by brown earth and some green grass. A small grey turtle is on the ground to the left of the pond. In the background, there are several trees with green foliage and a bright yellow sun or light source in the sky.

Billi said: "Willy, **Oola** is life, **Oola** is for all, **Oola** is worth more than gold. But I sometimes worry about having enough for our families, for **baawa** and **nyoongool aamboriny**, young and old.

The weather is changing, **Oola** goes up and down like the sea, the days are hotter and drier and all day in our community, deadly **Oola** goes down the drain without a second thought that's not the way to treat **Oola**, that's not what the Elders taught."



We can learn from the **liwal** and **linjab** and our **goli** and **galoo**.
Our songs and stories are full of wisdom about Country and what we can do.
They keep us connected through our people and can be a daily guide
To how we respect our health, **booroo** and tribe.



Garrjarl Dreaming tells us of how the green frog calls out to the sky,
Garrjarl calls '**gark gark**', '**gark gark**' asking the ancestors to end the dry.

In response the storm clouds build up
and lightning hits the ground,
A crack appears, the first **Oola** comes,
nice and cool, and there it's found.

The stories show us so we know
where under **gaara** to dig,
To find that clean, cool, **Oola** to drink.

"Yes" said Willy "Please share how as there's so much that can be done!
We'll make **Oola Majas** of our mob, everyone is a **Maja**, we can make it fun.
There's enough **Oola** for everyone, if we learn to use it wisely now,
small changes in what we do everyday, it's easy let's see how."

"To be an Oola
Maja we need to be
Oolawise"

When you brush your teeth to make them clean and white.
Turn off the tap while brushing, do this morning and night.
So **Oola** that would have gone down the drain and out to sea,
is saved for another day, for you and for me.





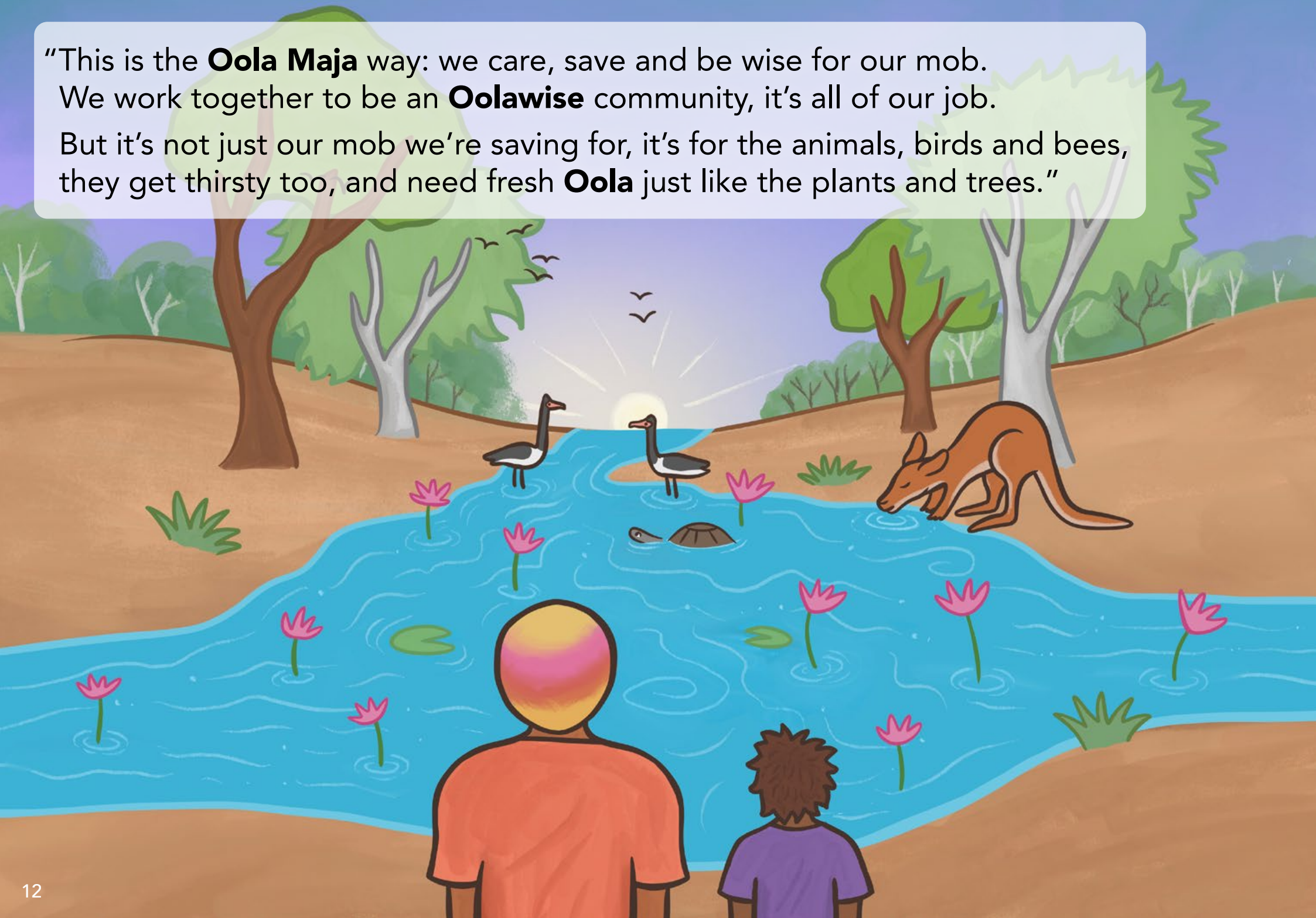
When it's hot, instead of leaving **Oola** running through the hose, sprinkler, or pool, make it quick and always turn **Oola** off at the tap, don't waste it, that's a good rule.

If you see a dripping tap, or green grass where it's usually dry, tell mum or dad there could be a leak, and they'll tell the **Oola** guy.



Even if it's small, every drop saved adds up to alot.
If we are all **Oola Majas** on watch, we can wisely use the **Oola** we've got."

"This is the **Oola Maja** way: we care, save and be wise for our mob.
We work together to be an **Oolawise** community, it's all of our job.
But it's not just our mob we're saving for, it's for the animals, birds and bees,
they get thirsty too, and need fresh **Oola** just like the plants and trees."





We can begin today, to play our little part.
Saving one deadly drop at a time, it's a good place to start.

GLOSSARY OF BARDI WORDS USED IN THIS BOOK

Bardi (mainland) word	Phonetic sound (English)	English meaning
Oola	oo-la	Water or rain
Maja	mar-jar	Master/teacher/warrior
Booroo	boo-roo	Country
Gaara	gar-ra	Sand
Nyoongool	nyoong-ol	Old
Baawa	bar-wa	Kids, young people
Aambooriny	am-boor-in	People
liwal	ee-wal	Uncle
Injaab	in-jarb	Aunty
Galoo	gar-loo	Grandfather (father's side)
Goli	goll-ee	Grandmother (father's side)
Garrjarl	gard-jal	Green frog
Gark gark	gwark gwark	Call of the green frog

Bardi (also Baardi or Baard), together with Jawi are two related dialects of the Nyulnyulan language group. Bardi is spoken by the saltwater people from Goolarrgoon country in the Dampier Peninsular and Buccaneer Archipelago in north-west Western Australia. Considered an endangered language, it is being actively revitalised by cultural knowledge holders through local school and cultural programs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thankyou to Vincent McKenzie and Brendan (Bundy) Chaquebor for sharing their knowledge, input to the story, and providing cultural and language review. Thanks to Samantha Campbell for illustrations.

Thankyou to the Djarindjin community for their support and feedback throughout the project with particular thanks to Aunty Bernadette Angus, Laurel Angus and Andrew Sampi for sharing their cultural knowledge about water in the Dampier Peninsula. And to Nathan McIvor and the board and staff of Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation and Community Resource Centre.

Thanks also to Cara Beal and the research team from Griffith University.



This book is an output of the Griffith University-led Australian Research Council Linkage grant project *iKnow weKnow*.

With thanks to financial partners: WA Water Corporation, NT Power and Water Corporation, Ergon Energy and Torres Strait Regional Authority for making the project possible. For more information:

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