



When we bin young

By Anna Retsas

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FOREWORD

Mandangala Community is 140km south-west of Kununurra and not far from Lake Argyle. It is nestled in the Carr-Boyd Ranges, quite close to numerous gorges, typical of the rugged beauty of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. As part of the Glen Hill Pastoral Lease, the growth of the cattle industry is important to the future of the students of Mandangala.

I would like to acknowledge Caroline McAdam, a senior Kija woman, for her contribution to the development of these stories.

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Principal
Jundranung Remote Community School

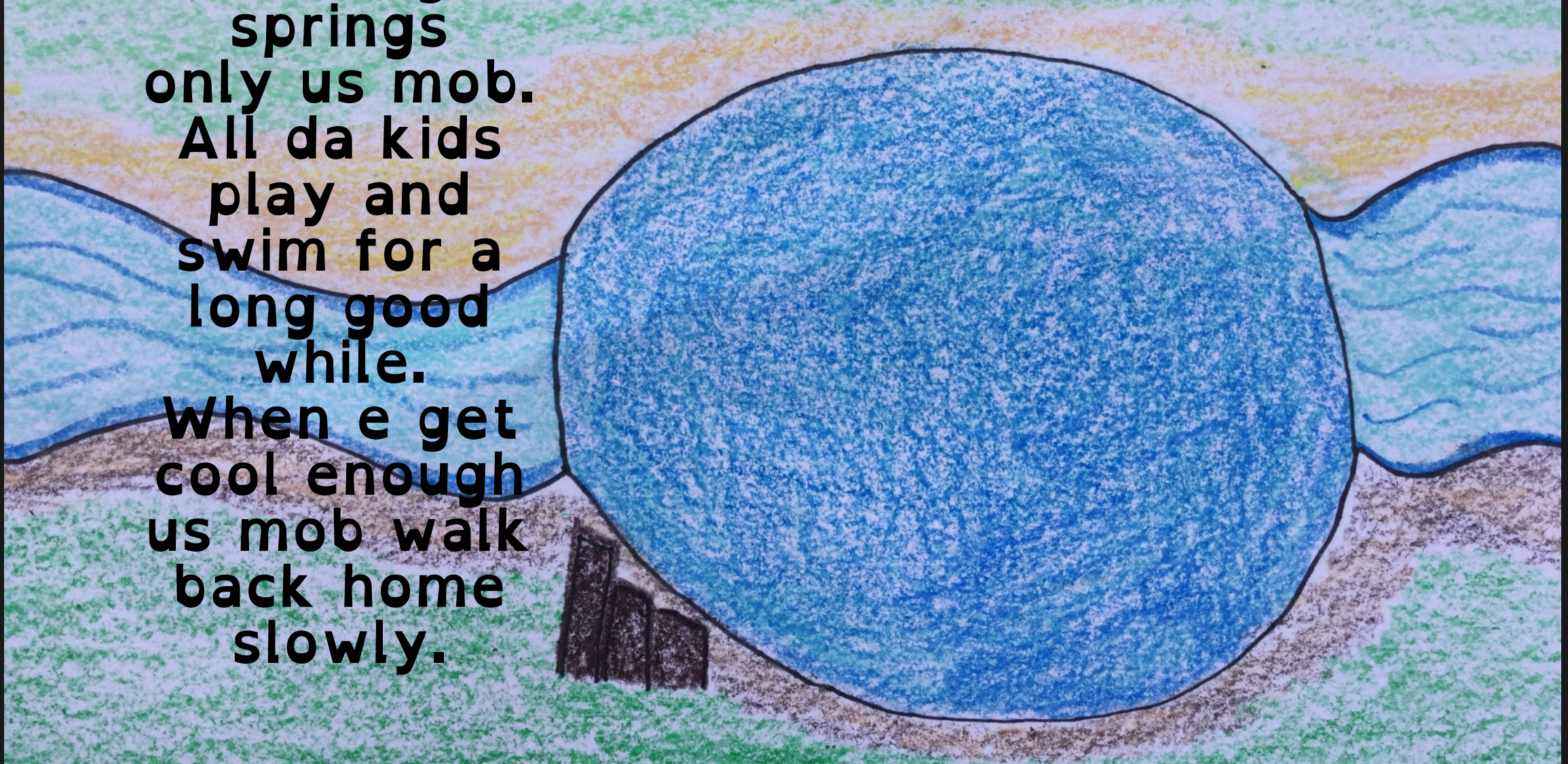


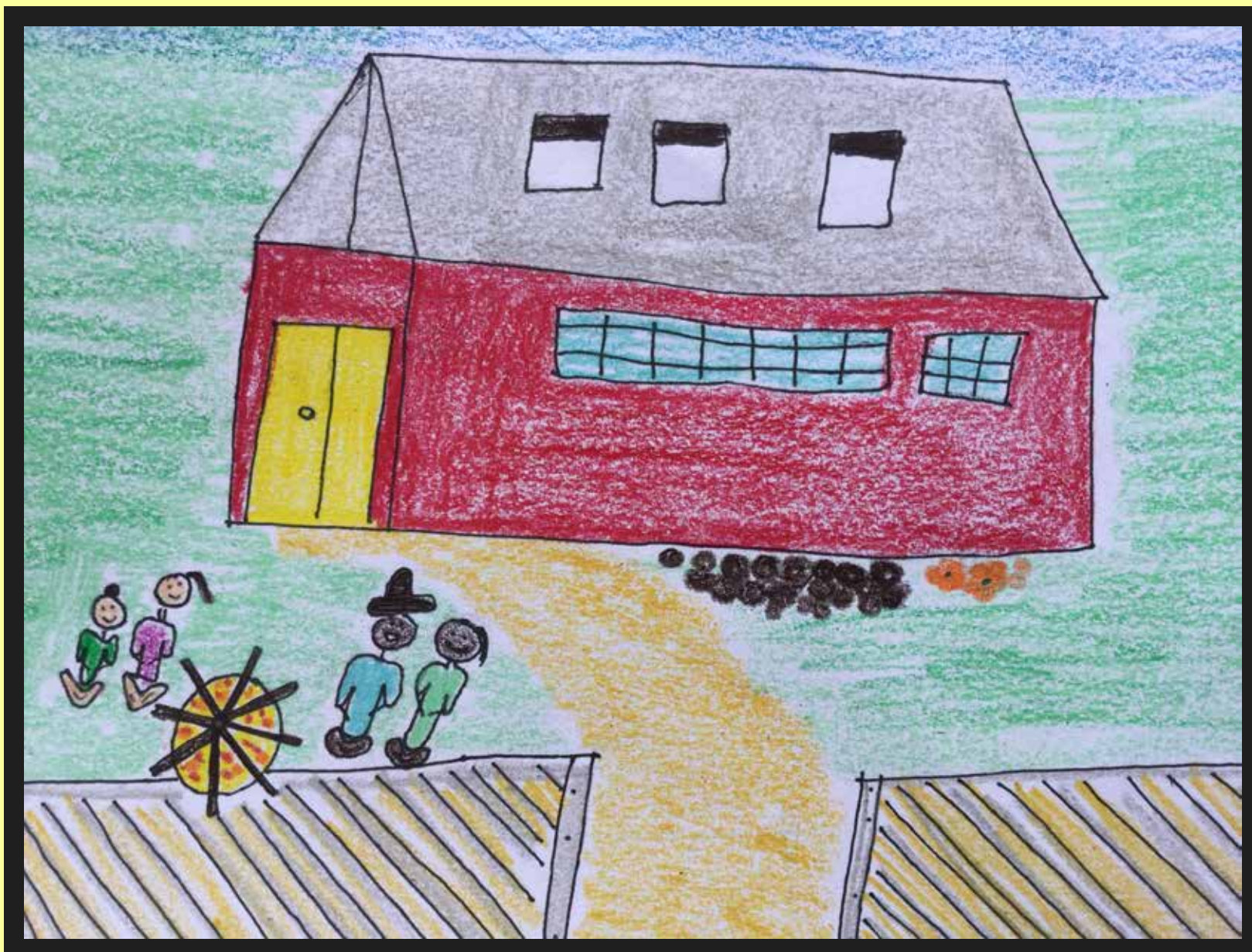
When we bin young me Roxanne Shannay Paul and Chappy
wem hab a family dog is name was Smokie.
Every morning us mob use to wake up from sleep
we just go play
gut all da chicken or go for long walks la bush.

Most times we take Smokie hunting for gwanna. When gwanna climb up la tree one of the boys or us girls gutta climb up and grab the gwanna by da tail and hit im la is head against the tree or anything dat's close la one of us.



When it gets
hot we cut
swimming la
springs
only us mob.
All da kids
play and
swim for a
long good
while.
When e get
cool enough
us mob walk
back home
slowly.





Me and Roxanne sometimes cut and sit down gut
us mob for nanna and grampa.
Them two tell me an Roxanne all da stories for
when them like us-two for age
an how they use to run around la country side
they use to love telling us-two stories.



When dad sing out la me an Roxanne for name
we say see you mob tomorrow and say goodnight.
Us-two race back home and Shanay mob would be dere
waiting for us or playing la sand.

Glossary

gut - with

cut swimmin la springs - go for, head for the springs

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).