

Our Elders

Written by the Merriwa Primary School
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Yorgum Healing Services

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Our Elders

This book was written and illustrated by the students of Merriwa Primary, with advice and guidance from Inspector Geoff Regan APM OAM Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Western Australia. We are grateful to him for sharing his cultural knowledge and walking together with us on our journey of reconciliation.



**Wherever we are in Australia,
we are on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Country.**

**This book was inspired by the NAIDOC theme,
'For Our Elders'.**



**We respectfully acknowledge the Noongar people
who are the past and present traditional
custodians of the land on which our school stands.**

**To our Noongar ancestors who have passed on,
may they shine their sunlight down upon us.**

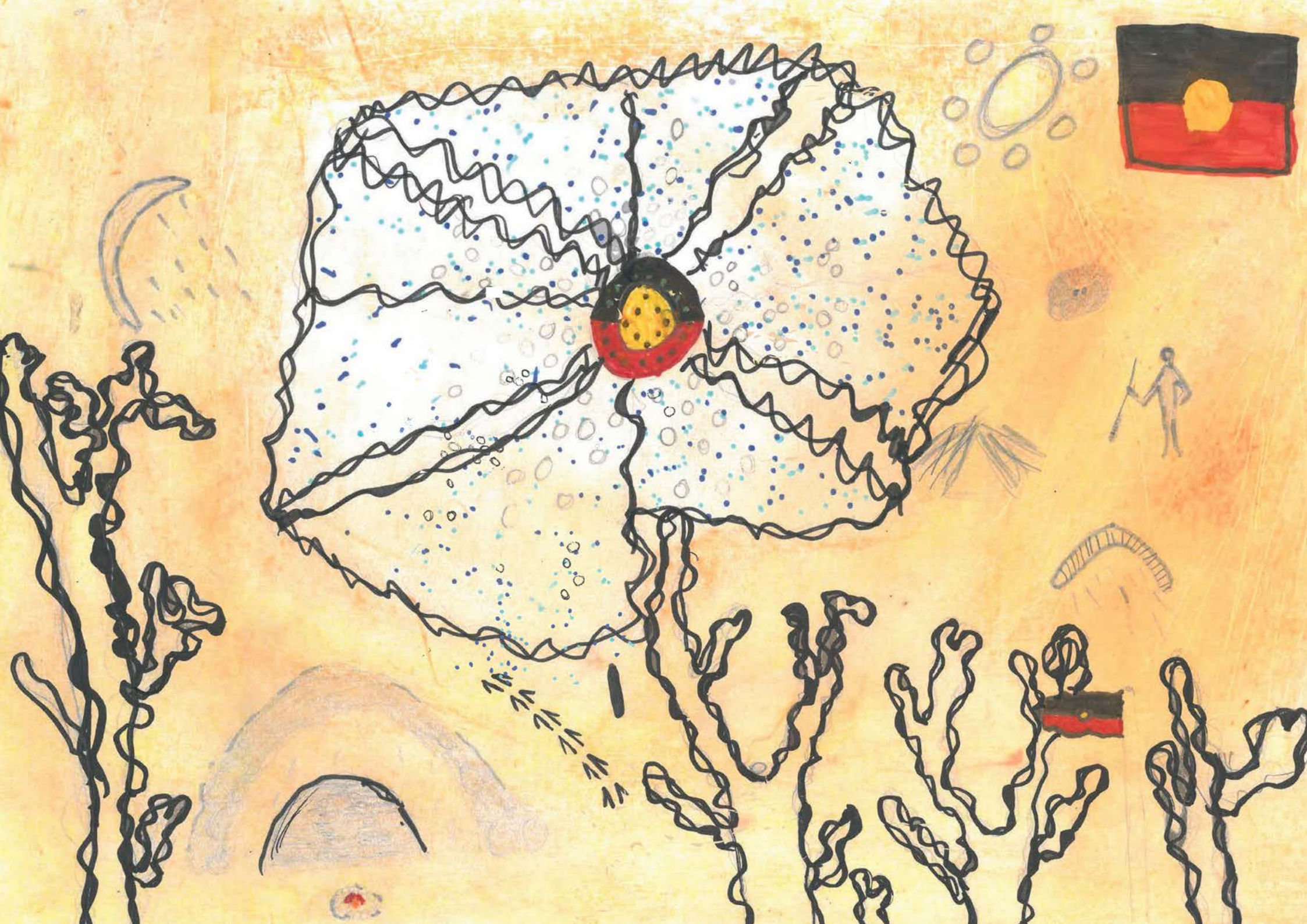
**We pay our respects and pay homage to a
strong and proud people.**

It is a privilege to be learning on Noongar country.



**Our ancestors were the first people
to walk this land.**

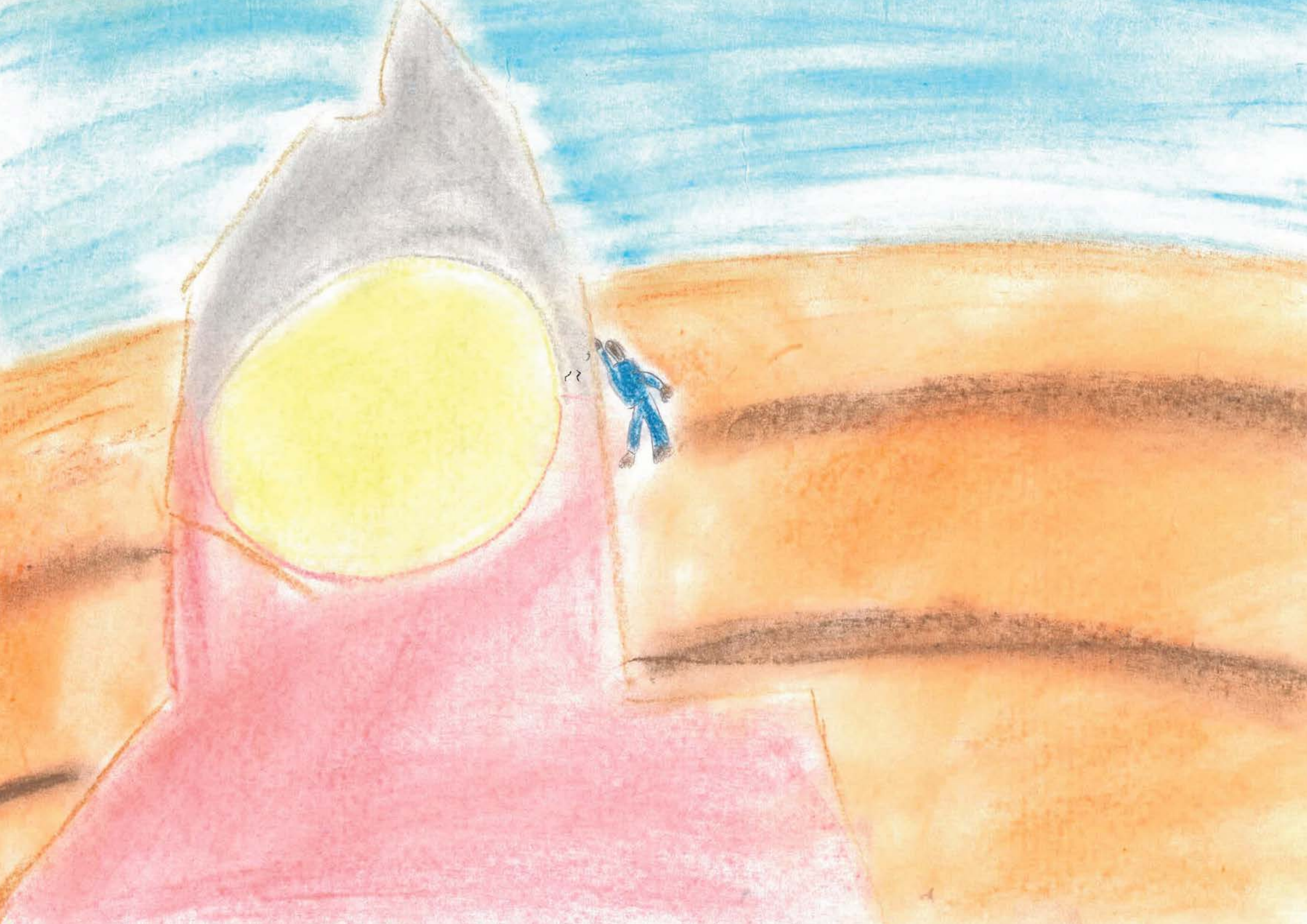
**Our ancestors were hunters,
healers, creators, singers, dancers,
and carers for the land.**



**Our Elders carry the history.
Their wisdom connects the past to the present
and the future.
Our Elders make our culture strong.**



Our Elders are trailblazers.
Our Elders are strong.



We want to learn from our Elders.
We want to follow in their footsteps.
We listen to our Elders.
Our Elders teach us about culture.



Our Elders tell us the Dreamtime stories.

They tell us their stories.

Our Elders teach us their songs.

They teach us about the past.



**Our Elders teach us to pull ourselves up
when life gets us down.
Our Elders help us heal.**



**Our Elders teach us and our families
so many things we can learn to do.
We will tell you some stories
about our families.**



**My pop has a pit in his backyard. He wraps
the kangaroo tail in foil and puts it on
hot coals and puts more hot coals on top.
He cooks potato with it too.
Then he takes it out and unwraps it,
and it's so good.**



**My pop was a hunter when he was younger.
They would go at night so the animals couldn't
see them and they'd be easier to catch.**



**When people hunt they take everything
they need, trying not to waste.**

**On my dad's side, they told me they kept
the turtle shell to remind them of the hunt.**



I went to Broome with my nan and my family.

I went hunting kangaroo with my dad.

**We caught three kangaroos. We cooked
the legs on a campfire to eat.**



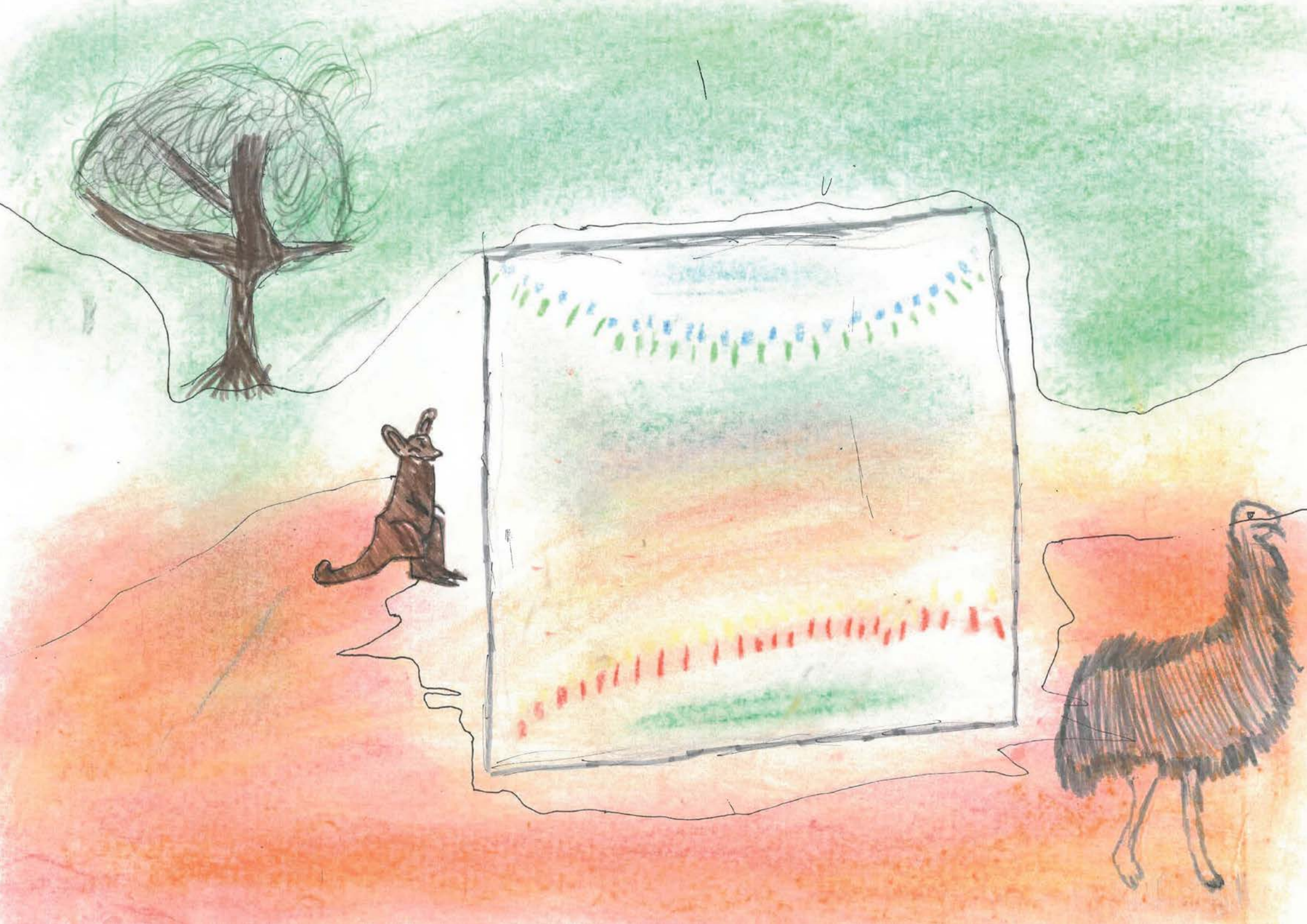
My dad caught a kangaroo with a spear.

**My step-uncle caught a turtle
with his bare hands.**



**My nan lives on a farm where there are
kangaroos all around.**

My nan has a kangaroo skin.



**On my dad's side, my nan takes us to
a secret spot where we go
fishing or crabbing.**



**My uncle takes me and my cousins to
the bush and does Aboriginal dances.**



**My dad made boomerangs and we learned
how to use them.**



My dad has a real didgeridoo he can play.



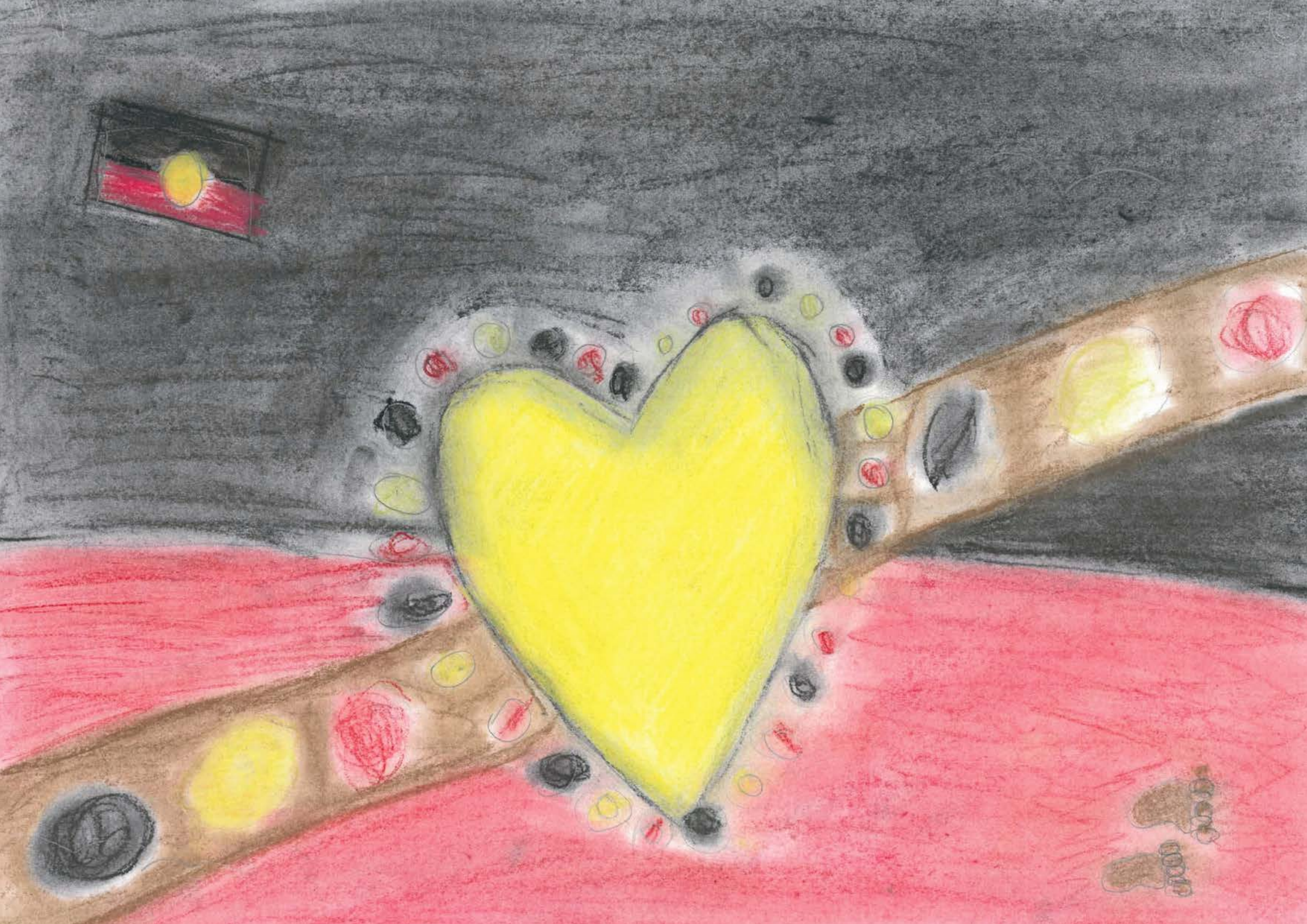
**My nan tells me lots of stories.
I love listening to her stories.
Sometimes I feel surprised when she
tells me things about culture that
I haven't heard before.**



**My dad makes kangaroo stew.
My nan brought some to school so I could
share it with everyone.
It was delicious!**



**Family is everything.
Our Elders teach us that together we all
share the care for each other.
We want to care for our whole family
and community.**



**If we don't listen to our Elders we might
take the wrong path.**

**If we take a wrong turn, respecting
our families, our Elders, and our culture
helps us find our way back.**



**Respecting the wisdom of our Elders
keeps our lives on the right track.
It helps us make good decisions
and learn from mistakes.
It keeps our future strong.**



Our Elders teach us to be ourselves.



Reflection Page

Reflection Page

