



For Our Children 'Ngadluko Ngartunnaitya'

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

2007 National Conference - 19 to 21 September 2007

Adelaide Convention Centre

Spin A Yarn

Celebrating Indigenous Children's Stories

Celebrating the success of Indigenous children who have been empowered by using 'Spin a Yarn' in a variety of educational settings. A practical and engaging workshop.

Annette Sax & Priscilla Reid- Loynes (Yarn Strong Sista Pty Ltd) & Sarah Diplock (VACCA VIC)



Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

We would like to acknowledge the Kaurna People, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet. We would like to pay our respects to the Elders past and present who inspire us in the work that we do and encourage the children to tell their own stories.



About us

Priscilla Reid-Loynes

I am from the Gamilaraay people of north west NSW. I have been working with Yarn Strong Sista for 4 years as a consultant. I am currently employed as a Pre-Primary teacher in Western Australia (and would love to work as a kindy teacher next year). I am a mother of two children, Sarah and James. Sarah and James, my nieces and nephews, cousins and all children inspire me to provide the best support that I can to ensure that they are strong and proud of their Aboriginality and achieve the best outcomes in life.


Annette

Annette is a Taungurung woman from central Victoria. Annette has an Associate Diploma in Social Science (Child Care), an Advanced Certificate in Social and Community Services Management, and has been working in early childhood education for 17 years. She is the Managing Director of Yarn Strong Sista, an Indigenous education consultancy. For ten years Annette has been sharing Gundit-jmara Elder Aunty Iris Lovett-Gardiner, story called *The Possum Hunt*. Annette uses her artwork to share contemporary and traditional Victorian culture with children and adults in the early childhood setting. Annette has three small children, Iluka, Mani and Kiella.

Sarah

I have been working at VACCA for two years in the role of Education Support Worker with the children in our out of home care program. I aim in my role to:

- Provide the children with culturally appropriate resources and supports
- Engage the children with their learning
- Help the children celebrate their Aboriginality
- Ensure that strong partnerships are forged between the school, VACCA and the carer so that the greatest success for the student is met.
- Connect the children to community
- Enhance self esteem and build resilience



We want to share a yarn with you.....

- Spin a Yarn was inspired by childhood memories of family sharing stories .
- I also saw the possibilities of continuing the tradition of oral storytelling and combining it with my teacher background that the development of a products would lend itself to all learning areas of the curriculum and build understanding about culture and reinforce the value of culture for our children. Contemporary meets with traditional culture.
- Traditional culture meets contemporary culture.
- Everyone has a story to share.
- We want to celebrate by sharing some of the stories that children who have used this



In which services have our children been ‘yarnin’ up big’?

Early Childhood

- Playgroups
- Family day care
- Childcare
- Kindergartens

Primary School

- Foster care – school based
- Primary school – integrated throughout key learning areas
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous children

Adult Education

- Staff meetings
- ESL students
- Cross cultural training

Out of School Hours Care

- Before and after school care
- Holiday programs

In the Home

DHS Specialist Children's Services

Foster care

Speech Therapy



Celebrating Indigenous children's stories

My role as Education Support Worker sees me working with children in schools to support them with their learning. I work one on one, in small groups, with indigenous and non indigenous children and across ages. I have used *Spin a Yarn* to achieve various outcomes:

- Cultural connectedness – tradition of oral story telling and using Koorie English
- Pride
- Story planning and writing
- Word development – sounds and blends
- Building self-esteem
- Cross cultural awareness

Spin a Yarn is such a versatile resource and has proven to be very successful with the children that I work with.

The Koala that fell into the Waterhole

One day a koala was trying to find more food because he only had five gum leaves left. While he was looking for more gum leaves he bumped into a tree and he fell into a waterhole.

Mr Koala was holding onto a branch when Mr Snake came along and said “Hold on to my tail.” Mr Koala held onto his tail and then Mr Snake pulled him out of the waterhole.

“Thank you” said Mr Koala.

When Mr Koala came out of the waterhole he saw lots of gum leaves on the ground next to the tree he had bumped into.

“I will bring these leaves home with me and have the other five for dinner” said Mr Koala happily!

By Codey – Grade 3





Tucker

A long time ago a family was looking for food. First they saw wombat tracks and they followed them but the wombat was too fast.

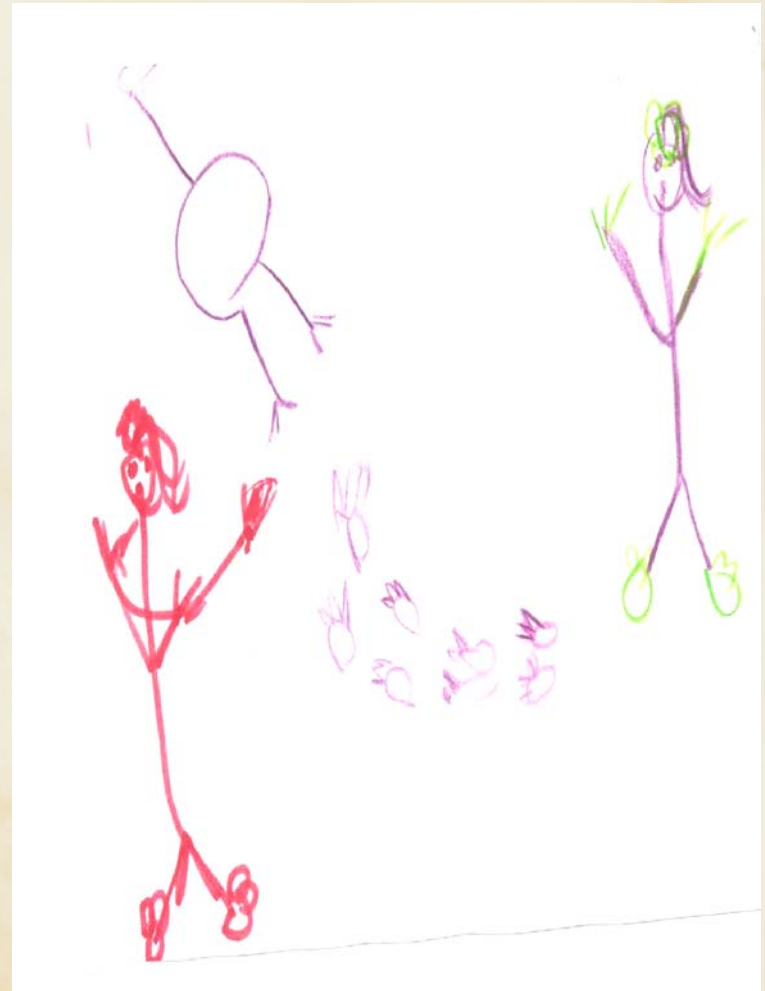
Next they saw emu tracks and they followed them but the emu was too fast.

Finally they saw snake tracks and they followed them but the snakes were too fast too!

The family felt so sad because they couldn't catch any food, so they went to sit under a gum tree. The family saw a possum and a koala asleep in the tree. They got their spear and they killed the possum and the koala.

The family were happy because they had tucker!

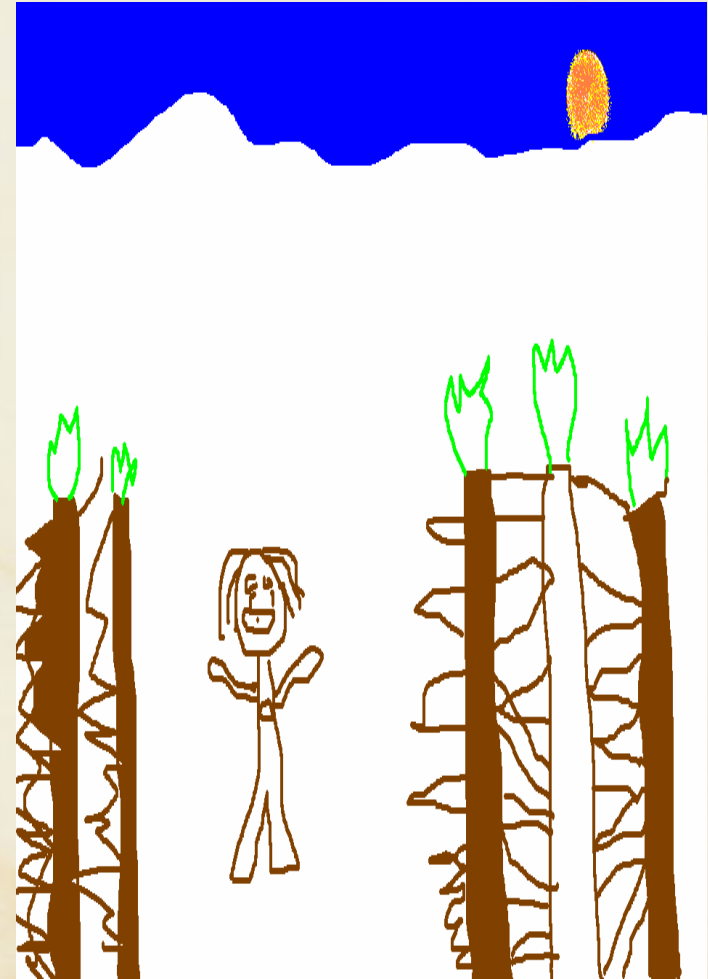
By Kyesha – Grade 2



Snake Bite

One day there was a mum and a dad they lived together in the bush.
Dad was hunting for food all day but he couldn't find anything.
Mum went to look for Dad but she couldn't find him. **Mum saw a snake** coming at her. She ran as fast as she could but the snake bit her on the leg. **An eagle flying over** Dad led him to Mum. When Dad found her in the bush she was in pain. **Some people** came to help her heal her leg. **When they came they** found some wombat tracks and Dad followed the tracks to catch some tucker. **The other people** went hunting for the snake that bit Mum. **Dad found a wombat** and killed it for their dinner and the people had dinner with Mum (who was better from the snake bite) and Dad. Mum decided never to follow dad again when he was hunting!

By Dylan – Grade 5





Your turn to 'Spin A Yarn'.....

Group 1 –continuous story

Group 2- poetry

Group 3- Short stories

Group 4- art experience



From the Children...

" It's fun and I like making up the stories with the other kids." Shona Grade 3

" It's great because we get to make up the stories with the tiles, and finding out what they mean."
Holly Grade 3

" It's great fun because you can make up stories and write them in your story writing book."
Stewart Grade 3

" It's a good story starter." Catherine Grade 3

"Well it was quite hard because it is a story game but it teaches you how to make stories."
Codey Grade 3

"It's fun because you get to make stories about Aboriginal people" Amee Grade 1