



Athu Nhanhika

I Saw



An Arabana story by Thanthi Syd Strangways

Illustrated by Lakota Milera-Weetra

Athu wangali nguyu-nguyu wathawayalhuku yukaka.

One morning, I went for a walk on my own.



Unanha athu nguntaraki minha nhuka athu nhanhiyapuka.

I will tell you now of the many things that I saw.



Athu wamparla nhanhika apira-nga wankangura.

I saw a possum climbing up a tall tree.



Athu paya nhanhika pitha ararda-nga thangkangura.

I saw some birds sitting high up on a box tree.



Athu wakarla kulpari nhanhika nyinta yadla-nga ngarrikura.

I saw three crows flying near to some bushes.



Athu wardu nhanhika mingka pakangura.

I saw a wombat digging a hole.



Athu warrukathi nhanhika alkityira thapi-ru miltiyiparu thanikura.

I saw an emu eating mistletoe berries from a Dead Finish tree.



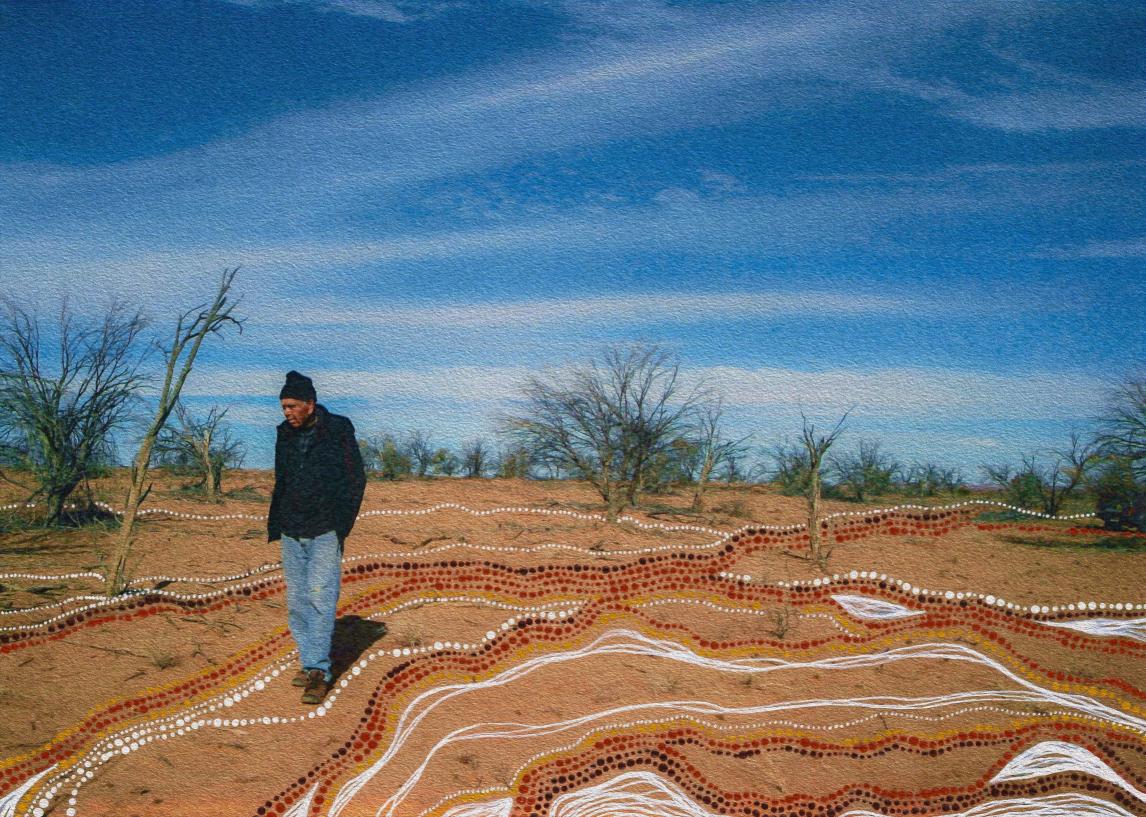
Athu madla yapa ngawika warritha thudnikura.

I heard a dingo howling in the distance.



Athu wangali nguyu-nguyu wathawayalhuku yukaka.

One morning, I went for a walk on my own.



An Arabana Children's Story Book

Arabana people belong to Wadlhu or Country which covers a large area of north eastern South Australia. Wadlhu originally included an area from north of Oodnadatta at the Macumba River then to the southwest to Cooper Pedy and on along the base of the Stuart Range to the top of Lake Torrens. This 'boundary' progresses to include Marree and on along the eastern edges of Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre), returning to the west across the major waterways which flood into the Lake in the north to the beginning point on the Macumba River. This 'boundary' is told through the Ularaka, within Arabana families and in everyday stories. Arabana wadlhu was then legislatively annexed. Arabana lives became increasingly disrupted and subjugated by the imposed colonial system and it became difficult for the Arabana wangka or language to be passed on to the next generations. Despite this situation, we are fortunate to have a number of language speakers and many important oral recordings have been from the 1960s onwards.

Today, a series of activities are being undertaken in partnership with the Mobile Language Team to maintain and revive Arabana wangka. This book is one of those activities.

Plants and Animals

apira
alkityira
madla yapa
miltyiparu
nyinta
paya
pitha
thapi
wakarla
wamparla
wardu

warrukathi

large gum tree Dead finish tree dingo mistletoe berry bushes bird box tree mistletoe crow possum wombat emu

Actions

nhanhika nhanhiyapuka ngarrikura ngawika nguntaraki pakangura thangkangura thanhikura thudnikura wankangura wathawayalhuku yukaka

saw saw (long ago) flying listened will tell digging sitting eating howling climbing to walk about slowly went

Other words

athu arada-nga kulpari mingka minha nguyu-nguyu nhuka unanha wangali warritha yadla-nga

up high three hole what alone many, lots you early morning distant close to



Sounds & Spelling

aikllhlymnngnhnyprrrrdrlrntthtyuwy

i as in father, not like bat
i as in pit or beet, not like in bite
u as in put, not in but
Ih as in love, but with the tip of tongue between your teeth
nh as in nose, but with the tip of the tongue between your teeth
ly as in million, not like in silly
ny as in onion, not like in pony
ty as in judge, not like in naughty

r as in parachute
r a tapped r which sounds similar to 'dd' in ladder said quickly
rr a long, rolled r which sounds similar to 'dd' in ladder said quickly
rd as in hard, with the tongue curling back in the mouth
rl as in curl, with the tongue curling back in the mouth
rn as in barn, with the tongue curling back in the mouth
k this sound is between a 'k' kite and a 'g' gate
p this sound is between a 'p' pass and a 'b' big
t this sound is between a 't' tin and a 'd' dog

These letters sound the same in English:

I (love), m (mother), n (nose), w (wet), y (yes)

For more information about the Arabana language visit mobilelanguageteam.com.au/languages/arabana

Arabana language lessons are available online at portal.mobilelanguageteam.com.au

This project is proudly supported by the Mobile Language Team with financial assistance from the Indigenous Languages and Arts fund.





