



**BUNGANDITJ KALI!**  
TALK BUNGANDITJ!

**How the volcanoes were formed**  
The journey of Craitbul and his family



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# BUNGANDITJ KALI!

## TALK BUNGANDITJ!

*Bunganditj Kali!* is an exhibition of works by Aboriginal students in the Mount Gambier region, their paintings were created to illustrate two creation stories: *How Fire Was Obtained* and *How the Volcanoes Were Formed*. The stories, retrieved from archival records, celebrate the Bunganditj language spoken in the South East of South Australia by five dialect groups: Boandik, Meintangk, Pinechunga, Wichintunga, and Polinjunga.

The illustrations in this book and the accompanying exhibition have been created by Aboriginal students from North Gambier, McDonald Park, Melaleuca Park, Moorak and Reidy Park Primary schools, and Tenison Woods and Saint Martins Colleges in Mount Gambier. Hearing the stories from Elders and Traditional Owners allowed the students to create artwork that connected them to the Culture of the region, their own heritage, and help other students experience the story visually.

This book and the accompanying exhibition have been produced by the South Australian Museum in partnership with Burrendies Aboriginal Corporation, and the Bunganditj Language Reclamation Committee.

We thank the Department of Education and Metal Manufacturers Pty Ltd. for providing the funding to make this project possible.

The exhibition was displayed in the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery of the South Australian Museum from Saturday 14 December 2024 to Sunday 15 June 2025.



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# How the volcanoes were formed

The journey of Craitbul and his family





Delilah, St Martins College

Long, long ago, when the volcano craters were young, there lived a man and his family. His name was Craitbul and he lived with his wife and their two sons.

They were giants who were so big that they had to bend over so that they wouldn't hit their heads on the top branches of the tallest gum trees.



Craitbul and his family wanted to live a peaceful life, with warmth from a fire, good food to cook and eat, and a cozy place to sleep.

They had this at a place called Beleter (Mount Muirhead).





Oliver, North Gambier PS

This was the place where they had made a big oven; big enough to keep them warm and for them to cook their roots and meat on.

They lived in peace and happiness until one night, as they were sleeping in their beds, they heard the call of the bird Pulan (Australasian bittern).

Pulan cried out 'Whoo boom! Whoo boom!'







Oakley, Reidy Park PS

Craitbul and his family woke from their sleep quickly as they knew that Pulan was warning them that the evil spirit Tannetenona was nearby.

They quickly packed their belongings and ran to the nearest peak Parreen (Mount Schank). Here they could no longer hear the call of Pulan.







Oakley, Reidy Park PS

They made their camp, dug out and built their oven, and started to relax. They collected food to cook on the large fire and felt its warmth and heat.


But once again, as they were sleeping,  
the loud call of Pulan awoke them.

“Whoo boom! Whoo boom!”



Zaphira and Harmonie,  
McDonald Park and North Gambier PS

“oh no! Not again,” cried Craitbul.

A vibrant, abstract illustration of a landscape. The sky is a bright, textured yellow. Below it, there are green hills and a dark, jagged horizon line. The foreground is a mix of dark green and black, with small green circles scattered throughout. A black speech bubble in the upper left contains text. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

Craitbul, his wife and their two sons packed their belongings and this time they headed further inland, away from the sea.



"If we head away from the sea," said Craitbul's wife, "then Tannetenona will not be able to find us."



Nevaeh,  
North Gambier PS

"I think that you are right. Let's try the peak to the North," said Craitbul.

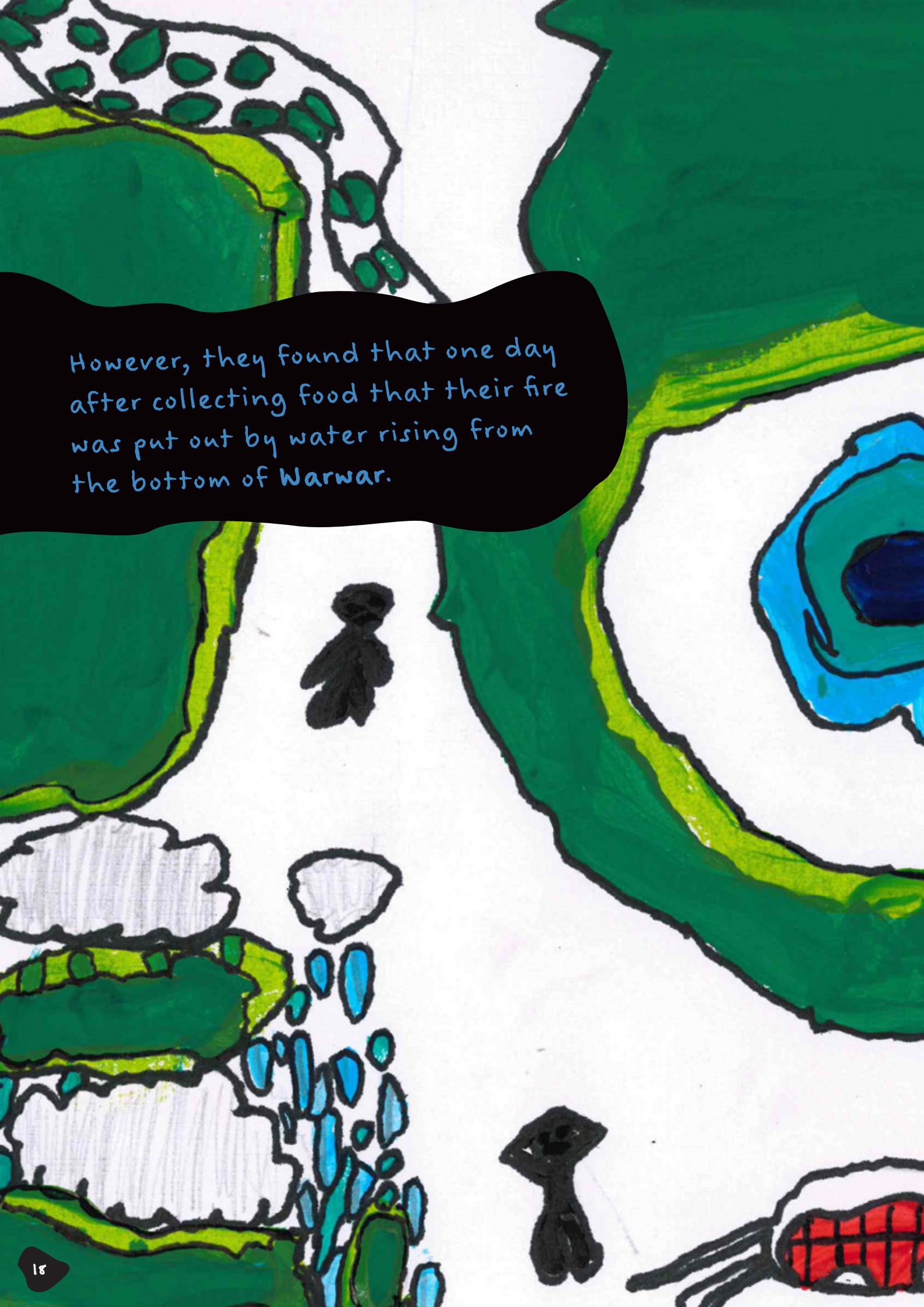


Craitbul and his family moved to the North and made their new camp at Warwar (Blue Lake).



Caleb, Reidy Park PS

They made their camp, dug out and built their oven, cooked their food on the fire, and felt at peace. The evil spirit Tennatenona did not haunt them.



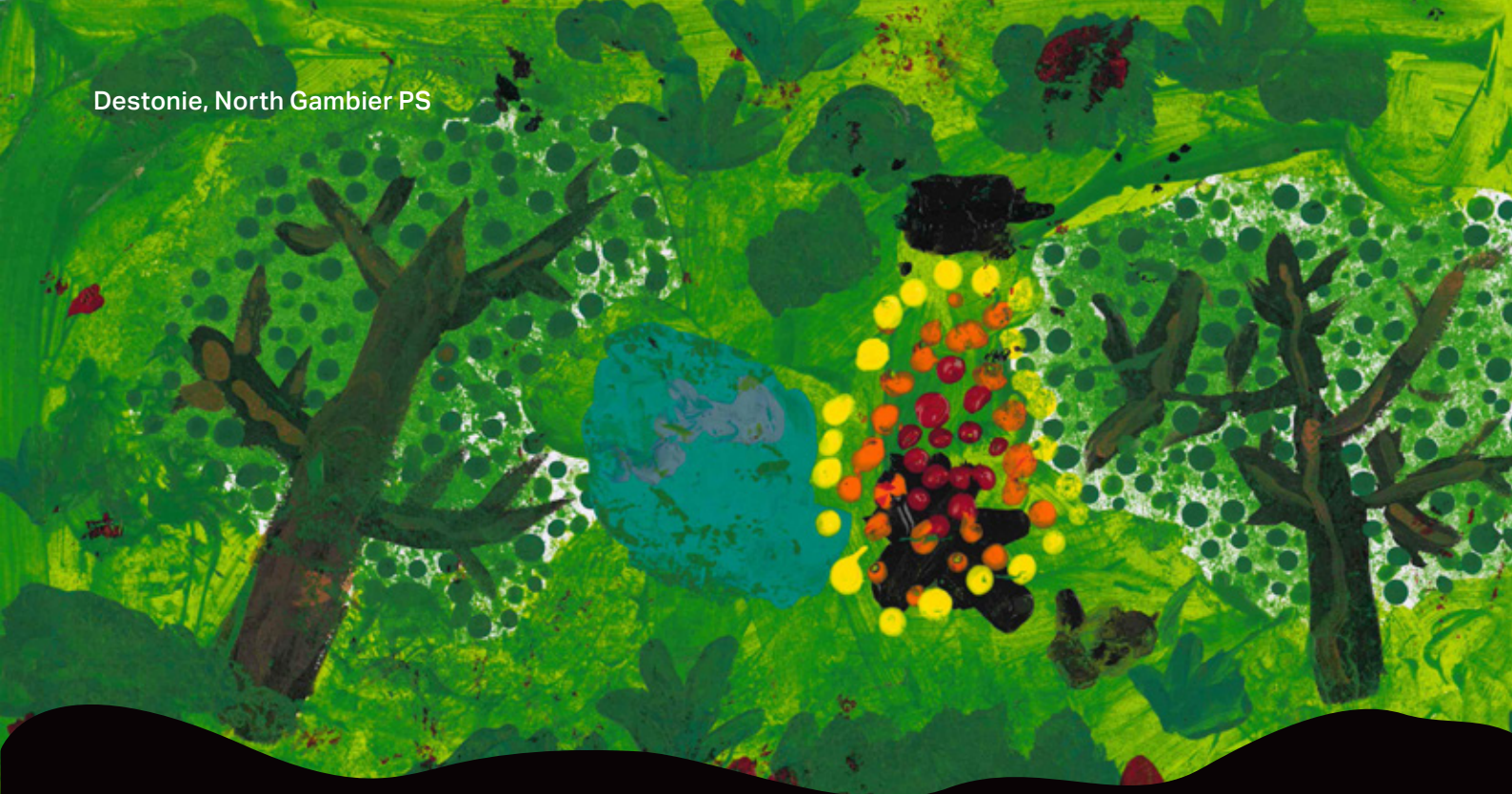
However, they found that one day after collecting food that their fire was put out by water rising from the bottom of Warwar.





Peyton, Melaleuca Park PS

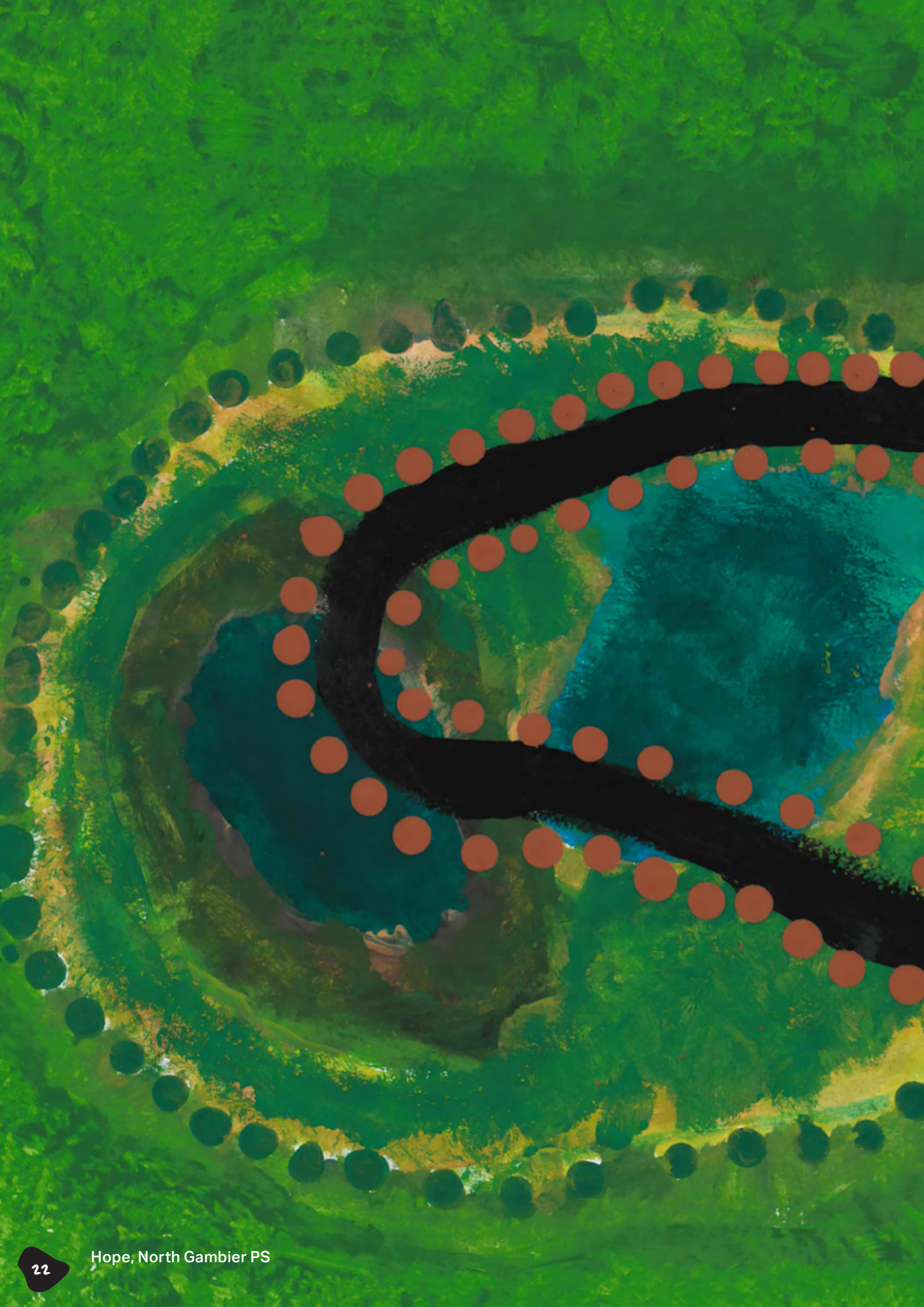
They moved on to Kroweratwari (Browne Lake), where they made their camp and dug out another oven, only for it to be put out by the rising water.




They did this two more times.  
First at Ketla Malpi (Valley Lake)...

... and then at Yatton Loo (Leg of Mutton Lake).  
Each time the water would rise from the bottom  
and put out the fire in their oven.







The family moved one last time.  
This time they found their final home  
and resting place. It was a cave at  
the side of the peak of Berrin.

This is the place where they lived the rest of their days looking out over to the land below, which was now covered with water and reeds.







# BUNGANDITJ / ENGLISH

Beleter / Mount Muirhead

Parreen / Mount Schank

Warwar / Blue Lake

Kroweratwari / Browne Lake

Ketla Malpi / Valley Lake

Yatton Loo / Leg of Mutton Lake

Berrin / Mount Gambier

Ngereng Balam / Peak of Berrin

Tennatenona / Evil Spirit

Pulan / Australasian Bittern

Ngula / Home

pari / oven

warnap / fire

parri / water

thirr / reeds

