

Stories of Country

Yanchep National Park



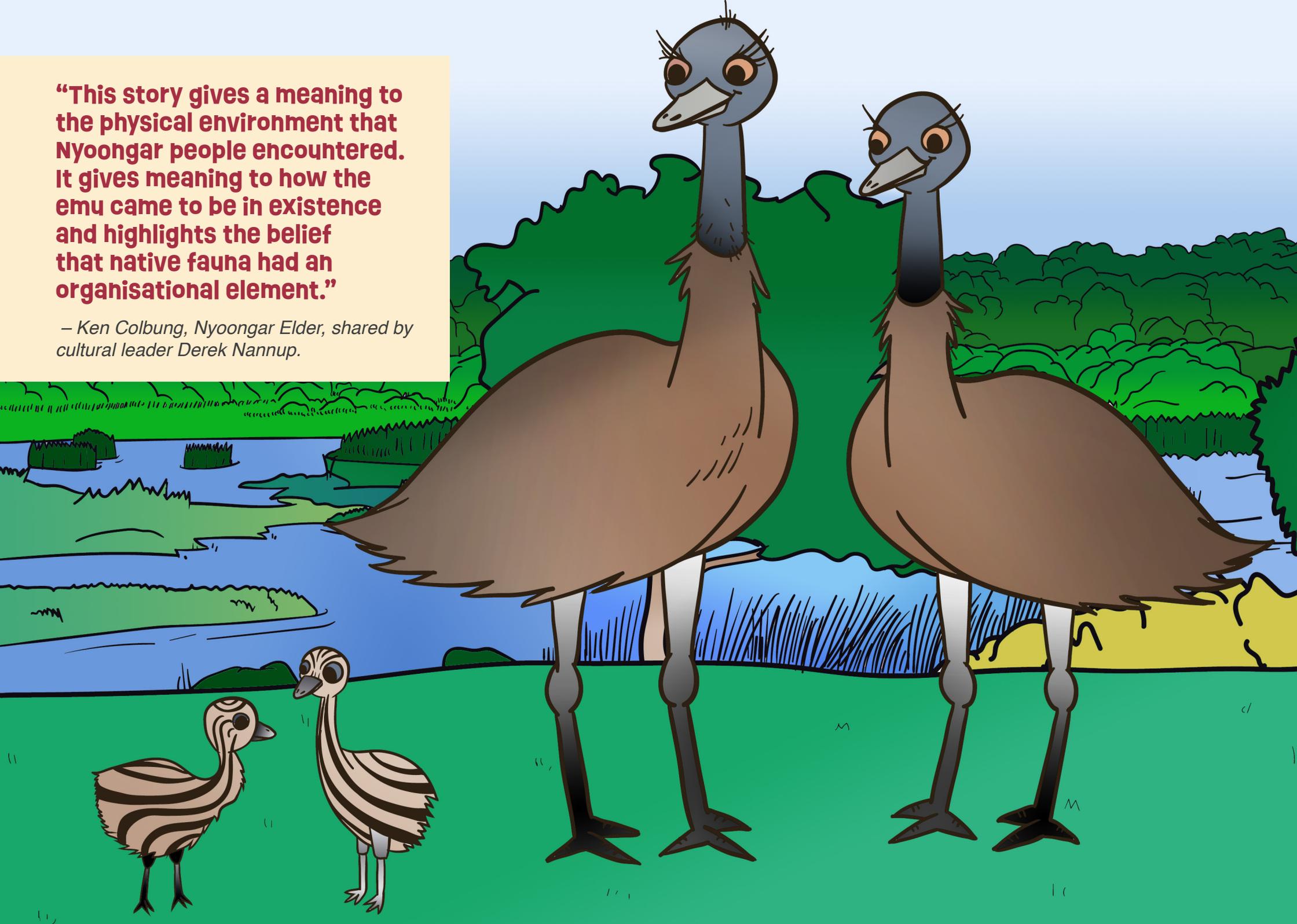
Supported by



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

“This story gives a meaning to the physical environment that Nyoongar people encountered. It gives meaning to how the emu came to be in existence and highlights the belief that native fauna had an organisational element.”

– Ken Colbung, Nyoongar Elder, shared by cultural leader Derek Nannup.





Nature Play WA recognises the important and ongoing connections between Aboriginal cultures and the natural world (country).

Through our Every Kid in a Park project, we will be working with representatives of Aboriginal communities around the state to learn more about their Connection to Country through stories and illustrations.

We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of spirit those communities have shown in sharing their stories with us and allowing us to on- share them with you. Through this project we hope to play a small part in helping WA families recognise and appreciate the diversity, richness and beauty of Aboriginal cultures and their deep connections to our magnificent natural world.

We would like to thank Derek Nannup, Parks and Wildlife cultural leader, for sharing the story of the Wetji, Emu.

It all started with three friends

Kwilla the shark, Mumung the whale, and Condon Karda the big lizard travelled from the north hunting for food. As they swam along the west coast, Kwilla noticed that Condon Karda had eaten their whole catch himself!

The fight that crashed onto shore

The two fought fiercely under the water and, after a long battle, Condon Karda crashed on the shore of Yanjit (Yanchep), exhausted and with no fight left in his full belly.

The beginnings of Yanjit (Yanchep)

He shed his bones, which became the limestone rocks of Yanjit, and moved slowly onto the land alone. He walked all the way to Two Rocks where he met Yonga the kangaroo and Bibilja the bush turkey.

The rules of the land

Condon Karda asked if he could stay. Yonga and Bibilja agreed, but there were rules. No jumping on the trees. No flying. No going into the water. They gave him a special berry to eat along with the final rule: no eating meat.

Condon Karda's cave dreaming

He walked into a nearby cave and began to dream of everything he wished he was. It was getting cooler so Bibilja, the bush turkey, gently laid some feathers over Condon Karda's sleeping body to keep him warm.

Wetji, the emu, was born

When he emerged from the cave, everything he dreamed in the cave came true. His legs stretched long, his neck craned towards the sky, and he could run. Fast.

Wetji, the emu, was born.

Colour

Us In



Use the next pages to colour in the Wejti (Emu) and Yanchep National Park

