



Sharing our story

Murray Butcher, storyteller

'This is a **Creation story** about how the moon, and how other animals came to be, in a time Paakantji people called **purli wilpinya**. It was a special time; a time of creation, when stars, the hills, the creeks, the rivers, the people and the animals came to be. This was a time when everything was new and strange. People could be animals, animals could be people, and they could all change their form.

'This story I'm telling you is a story passed to me by my grandmother. When a person's **been through law**, they get told a more detailed version of the story, so each age group has different levels of the story that can be taught. I want you Paakantji and **Ngiyampaa** (Ngee-am-paa) kids to learn your stories,



Murray Butcher

to remember where you're from and who you are, and be proud.

'Australia, I'd like you to appreciate and respect Aboriginal people and their ways when you travelling through your country Australia, our Country too. You travelling through sacred lands, lands that have history, that have stories, that have spirit, and these things should be respected to be fully appreciated.'

Glossary:



The Moon and the Gecko

This story is about Patjuka (Pah-choo-kah), the moon, and Punu, the **gecko**. They were **waaka-lyna**. Patjuka had two wives and they all lived together. One morning, Punu and Patjuka caught an emu, but it was forbidden for Punu to eat it because he hadn't been put through **ceremony** (law).



Patjuka told him, 'You're not getting any emu. Go and look for wild bananas.' The next day, Patjuka decided to take Punu to look for tree grubs. They went to Tartna Point, down past Menindee, where there were a lot of **box trees** and a young gum tree.

Sample Pages

Glossary:

- gecko**—a small, flat lizard
- waaka-lyna**—uncle and nephew
- ceremony**—the acts performed on certain sacred occasions

box trees—a type of eucalyptus tree