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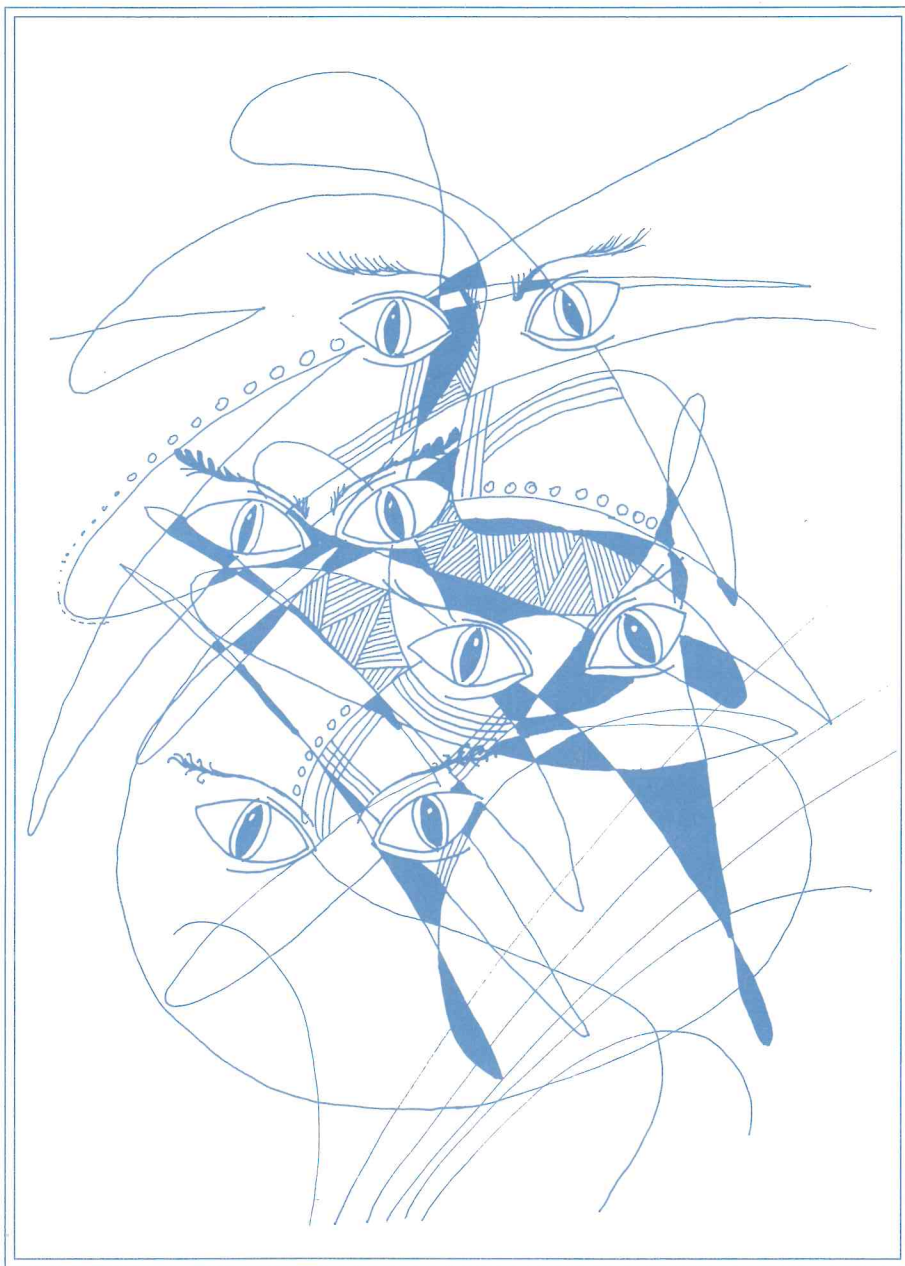
# SHARING THE DREAMING

Nyoongar Aboriginal Stories of the Dreaming



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
CALM ... caring for Aboriginal heritage





## THE WARDARCHI

Wardarchi are little people, a little over a metre tall. They are very hairy and have frightening red eyes. They look like banksia cones, but they only come out at night. They do mischievous things such as throwing rocks in the water if you are fishing at night.

One night, a Wardarchi caught a small Nyoongar boy who did not come home from playing in the bush. The Wardarchi put the boy in his bag and was taking him to his cave in the hills.

The Nyoongar boy was quite smart. He thought of a way to escape. Every time the Wardarchi sat down to rest, the boy would reach out from the bag to grab some rocks to make the bag heavy.

After some time the boy had enough rocks so that the bag was quite heavy. Then he quickly escaped from the bag and ran home.

The Wardarchi did not realise he was carrying only rocks until he arrived at his camp and looked in the bag for the boy. From that night onwards, Nyoongars knew that they must come home before dark.

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