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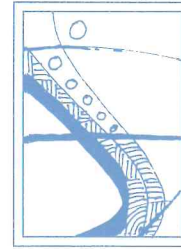
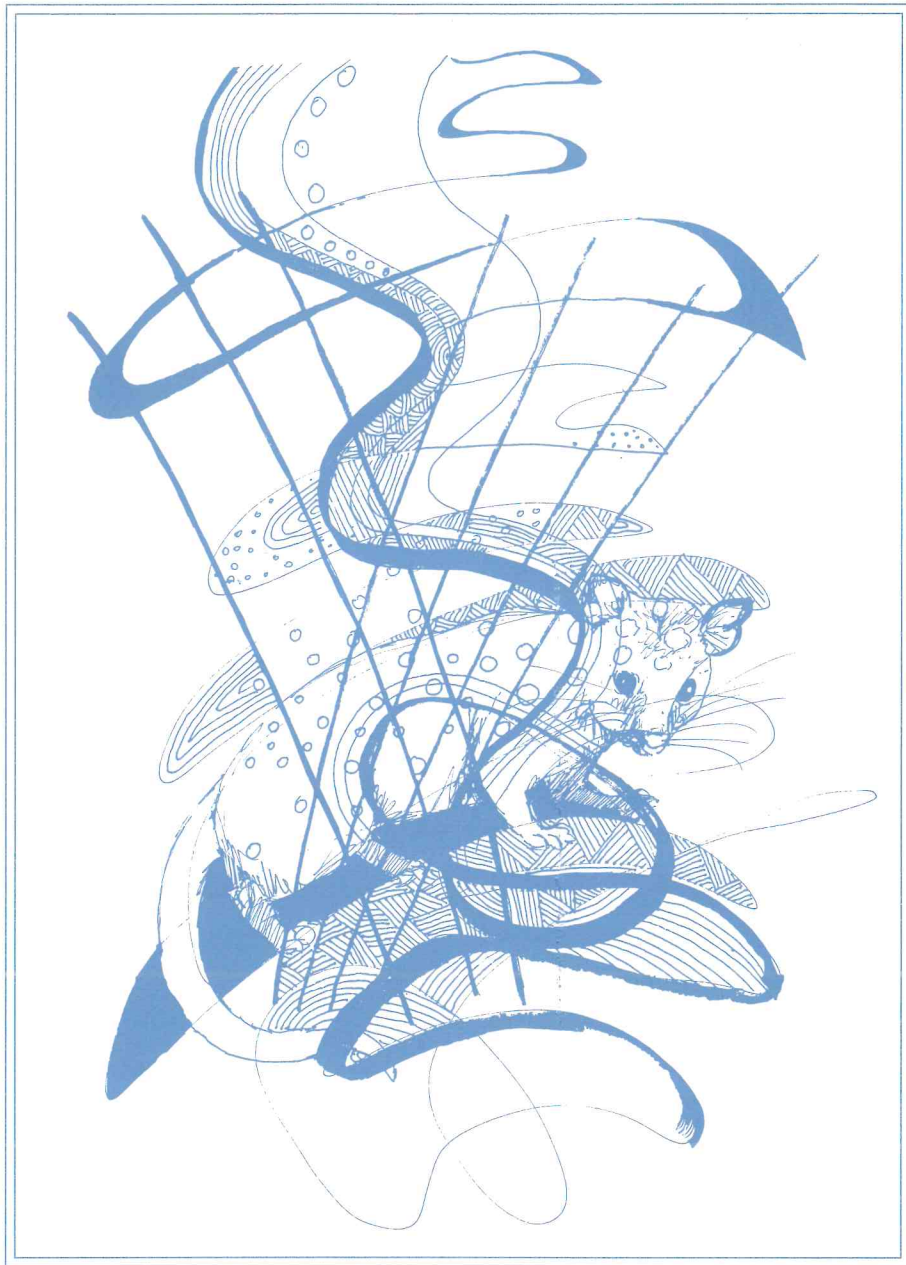
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SHARING THE DREAMING

Nyoongar Aboriginal Stories of the Dreaming



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



WHY THE CHUDITCH HAS SPOTS

Once upon a time, when animals behaved like people, the western native cat (the chuditch) was married to the emu (the weitch).

One day the chuditch was away hunting, as men usually do, and the emu stayed at the camp gathering berries, as women usually do.

While the chuditch was away, along came the possum. He fancied the emu and tried to entice her away. He failed, but before he left he marked the emu with ochre on her beak.

When the chuditch returned, he saw the ochre mark. In a fit of rage, he built a fire and threw the emu into the flames, which burnt her wings. From that day on, emus have been unable to fly.

The chuditch left to track down the possum. After some time he found the possum's camp. But he made too much noise, so the possum ambushed the chuditch and speared his sides.

If you look at the chuditch you can see the spear marks. You will also find that the possum now lives high up in the tree hollows and only comes out at night to avoid any chuditch who wants revenge.