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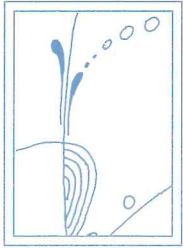
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SHARING THE DREAMING

Nyoongar Aboriginal Stories of the Dreaming



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



THE HAND OF HUMANS

In the Dreaming, plants, animals and people spoke with each other, formed partnerships, had fights. But there was no law, no teacher, no leaders. Chaos prevailed over the world.

From the heavens came the call for somebody to come out of the Dreaming to create law and order on earth.

At the gathering that followed, five Dreaming spirits attended: Wagyl the snake, Karrda the racehorse goanna, Yonga the kangaroo, Weitch the emu, and Nyoongar the human.

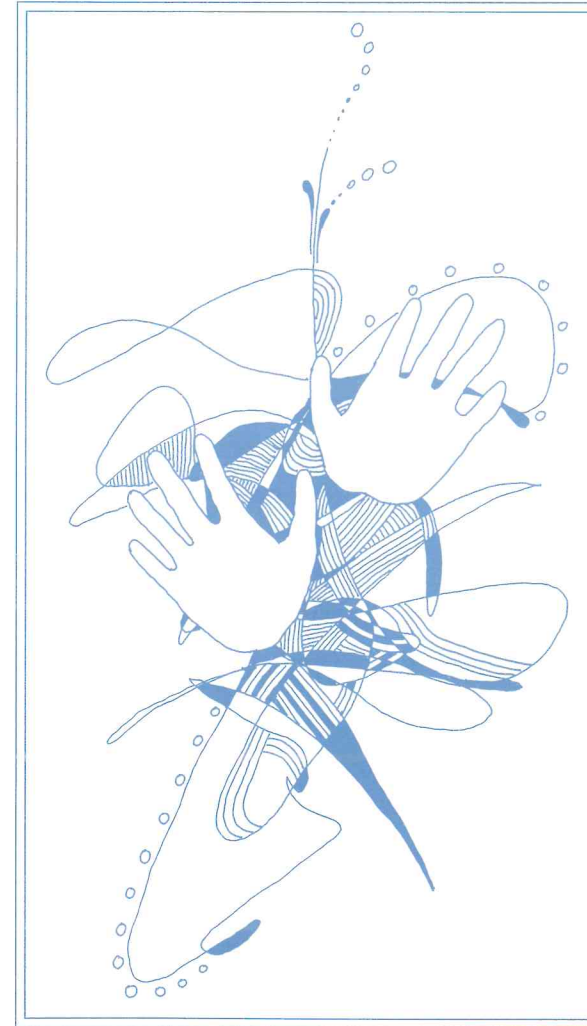
After some discussion, Wagyl the snake said, "I've had enough of talk. I'm leaving. No-one will listen to me." As he left, his movements pushed up the sand to form hills and valleys. Rain fell along the paths to become rivers, and tunnels and holes filled with water.

Karrda the racehorse goanna thought about the call to create law and order on earth, and said, "I do not want such a duty." He promptly left to wander the land.

Yonga the kangaroo also did not want the burden, and left immediately for the place we now call the Stirling Ranges. From the Stirling Ranges, all the kangaroo family spread out. An argument between an emu and a kangaroo resulted in the emu being killed. The burial place can be seen as Yongermeer Peak in the Stirling Ranges.

Next to speak was Weitch the emu. He said, "I will come out of the Dreaming, take on flesh form and give law and order. Look at my powerful legs. They can carry me everywhere and my tracks can be seen all over the ground."

Finally, Nyoongar the human stood up and said, "I can speak for everyone. Look at my hand! My wriggling thumb is the wagyl. With the next finger I can make the kangaroo tracks. With the next three fingers I can make goanna foreprints. And my middle three fingers represent the emu tracks."



All the Dreaming spirits looked at each other. They all agreed that the human should become flesh, give law and order and be responsible for everything.

The humans put their hand prints onto the mountain caves and ledges for all to see. This symbolises how we have to care for all the plants and animals, and the land and waters.