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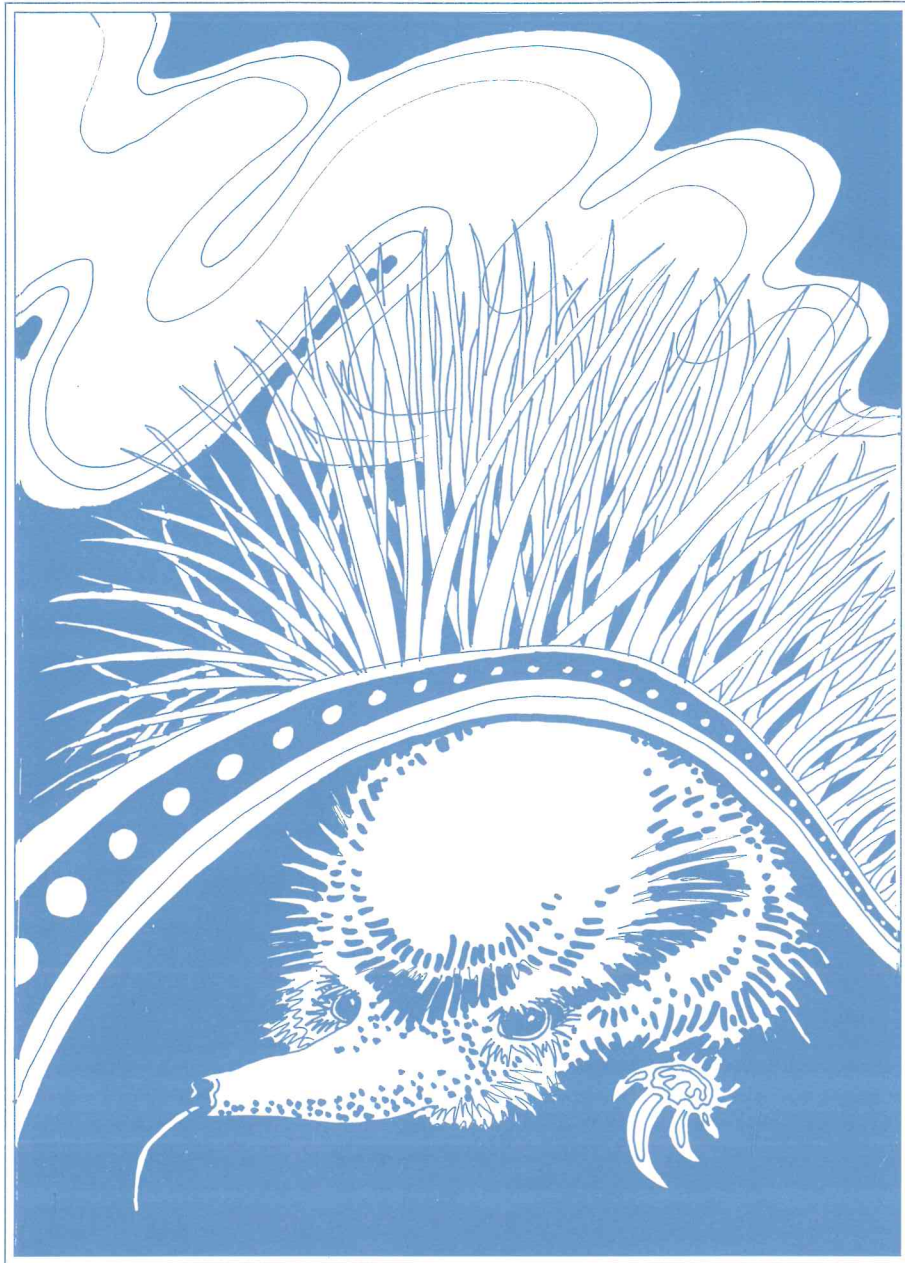
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# SHARING THE DREAMING

Nyoongar Aboriginal Stories of the Dreaming



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



## WHY THE ECHIDNA HAS QUILLS

During the Dreaming the echidna tribe had no quills. The Nyoongar people were friends with the echidnas and so did not eat them.

During a period of drought, what little food could be found was guarded carefully. The Nyoongar people left the camp to find food, while the echidnas were left behind to watch over the small amount of food left at the camp.

The Nyoongars were away for a long time, and the echidnas ate all the food at the camp. When the Nyoongars returned and found all the food eaten, they became angry and embedded their geitch (spears) into the echidna's back.

The spears are still embedded in the echidna's back today.

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