


# OCEANIA

Illustrated by Melissa Greenwood  
and Terri Po for How the Kiwi Lost Its Wings

## THE STORIES:

Bungoo the Flying Fox  
How the Lyrebird Got Its Voice  
How Māui Slowed the Sun  
How the Kiwi Lost Its Wings







# BUNGOO THE FLYING FOX

a First Nations story from Australia retold by Warren Foster Senior



Long, long ago, back in the Dreamtime, Bungoo the Flying Fox was fed up with his friends. They were **bossy** and they were **boring**. All they wanted to do was search for fruit. Bungoo wanted adventures. He longed to spread his wings and fly off to see the world beyond his camp.

One day, he told his friends, “I don’t want to be with you lot any more. You’re just **boring**. I’m off to make new friends.” And with that, he sailed off into the blue sky.

For a while, it was exciting away from his old home. It certainly wasn’t boring. The feathered creatures were always fighting the furry animals. And they made such a hullabaloo.

Booroo the Kangaroo would **grunt**, Budalleema the Wallaby would **growl** and Goomera the Possum would **hiss**.

And then the feathered creatures would fight back. Goorimbooga the Magpie would **screech**, Munyunga the Eagle would **dive** and Mooreeya the Emu would **kick**.

But Bungoo the Flying Fox now had a new problem. He was different to everyone else because although he had fur like Booroo the Kangaroo, he also had wings like Munyunga the Eagle. So he never knew who to be friends with and which side to fight on.

He tried asking the birds what they thought he should do.

“Fight with us!” they said. “You know how to stretch out your magnificent wings, glide silently towards the furry ones and take them by surprise. We’re the strongest. Best to pick the winning side and stick with us.”

“**No!** You should fight on our side!” argued the furry animals. “You’ve got sharp teeth that can bite and fur down to your toes like us. We’re the strongest. Best to pick the winning side and stick with us.”

Poor Bungoo felt lost. He couldn’t work out who he wanted to be friends with. He thought it was probably best to back those who won the fight, those who were strong and courageous. But different sides seemed to win the fight on different days.

Every day would start the same:

“We’re the strongest!” said the furry animals.

“No! We are!” insisted the feathered creatures.

“Oh no, you’re not!” the furry animals roared.

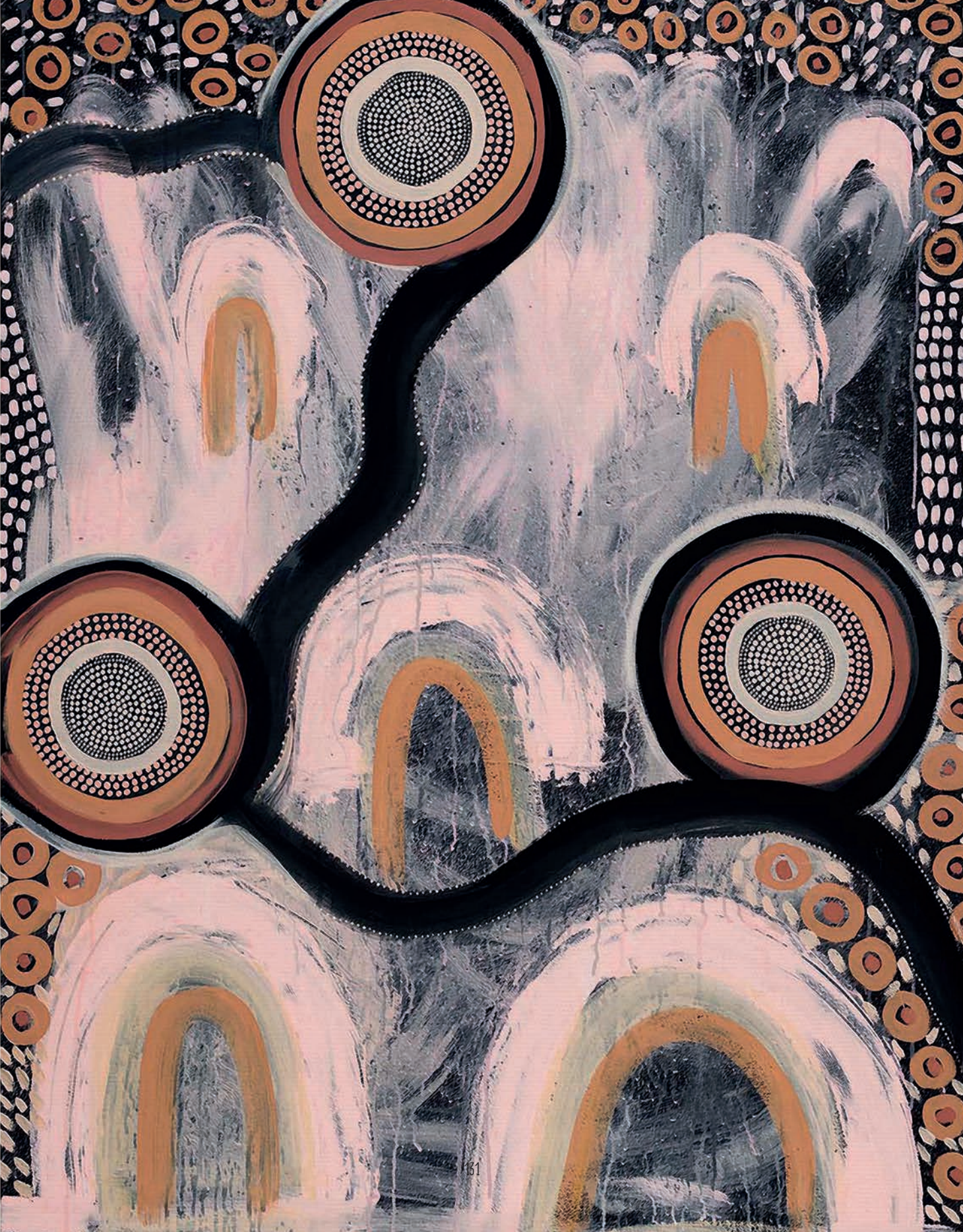
“Oh yes, we are!” the feathered creatures cried.

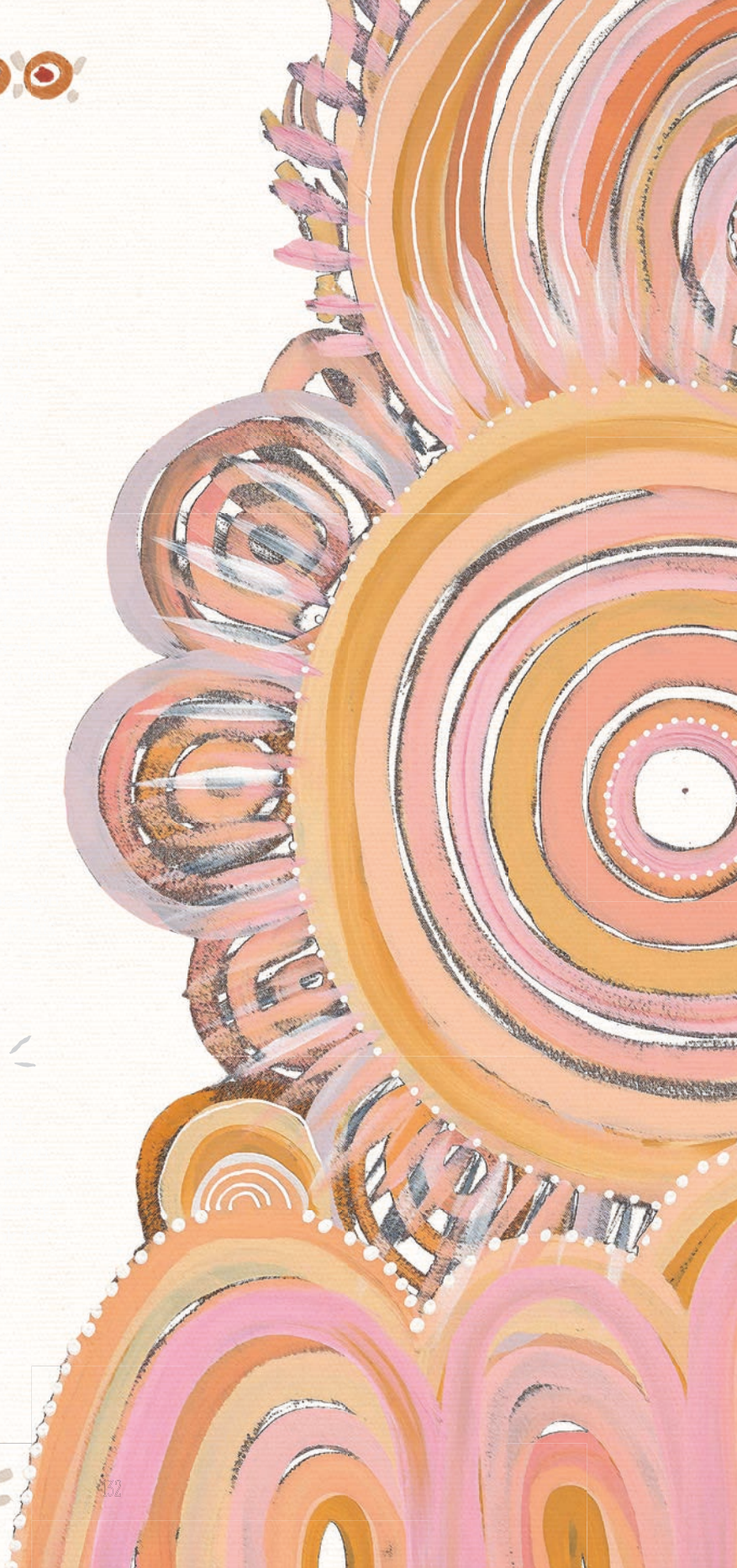
And there would be such a flying of fur and a clacking of beaks as everyone piled in.

Flying foxes are the largest of all bats. Their heads are fox-like, with pointy ears and noses. They’re covered with dark fur, and have long toes and very wide wings.

STORY OWL FACT







- thump! <

feather fur





STORY OWL TIP

Can you think of a sound to make when Bungoo is flying? Maybe a rushing air sound – *whooooosh* – or a deep *wumff wumff* sound like the beating of wings?



# HOW THE LYREBIRD GOT ITS VOICE

a First Nations story from Australia retold by Warren Foster Senior



Long ago, way back in the Dreamtime, the animals gathered in the bush for a big *bunaan* (a very special competition) to decide who was best at jumping, dancing, singing and running.

First, they had a big jump-off. All the feathered creatures competed with all the furry animals. All that is, except for Joolah the Lyrebird, who was just too shy to take part. Booroo the Kangaroo and Mooreeya the Emu were all fired up and ready to go.

*Boing! Boing! Boing!*

went Booroo the Kangaroo, taking mighty leaps skywards.

*Stomp-boing!*  
*Stomp-boing!*  
*Stomp-boing!*

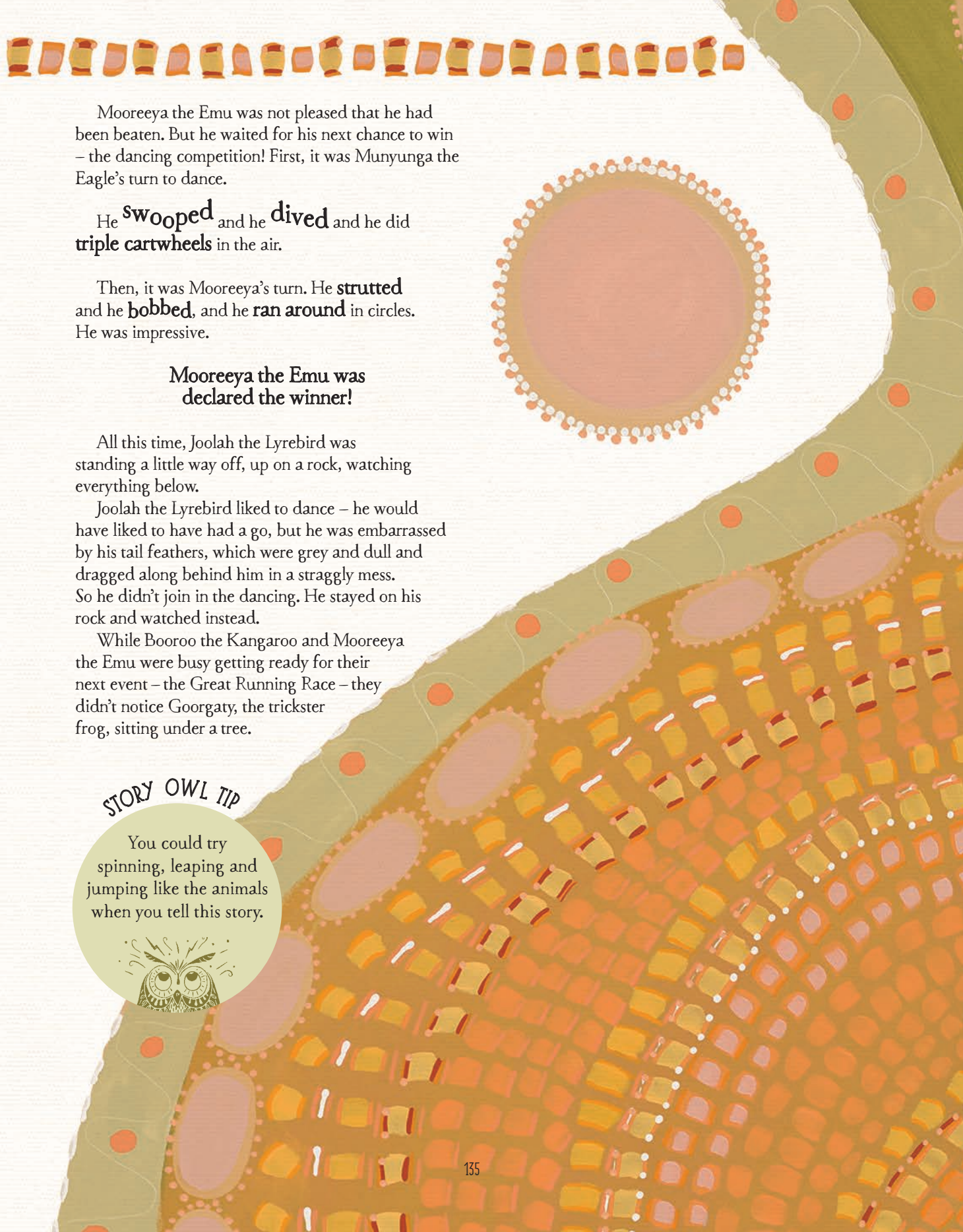
went Mooreeya the Emu, stamping and jumping with his strong feet and making dust fly everywhere.

*Thump-boing! Thump-boing!*  
*Thump-boing!*

went Booroo the Kangaroo, thumping his strong legs, jumping higher and higher into the sky and disappearing in a swirling cloud of dust.

**Booroo the Kangaroo was declared the winner!**





Mooreeya the Emu was not pleased that he had been beaten. But he waited for his next chance to win – the dancing competition! First, it was Munyunga the Eagle’s turn to dance.

He **swooped** and he **dived** and he did **triple cartwheels** in the air.

Then, it was Mooreeya’s turn. He **strutted** and he **bobbed**, and he **ran around** in circles. He was impressive.

**Mooreeya the Emu was declared the winner!**

All this time, Joolah the Lyrebird was standing a little way off, up on a rock, watching everything below.

Joolah the Lyrebird liked to dance – he would have liked to have had a go, but he was embarrassed by his tail feathers, which were grey and dull and dragged along behind him in a straggly mess. So he didn’t join in the dancing. He stayed on his rock and watched instead.

While Booroo the Kangaroo and Mooreeya the Emu were busy getting ready for their next event – the Great Running Race – they didn’t notice Goorgaty, the trickster frog, sitting under a tree.

### STORY OWL TIP

You could try spinning, leaping and jumping like the animals when you tell this story.





Now back in those days, Goorgaty had the most beautiful voice in all the land. You could hear him singing and showing off night and day. He could also change his voice to make it sound like any creature in the bush.

So Goorgaty the Frog, that chief mischief-maker, shouted at Emu – in Kangaroo’s voice: “Mooreeya, you think you’re so great at being the biggest and the fastest bird in all the land, but you can’t even fly! You can only run! Even Djirrit-Djirrit, the tiny wagtail bird, can fly higher than you!”

Mooreeya the Emu spun around and glared at Booroo. He shouted, “What did you say to me?”

But Booroo the Kangaroo didn’t reply because he hadn’t said a word. It was Goorgaty the Frog who had spoken.

Goorgaty the Frog waited for Booroo the Kangaroo to look away, and then he shouted at Kangaroo – in Emu’s voice: “Booroo, you think you’re so great being the biggest animal in all the land, but you can’t even run that fast! Even Boogalee, the little marsupial mouse, can run faster than you!”

Booroo the Kangaroo quickly spun around to Emu, but he saw that Emu was a long way away – over by the start line getting ready for the great running race. Booroo shouted at Mooreeya the Emu, “What did you say?”

But Mooreeya the Emu didn’t reply because he hadn’t said a word. It was Goorgaty the Frog who had spoken.

Booroo the Kangaroo and Mooreeya the Emu were getting more and more angry with each other. I’m sorry to have to tell you, but they ended up having a big fight.

Now, because Mooreeya the Emu and Booroo the Kangaroo were the biggest animals in all the land, they were the leaders of the feathered ones and the furry ones. So when they started fighting, all the other feathered and furry creatures joined in too.

And all this time, Goorgaty the Frog was sitting under the tree, laughing at the trouble he’d caused. He thought it was great fun to see the feathers and the fur flying, and the dust going everywhere.

After a while, the feathered and the furry ones and the dust all settled down.

The Creator, who was watching the whole thing from the sky, came down to see what all the fuss was about. He gathered all the animals around him and asked why they were fighting each other. But no one could explain.

The Creator looked around and saw Joolah the Lyrebird standing apart, up on the rock, watching everything that was happening. He asked Lyrebird to come down and explain how the fight had started. But Joolah the Lyrebird couldn’t talk. So the Creator touched Joolah’s throat and straight away, he got a voice! It wasn’t the most beautiful voice, but it would do the job.

Joolah the Lyrebird explained to the Creator that it was Goorgaty the Frog who had pretended to be the other animals. He had copied their voices and tricked them into thinking they’d each said unkind things about each other, when all along it was Goorgaty, the trickster frog, starting all the trouble!

“**Goorgaty Frog! Come here right now!**” boomed the Creator.

Very slowly, the little frog hopped over.

*Boing ...*                      *Boing ...*  
*Boing ...*

The little frog looked up at the Creator.

“You, little frog, have misused your special gift that I gave you,” the Creator said. “Now I’m going to take away your beautiful voice and give it to Joolah the Lyrebird as a reward for helping me.”

The Creator also gave Joolah the Lyrebird a fine set of patterned tail feathers to pull up over his head and show off whenever he danced in the bush.

So that is why Goorgaty the Frog has a sad, croaky voice. And why, to this very day, Joolah the Lyrebird can sing and dance, and is the proud keeper of all the languages in the bush.



STORY OWL FACT

A lot of Warren Foster's language, Dhurga, was lost because for many years, his people weren't allowed to speak it. Now Warren, along with other people where he lives, are 'waking it up again' by using it. Some of the animal names in Warren's stories are in the Dhurga language.

