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Map of the Removals



The Stolen Generations were Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were taken from the Mum's and Dads by the Australian government. Children were being taken away from their families from 1900 up to the 1970s.

The Government's Aborigines' Protection Board was allowed to take the children away and put them into Children's Homes, onto Missions or adopt them out to live with other people.

This map shows where each of the authors of this book were taken from and where they were taken to.

- ● ● ● Aunty Essie - When Aunty Essie was a young girl she was made to leave her home at Carowra Tank. She and her family walked for days to a place called Menindee. From there she was taken to Cootamundra Girl's Home.
- ● ● ● Aunty Rita - Aunty Rita was taken from Grafton in northern New South Wales, to Bomederry Children's Home in Nowra and then to the Training Home for Girls, Cootamundra.
- ● ● ● Uncle Laurie - Uncle Laurie was 7 years old when he was taken from his family in Sydney and placed in Kinchela Boy's Home near Kempsey.
- ● ● ● Aunty Avis - Aunty Avis was 7 days old when she was taken from her family in Ceduna to Adelaide.
- ● ● ● Aunty Betty - Aunty Betty was a baby when she was taken away from her family at Lake Tyers. She first was taken to Melbourne and then to Barnawartha, near Albury/Wodonga.
- ● ● ● Sherrelle - Sherrelle was 6 weeks old when she was taken from the Salvation Army Hospital in Sydney to Albury/Wodonga by a family that adopted her.

"Just 'cause we're not walking around on crutches or with bandages or plasters on our arms and legs doesn't mean we're not hurt. I suspect I'll carry these sorts of wounds 'til the day I die. I'd just like it not to be so intense, that's all."

- Aunty Avis

When the Train Came

by Aunty Essie



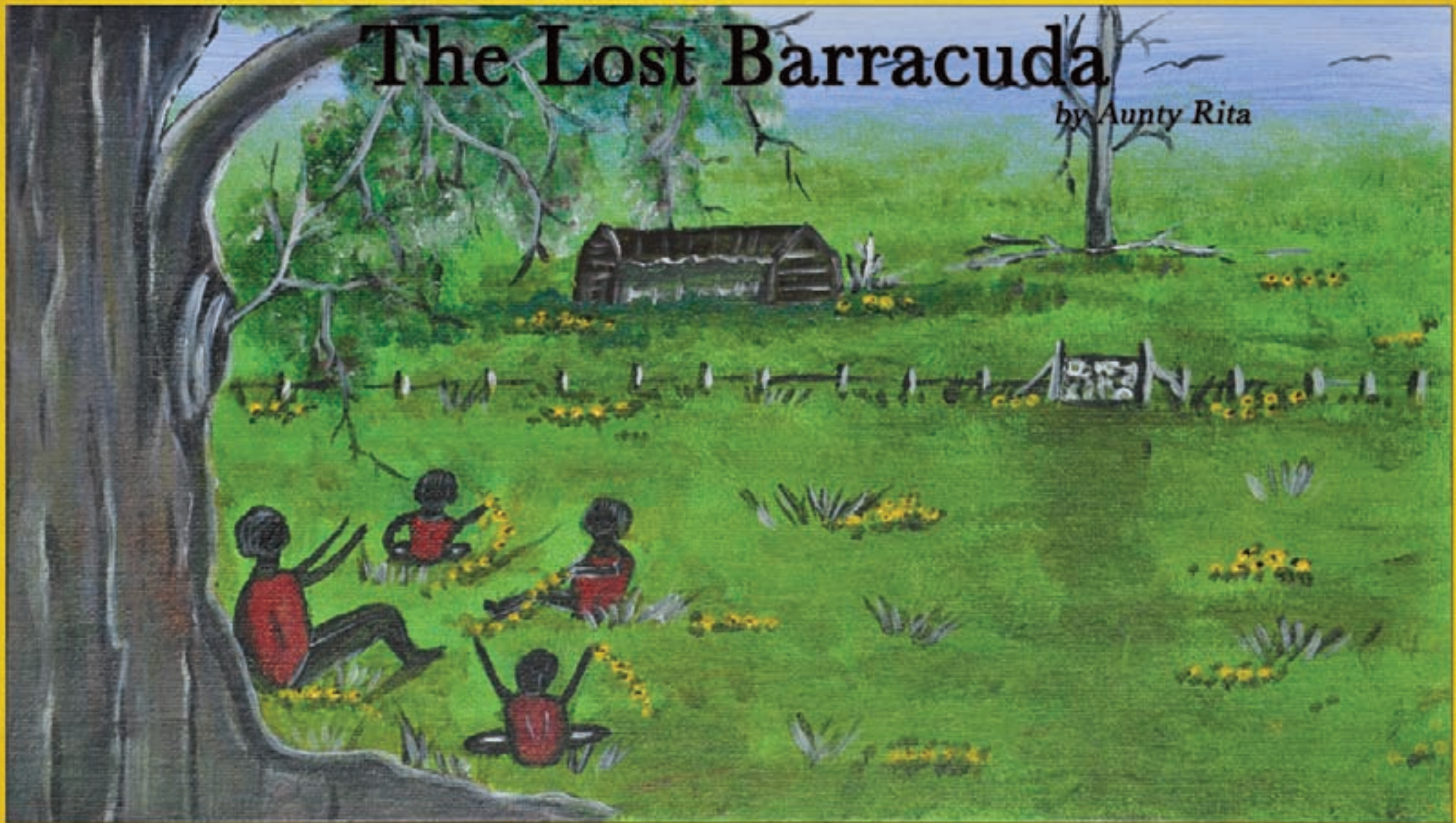
When I was a little girl my family and I walked for several days from our home at Carowra Tank to Menindee where the railway was being built. Along the way we met another group of Indigenous people who sometimes camped near us. For their meals they used to go out and catch wild meat. They didn't know anything about railways or trains because they had never seen one. They didn't know what one looked like. Or a car on the road. They didn't know anything about that either.



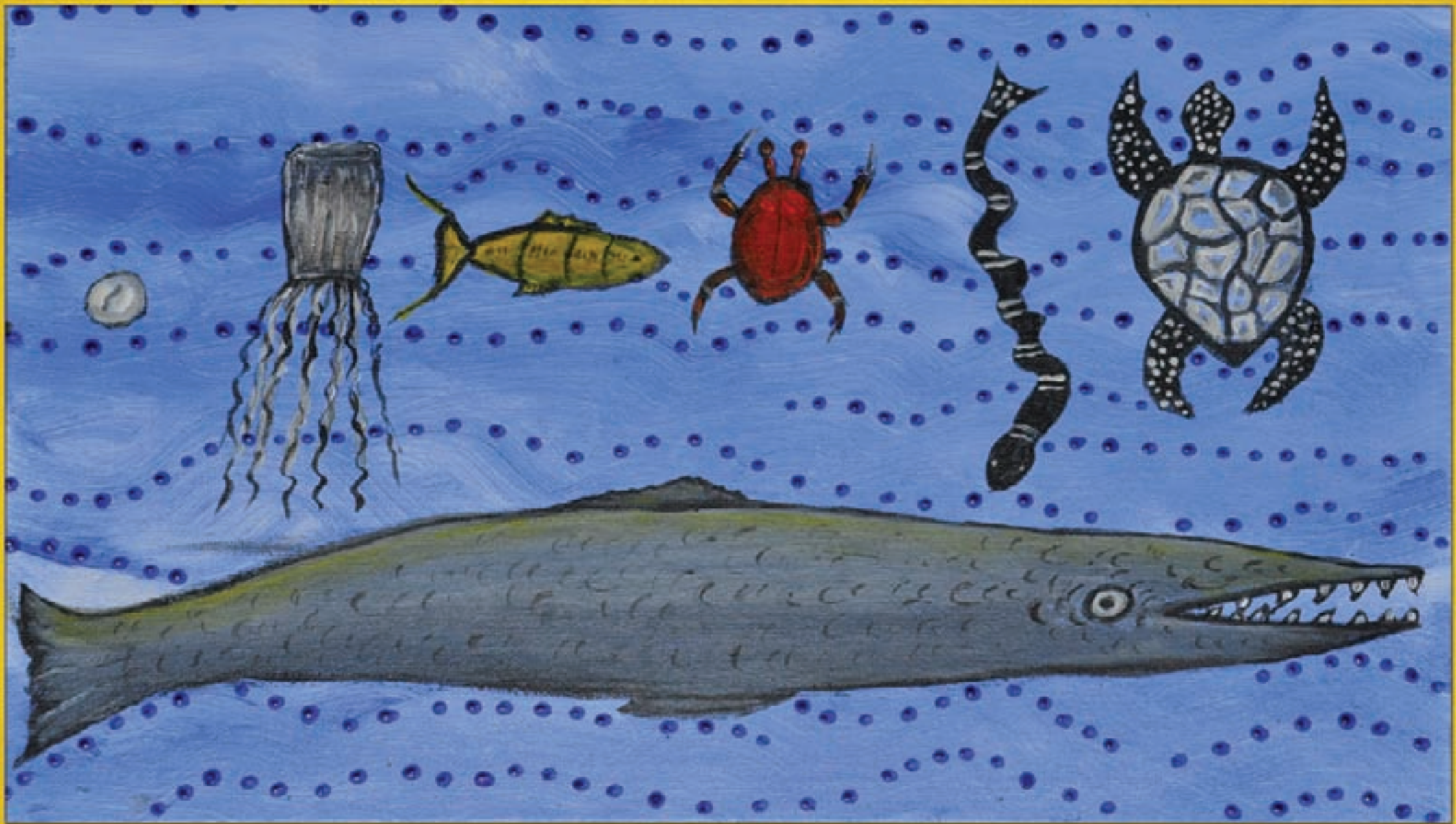
The police picked them up and took them to the railway in a truck where they all stood and waited. But when the train came it frightened them and they all ran away. They scattered everywhere. It took the police two weeks to find all the people again and when they found them all they took them back to where they had come from. I never saw them again, not one of them. I never saw their faces again.

The Lost Barracuda

by Aunty Rita



When I was a young girl in Cootamundra Girl's Home we used to sit under the peppercorn tree and I would tell stories to the younger children. The best story I ever told was the one about the Barracuda:
Once there was a little egg that was lost in the ocean. He wandered around trying to find his family. First he met a box jellyfish and he asked it, "Do you know who I am?" But the box jellyfish said, "No, I don't know who you are."
So the little egg wandered on. Next he came across a yellow fish and he asked her, "Do you know where I come from?" But the yellow fish had no idea where he came from. The little egg swam on, all the time getting bigger and bigger.



A little while later he came across a crab. But the crab was cranky and just told him to go away. Next he came across the sea snake but the sea snake said, "Don't bother me, I've got problems of my own." So he went on and on and eventually came across a wise old turtle. "Do you know where I come from?" He asked. "Of course I do," said the turtle. "I know everybody in the ocean. If you swim to the coral over there you will find your people." So he swam off to the coral. He looked at the fish then looked at himself. "I look just like them" he thought. "I've got the long thin body and the big sharp teeth. These must be my people." So he swam over to the coral and they all welcomed him into their family. It was the Barracuda family.