


MARLEE'S MOB



INCEPTION
STRATEGIES

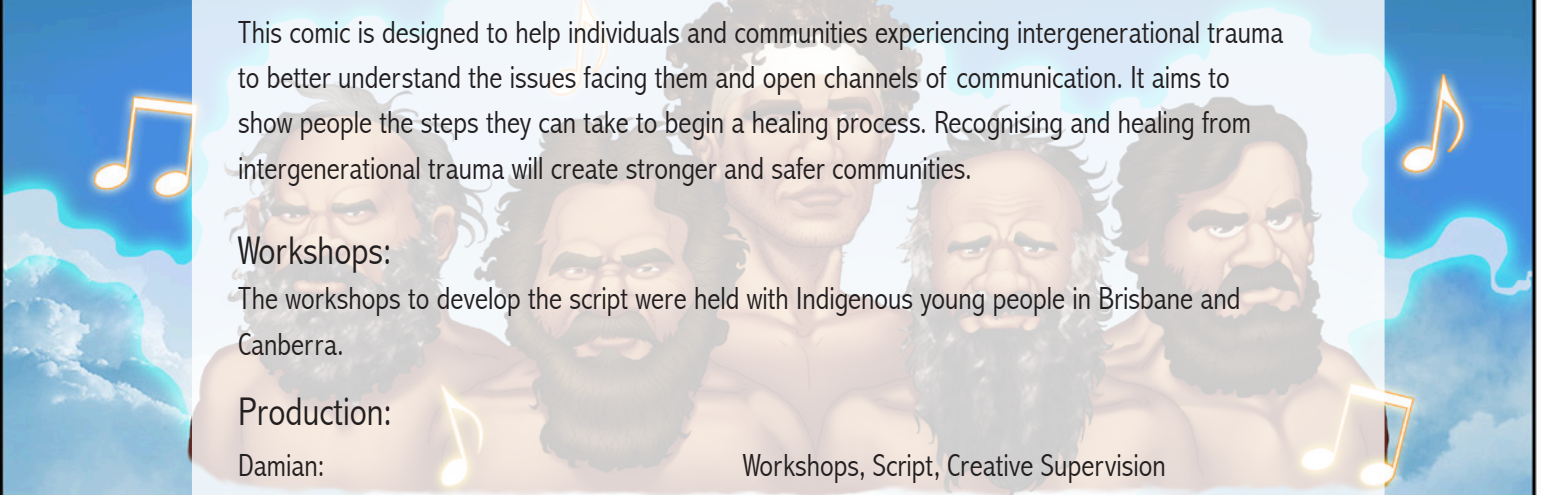


Amamoo Leon Zhao Gonzales Setyawan



Visionaries:

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation contracted Inception Strategies to assist in the development of this comic book. The comic demonstrates the effects of intergenerational trauma on individuals, families and communities. This story shows the flow on effects of the trauma resulting from past government policies and its impact on our communities today.



This comic is designed to help individuals and communities experiencing intergenerational trauma to better understand the issues facing them and open channels of communication. It aims to show people the steps they can take to begin a healing process. Recognising and healing from intergenerational trauma will create stronger and safer communities.

Workshops:


The workshops to develop the script were held with Indigenous young people in Brisbane and Canberra.

Production:

Damian:	Workshops, Script, Creative Supervision
Mengling and Rachel:	Project Manager
Chris:	Workshop Notes, Script
Fernando:	Pencils
Zhao Weiyi:	Inks
Dave and Anang:	Colours
Jaymes:	Letters
Mengling, Diane, Jax, Rachel:	Editing
Erik, Elsie, Orlando, Liz, Rachel:	Proofing
Lesley:	Pre-press

Thanks:

Shivaun, Michael, Rebecca and Jaylene from the Healing Foundation.



We hope this comic provokes new conversations between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community. Assisting the process of healing and recognition so that Australia can move forward as a stronger country indefinitely.

Damian Amamoo, CEO, Inception Strategies

www.inceptionstrategies.com



IT'S A TRY!
I MADE IT!



THAT FELLA'S A
SELECTOR FOR THE
RABBITHOHS*.

RUGBY CLUB ROOMS

members

*RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM BASED
IN SOUTH SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

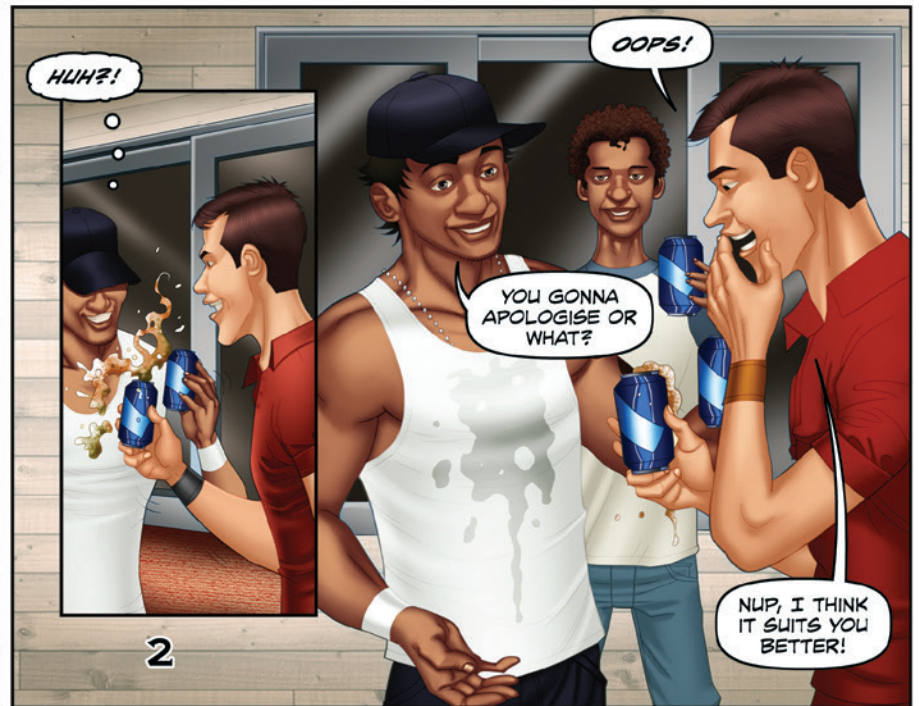
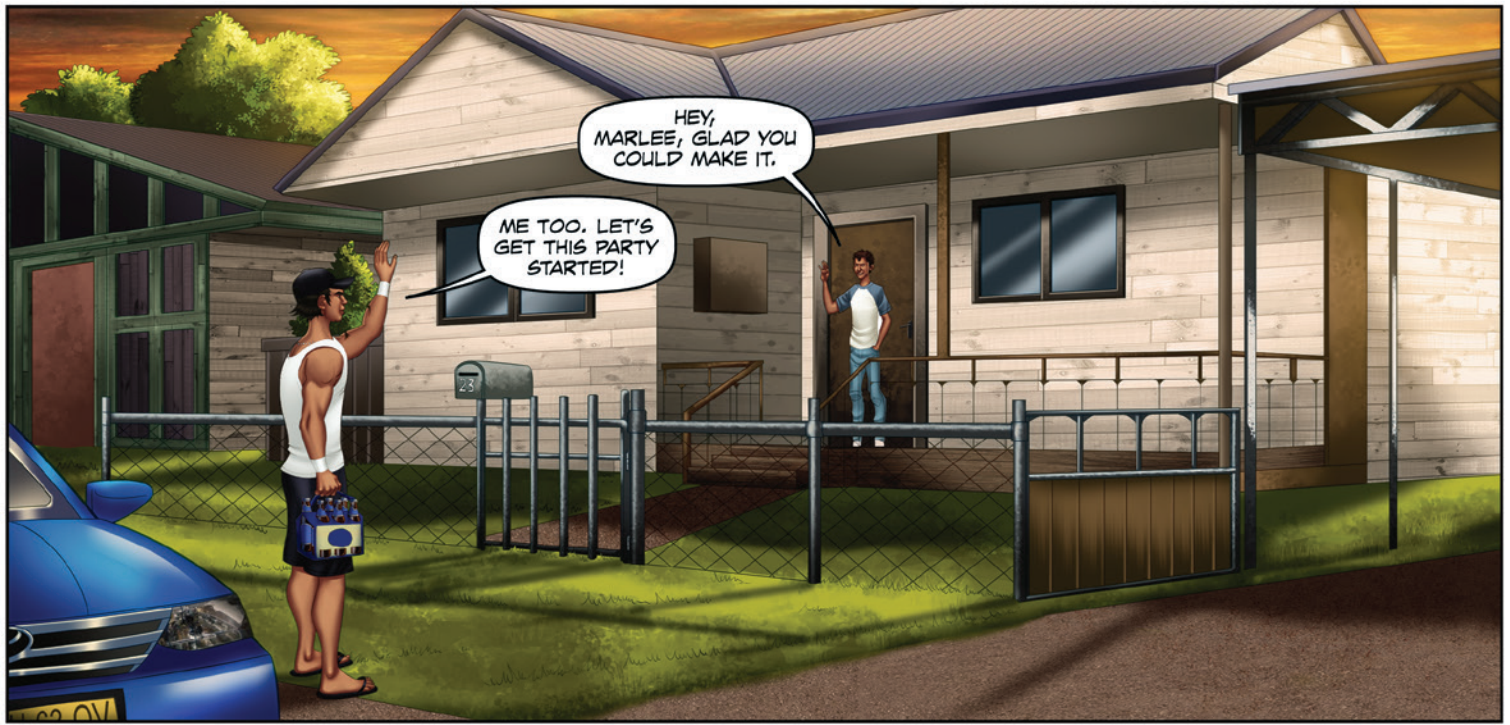


HEY MARLEE,
GREAT GAME! YOU'RE
ON MY LIST FOR THE
ROOKIE DRAFT.



BABE,
YOU WERE
DEADLY!

YEAH, IT
WAS A GOOD
GAME.





FRED, IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A FIGHT NEXT DOOR!

WE'D BETTER RING THE POLICE!



FIGHT!

FIGHT!

FIGHT!

FIGHT!



I THINK THIS BOY'S HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK. WE'D BETTER TAKE HIM HOME.



THIS IS *CRAZY!* THEY WERE ONLY PLAY-FIGHTIN'...



HI NINA, WE'VE GOT YOUR BOY, *MARLEE*, IN THE CAR.

WHAT HAPPENED?

HE'S BEEN DRINKING AND FIGHTING WITH HIS TEAM-MATES.



WHAT DID I TELL YA ABOUT *GROG!*

NEXT MORNING



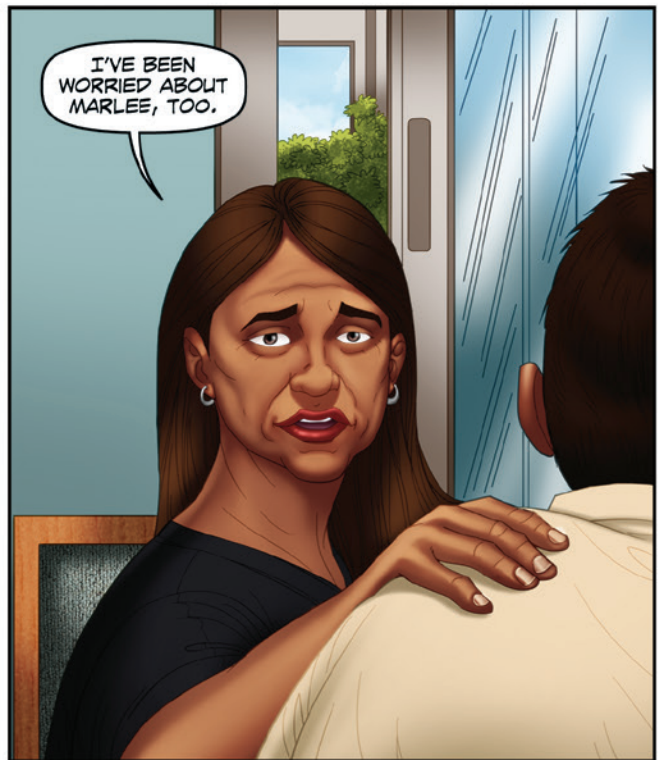
WHY DOES MY HEAD *HURT* SO BAD?



OH, THAT'S RIGHT. *NOW* I REMEMBER.









FOUR WEEKS LATER





SIX MONTHS LATER

MARLEE, IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU MISSED OUT ON THE NRL DRAFT AND SPLIT UP WITH SIAN. I KNOW IT'S BEEN PRETTY TOUGH ON YA.

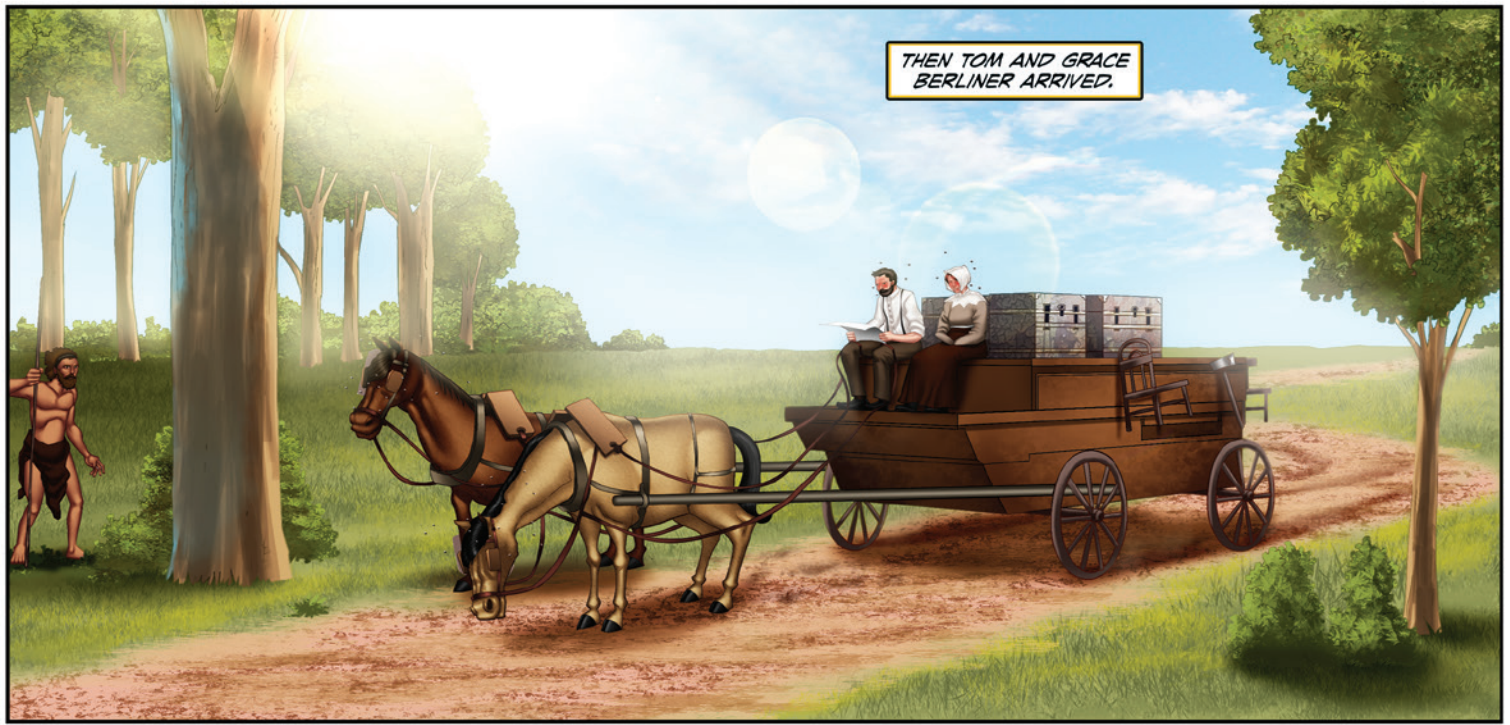
BUT YOU COME FROM A STRONG FAMILY OF BLACKFELLAS!

SIT DOWN AND LET ME TELL YA WHAT SOME OF YOUR OLD MOB HAVE BEEN THROUGH AND SURVIVED.

OUTBACK NSW 1900

IN THE OLD DAYS WE HAD OUR LAND.

KOOK KOOK KAH KAH!



THEN TOM AND GRACE BERLINER ARRIVED.



THEY SET UP CAMP AND STARTED BUILDIN' FENCES.



IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH FOR THEM TOO.



BUT THEY DIDN'T GIVE UP. THE BERLINER FAMILY WERE THERE TO STAY.

THE YEARS PASSED AND THE BERLINER FAMILY STARTED TO MAKE MONEY AS THEIR HERDS GREW.



MR BERLINER OFFERED OUR OLD PEOPLE SOME WORK.

I NEED MEN TO HELP DROVE THE CATTLE AND SOME WOMEN TO HELP THE MISSUS WITH WORK AROUND THE HOUSE.

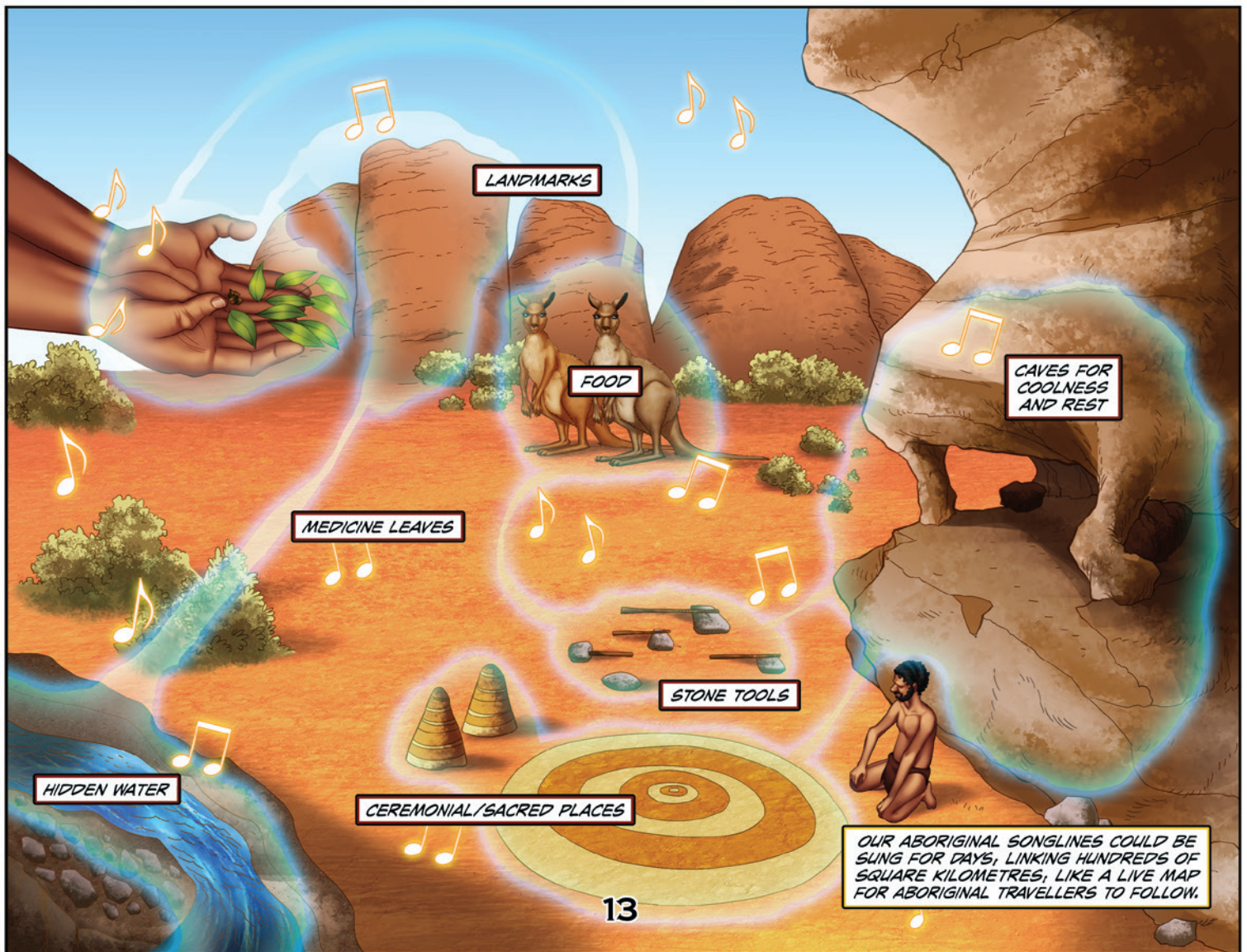
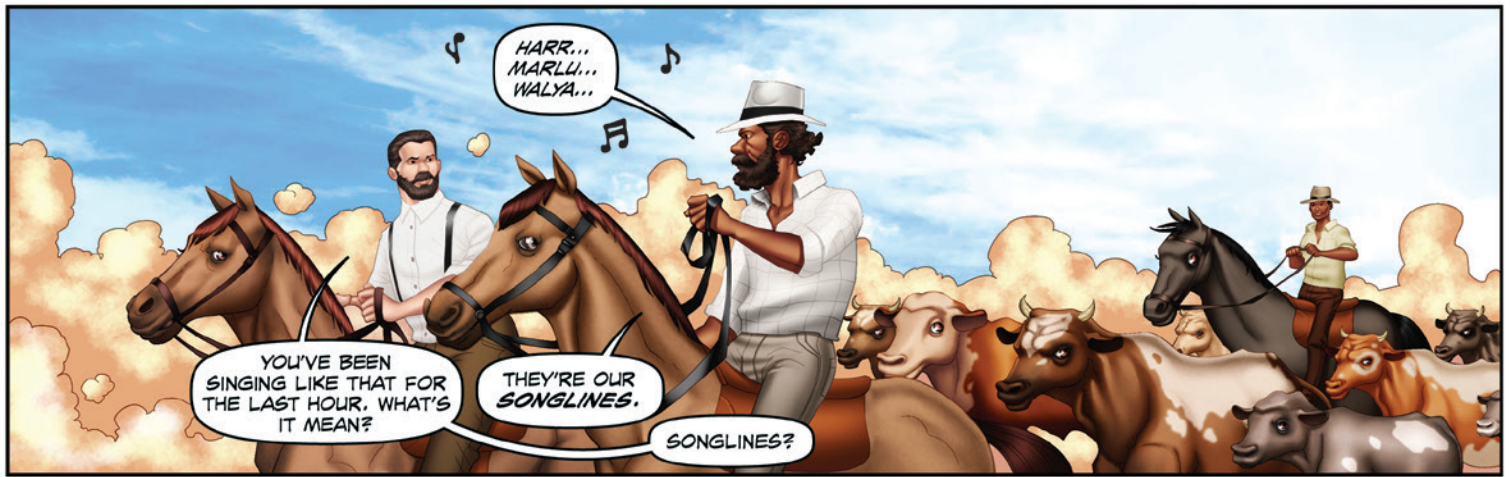


JONATHAN AND YOUR GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER, SOLOMON, WORKED FOR TOM BERLINER AS STOCKMEN. JONATHAN WAS STILL ONLY A BOY BUT HE LEARNED HOW TO RIDE PRETTY QUICK!



IT WAS HARD WORK. THOSE EARLY STATION OWNERS, LIKE TOM, COULDN'T 'AVE DONE IT WITHOUT US BLACKFELLAS.



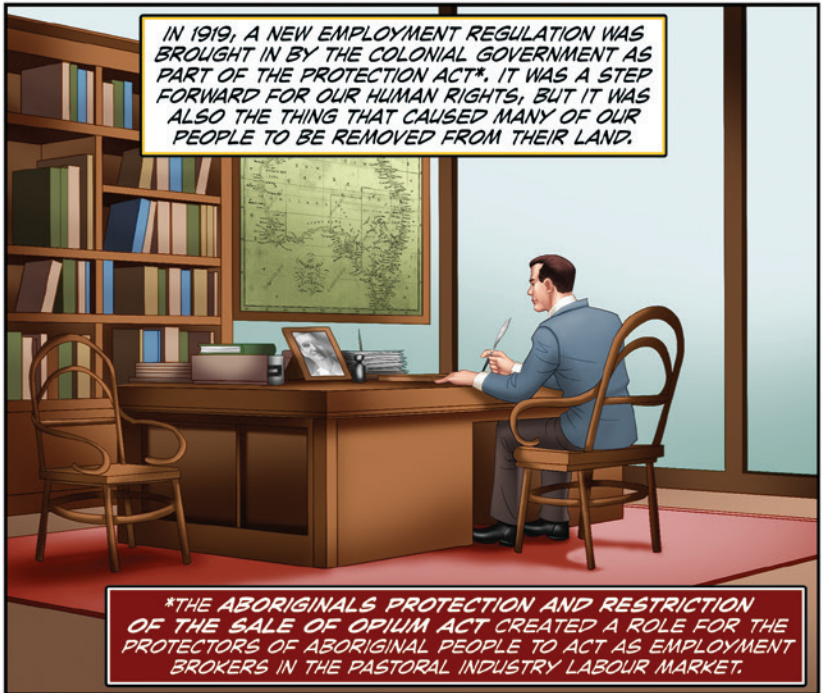




OUR OLD PEOPLE BELIEVED **SONGLINES** ARE LIKE ARTERIES RUNNING THROUGH OUR LAND, KEEPING IT ALIVE.

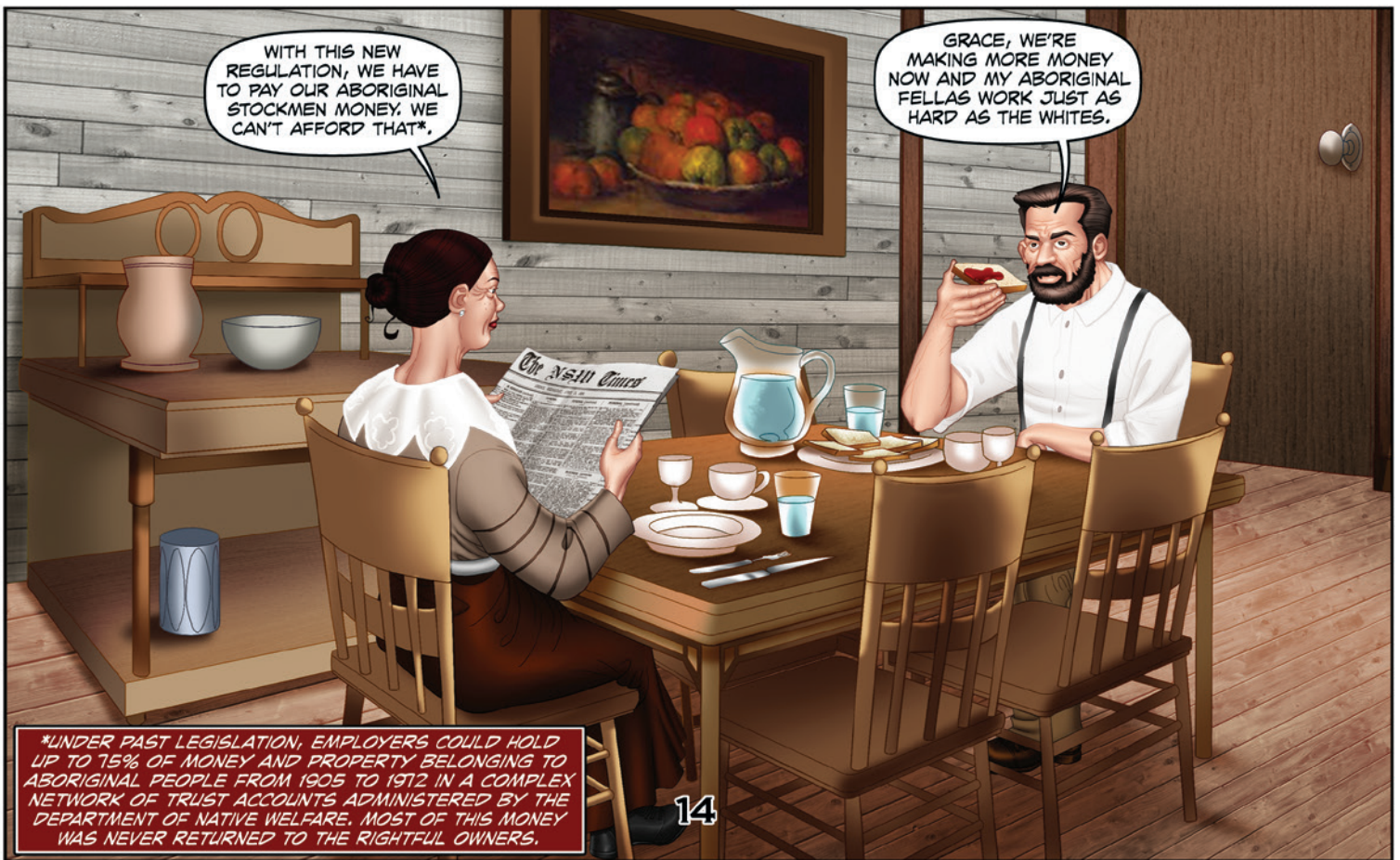


BACK IN THOSE DAYS OUR PEOPLE GOT PAID IN FLOUR, TEA AND SUGAR.



IN 1919, A NEW EMPLOYMENT REGULATION WAS BROUGHT IN BY THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT AS PART OF THE PROTECTION ACT*. IT WAS A STEP FORWARD FOR OUR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT IT WAS ALSO THE THING THAT CAUSED MANY OF OUR PEOPLE TO BE REMOVED FROM THEIR LAND.

*THE ABORIGINALS PROTECTION AND RESTRICTION OF THE SALE OF OPIUM ACT CREATED A ROLE FOR THE PROTECTORS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO ACT AS EMPLOYMENT BROKERS IN THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY LABOUR MARKET.



WITH THIS NEW REGULATION, WE HAVE TO PAY OUR ABORIGINAL STOCKMEN MONEY. WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT*.

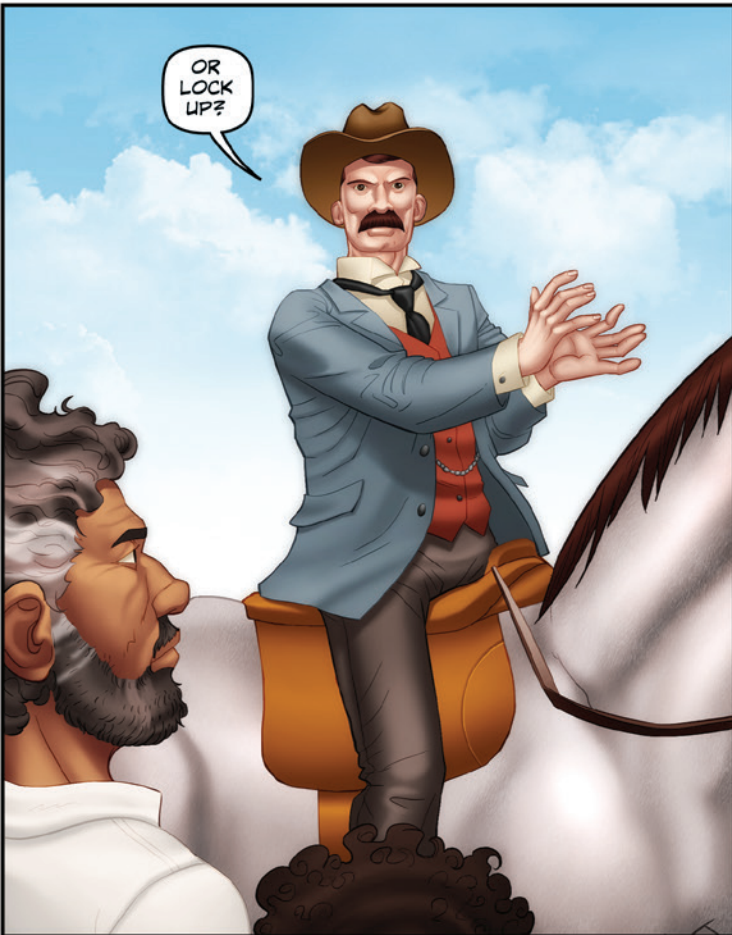
GRACE, WE'RE MAKING MORE MONEY NOW AND MY ABORIGINAL FELLAS WORK JUST AS HARD AS THE WHITES.

*UNDER PAST LEGISLATION, EMPLOYERS COULD HOLD UP TO 75% OF MONEY AND PROPERTY BELONGING TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE FROM 1905 TO 1912 IN A COMPLEX NETWORK OF TRUST ACCOUNTS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE. MOST OF THIS MONEY WAS NEVER RETURNED TO THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS.

A GOVERNMENT OFFICER CALLED A PROTECTOR TOLD US WHAT TO DO, WHEN WE COULD DO IT AND WHERE. THE GOVERNMENT MOB GAVE HIM POWER TO REMOVE US FROM OUR LAND.



JUST GET IN THAT CART!



OR LOCK UP?



SOLOMON'S SON GEORGE, YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER, WAS JUST A LITTLE FELLA THEN.

OUR PEOPLE WERE ROUNDED UP ALL OVER AUSTRALIA.



THE MISSIONS SPRANG UP EVERYWHERE.



LIKE MAGNETS PULLING OUR MOB...



...AWAY FROM OUR LAND, OUR SPIRIT...



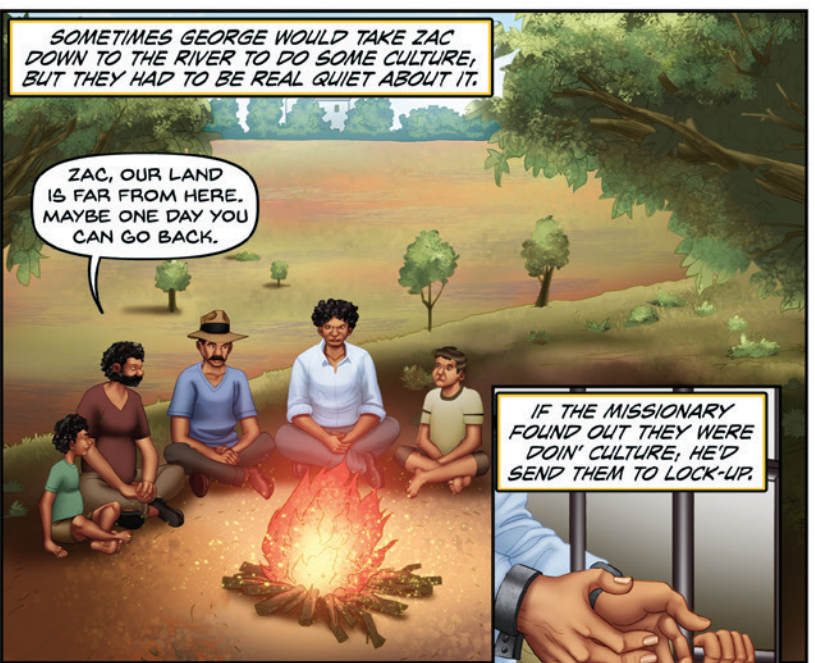
...INTO A FOREIGN CULTURE.



GEORGE GREW UP ON HILLDOWN MISSION AND EVENTUALLY HE GOT MARRIED TOO AND HAD YOUR GRANDFATHER, ZACARIAH.



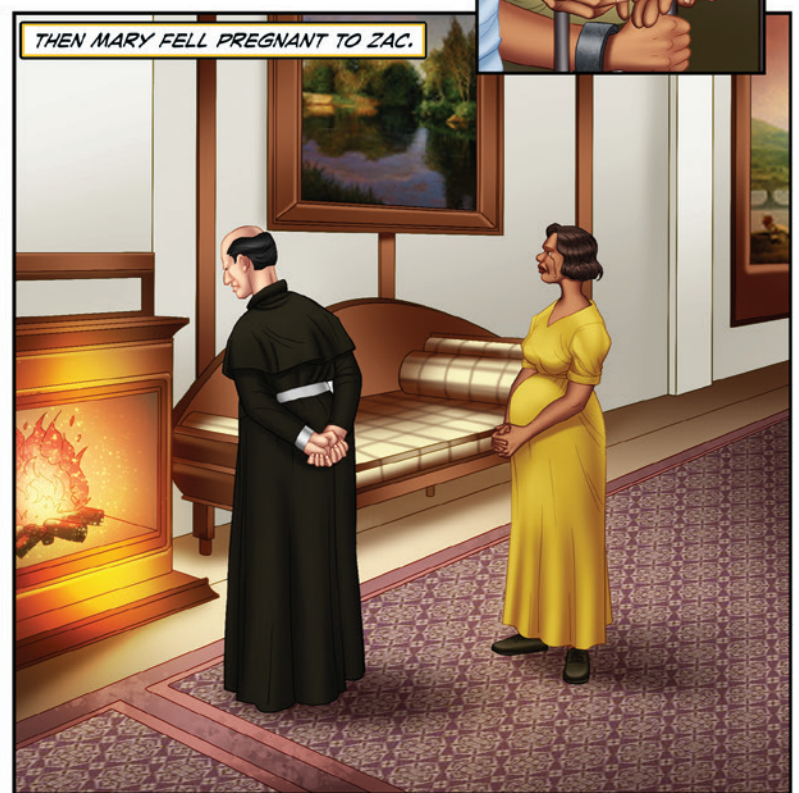
SOMETIMES GEORGE WOULD TAKE ZAC DOWN TO THE RIVER TO DO SOME CULTURE, BUT THEY HAD TO BE REAL QUIET ABOUT IT.



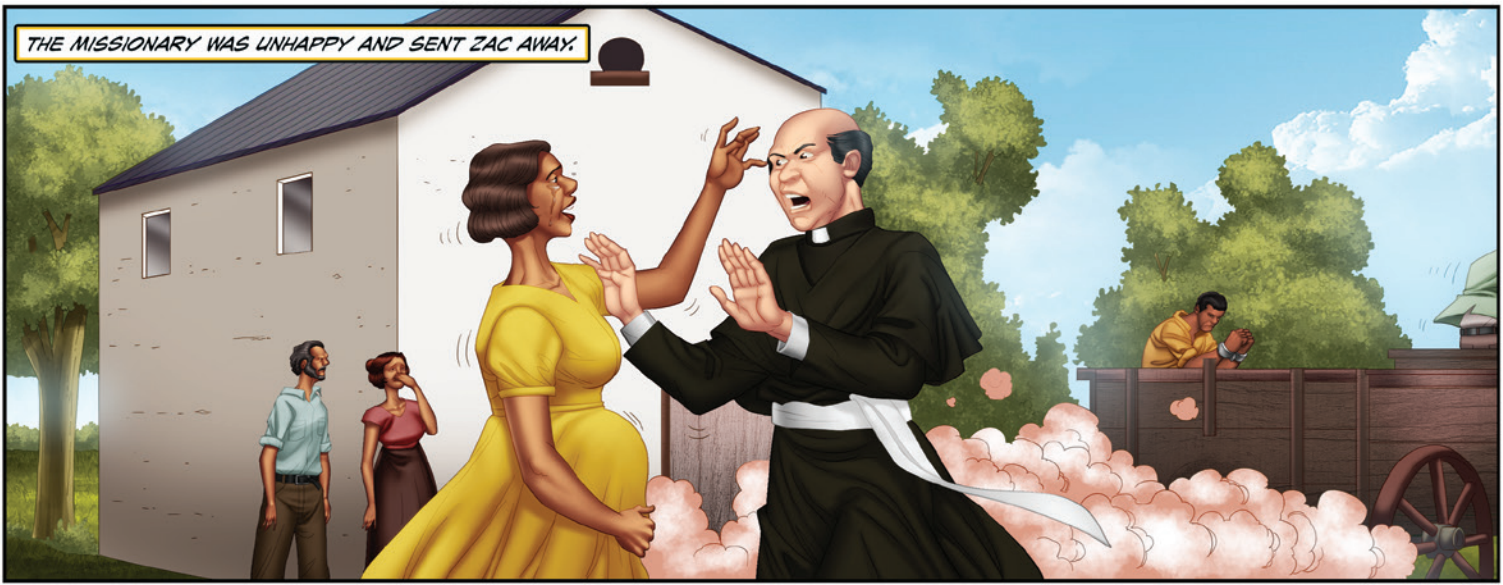
YOUR GRANDFATHER, ZAC, GREW UP ON THE MISSION, TOO. WHEN HE WAS 25, HE FELL IN LOVE WITH MARY, ONE OF THE MISSION'S ABORIGINAL MAIDS.



THEN MARY FELL PREGNANT TO ZAC.



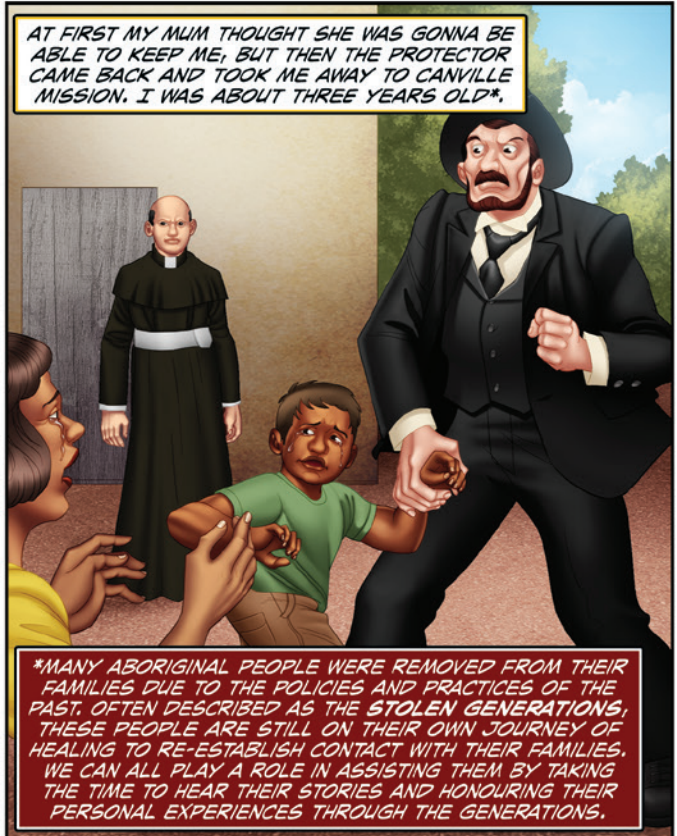
THE MISSIONARY WAS UNHAPPY AND SENT ZAC AWAY.



TWO MONTHS LATER I WAS BORN.



AT FIRST MY MUM THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA BE ABLE TO KEEP ME, BUT THEN THE PROTECTOR CAME BACK AND TOOK ME AWAY TO CANVILLE MISSION. I WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS OLD*.



*MANY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR FAMILIES DUE TO THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF THE PAST, OFTEN DESCRIBED AS THE **STOLEN GENERATIONS**. THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL ON THEIR OWN JOURNEY OF HEALING TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THEIR FAMILIES. WE CAN ALL PLAY A ROLE IN ASSISTING THEM BY TAKING THE TIME TO HEAR THEIR STORIES AND HONOURING THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE GENERATIONS.

I DIDN'T FIT IN AT CANVILLE MISSION, SO LATER I WAS TAKEN TO SHELTON BOYS HOME.



THE NUNS WERE VERY STRICT WITH US.



EVERYTHING HAD TO BE PERFECT.



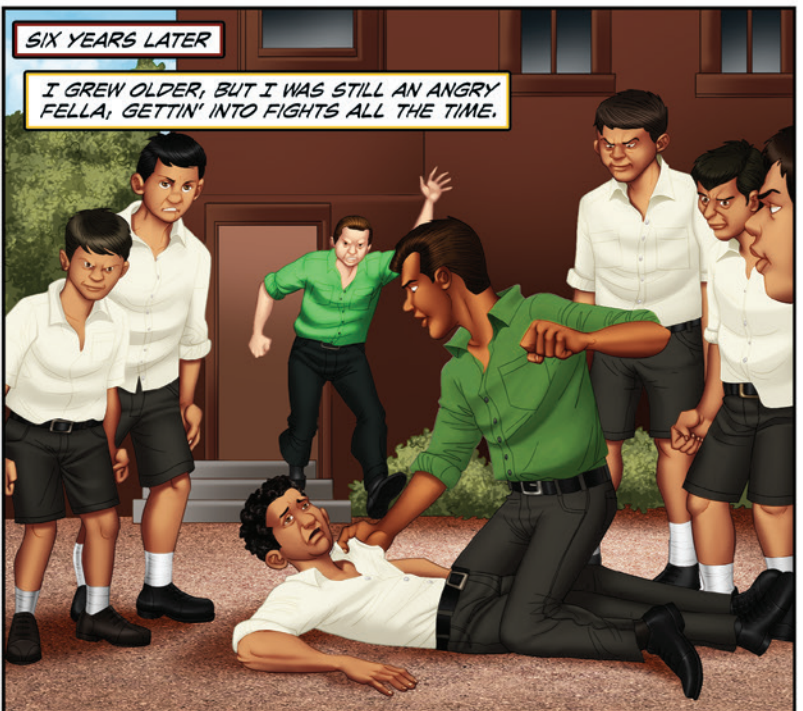
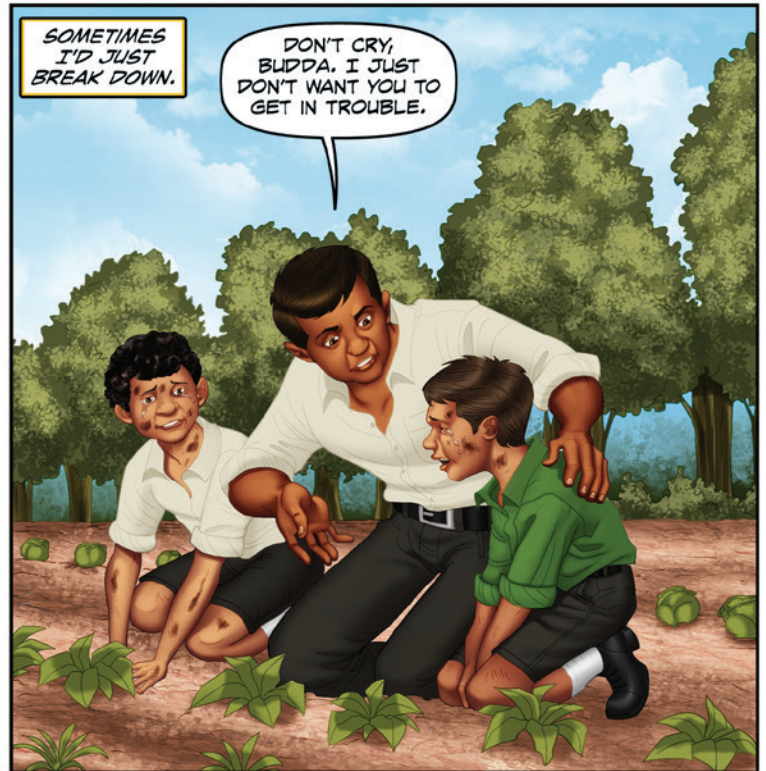
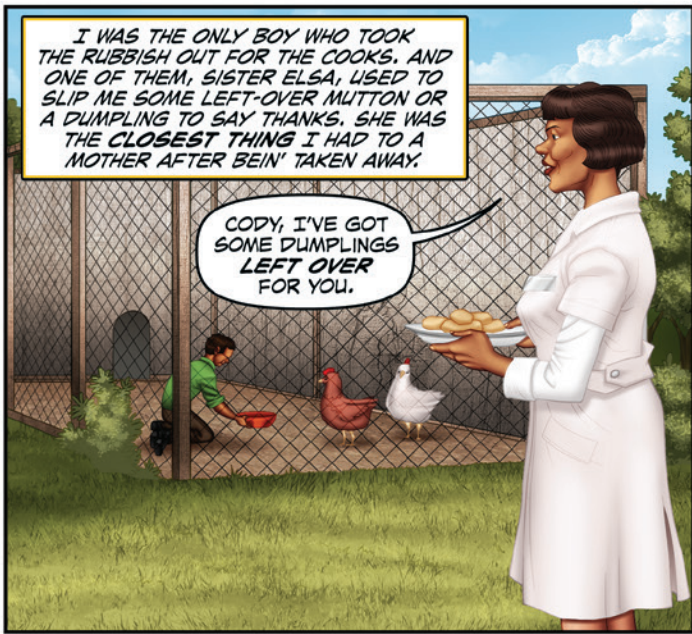
IF THEY CAUGHT US WITH DIRTY HANDS THEY'D SCRUB 'EM HARD WITH THESE BIG BRUSHES.



IT WAS A HARD LIFE AND WE MISSED OUR FAMILIES.*



*UNDER THE POLICIES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, MANY YOUNG ABORIGINAL BOYS AND GIRLS WERE REMOVED INTO HOMES ALL OVER AUSTRALIA.



Shelton
Boys Home

I WAS SENT FROM BOYS HOME TO BOYS HOME.

Boothure Boys Home

Eloundra Boys Homes

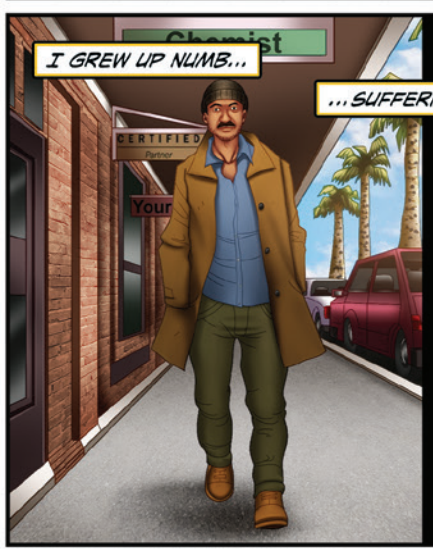


I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE, MARLEE, AND I SLEPT FROM COUCH TO COUCH...



...UNTIL I GOT KICKED OUT.

OR UNTIL I FOUND ANOTHER PLACE, AND IF THE COUCH WAS ALREADY TAKEN I'D JUST SLEEP ON THE FLOOR.



I GREW UP NUMB...

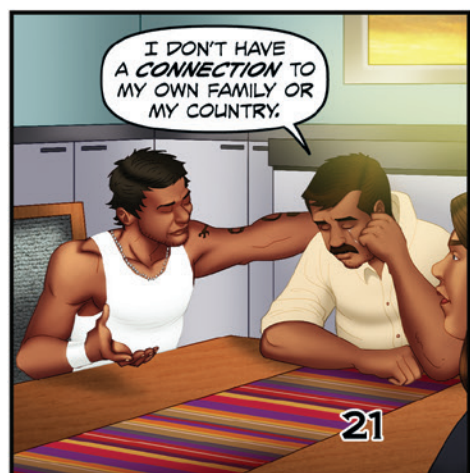
...SUFFERIN' IN SILENCE.



BUT I'M HELPIN' OTHER MEN NOW...



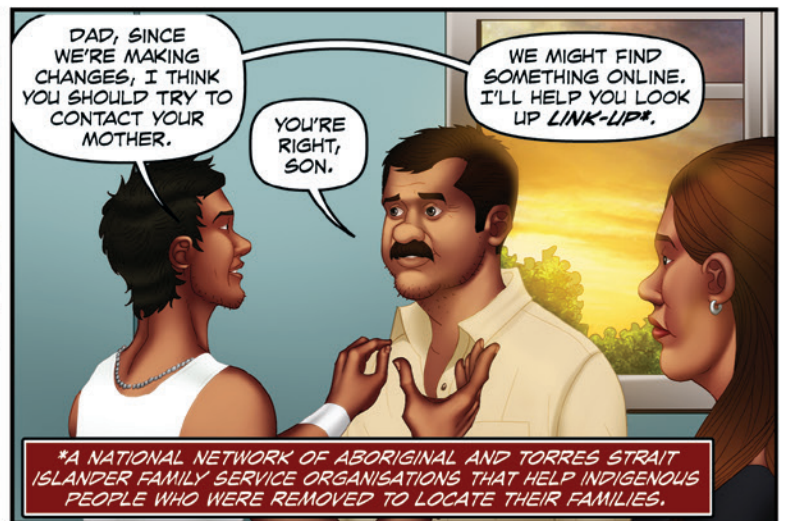
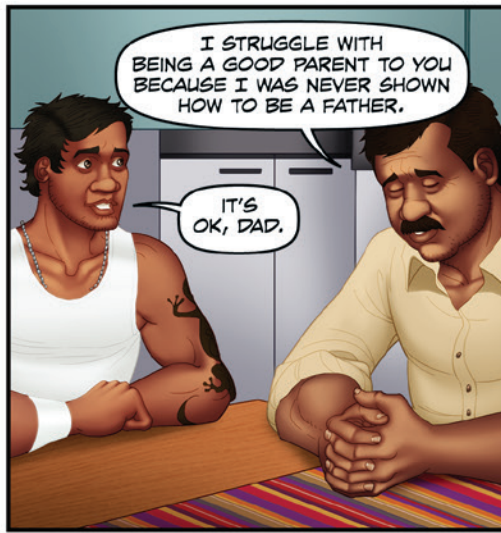
DAD, I NEVER KNEW OUR FAMILY WENT THROUGH ALL THAT.

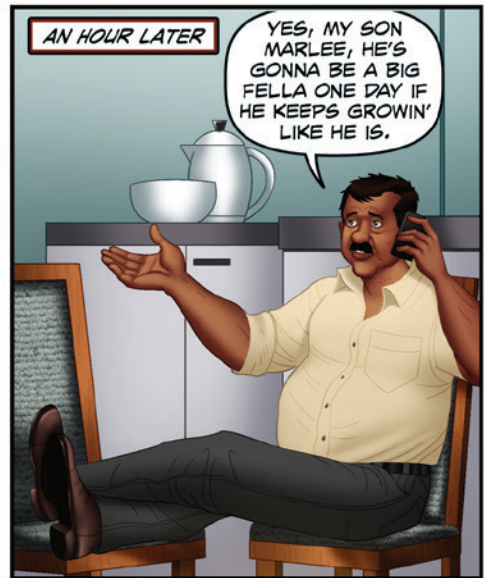


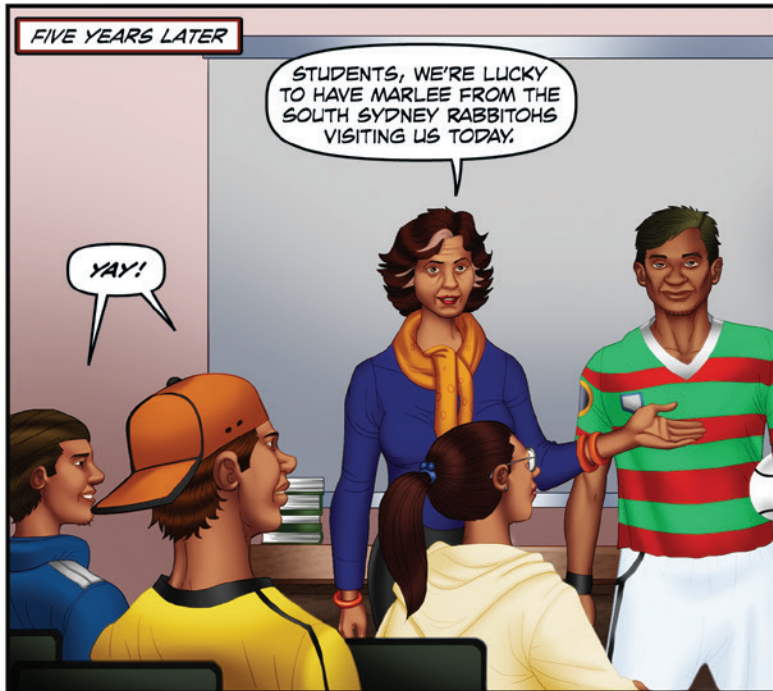
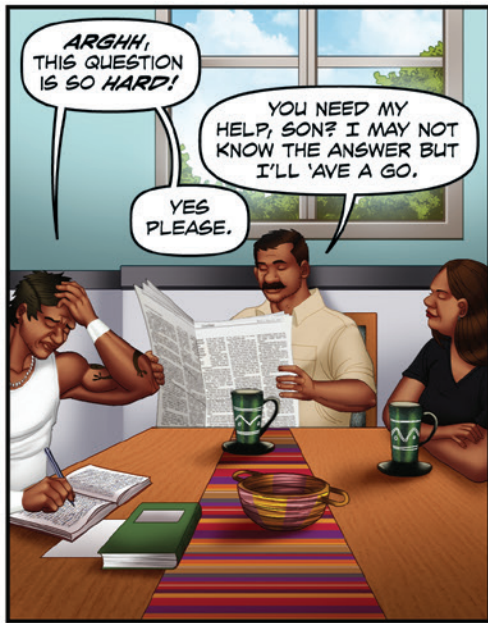
I DON'T HAVE A CONNECTION TO MY OWN FAMILY OR MY COUNTRY.



MY FAMILY WERE MY BROTHERS IN THE BOYS HOME, AND MY CONNECTION TO COUNTRY IS HERE, WHERE YOU AND MUM ARE TODAY.







Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation


The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on community-led healing solutions. Building culturally strong, community designed and delivered pathways to healing, the Healing Foundation:

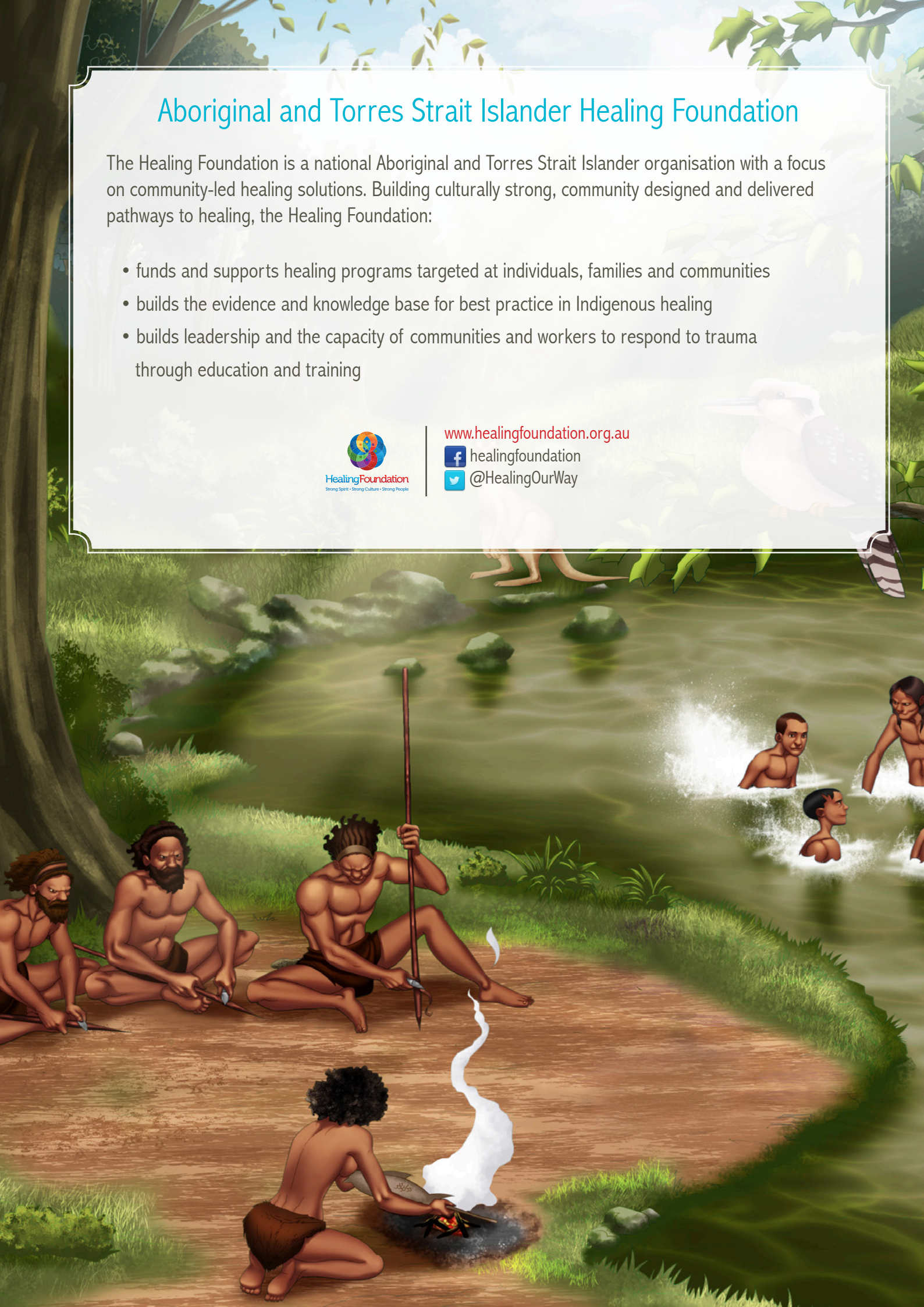
- funds and supports healing programs targeted at individuals, families and communities
- builds the evidence and knowledge base for best practice in Indigenous healing
- builds leadership and the capacity of communities and workers to respond to trauma through education and training



www.healingfoundation.org.au

 healingfoundation

 @HealingOurWay





We would like to thank the following talented people for their assistance in developing the storyline: Jaeden Calyun, Mark Munnich, Shonai Moffat, Blake Tatafu, Jasmin Onus, Julia Kaczmarek, Nina Shareen Ali, Jordan Jai Chapman, Katherine Hannah Johnson, Seini Telesia Sikalu, Kiani Gerhardt, Angie Tyson-Simpson, Berlina Szekely, Solomon Jesse Link, Sian McQueen, Marlee Donny Currie.