

2.4 STORIES ABOUT THE CULTURE

The story of Looma

written by Peter Skipper

The story from the Dreamtime of how the hills at Looma came to be there is a long one. Peter Skipper has written this condensed version of the flood and the blue tongue lizard (who was at the same time a woman) who drowned at the place known today as Looma.

Marninwarnti palu ngunangani jarlu yininga Kunajawurla ngapanga.
women they were before at name at Kunajarti at water

Jumunga palu ngarlka ngarnani.
at soak they nut were eating

Nyanartijangkarlu pilangu marnani, "Kayili
After that she to them was saying North

nyakanyakajipila marajinyalinykujarra. Kayili nyakanyakajipila
you two look for me North you two look for me

pimarlawurra marajinyalinykujarra. Kayili
distant flashes of lightning North

nyakanyakajipila pimarlawurra marajinyalinykujarra."
you two look for me distant flashes of lightning

Wali marni pilarla, "Ngana man jularnana."
Alright said they to her What you telling

Marni, "Ngajirta. Yarr marna marnana ngaju." "Ya," marni
said No Just I am saying I Oh said

pilarla marninjarrarlul. Turtangkarrakanya pila ngarlkakarti.
they to her two women got up and went they two to nuts

Ngarlka pila warntarni. Nyanarti marnin pa wurna yanany.
nut they two got that woman she walk goes

Kayili marri kangany parlanyanu ngarlka mapirrini. Nyanarti
north far carries she for herself nut also that

ngapa nyangany mamayimarnanujungka. Nyanarti ngapa pa
rain sees from lightning flashes that rain it

mamayimarnani. Jininyarajaa pukanyja pa mamayimarnani. Nira
flashes day time and night it flashes always

kumantawarlany kumantawarlany pa mamayimarnani jininyarajaa
each morning each morning it flashes day time and

pukanyja nira nyanarti. Marnin pa yanany puran. Ngapa
night always that woman she goes past rain

ngajirta nyakarla marnintu. Nganga pa yanany.
not saw woman astray she goes

Walimpa pa nyanya ngapa, kurnakwantinyurla pa nyanya,
later she saw rain after turning round she saw

ngapa lurrujawurlu. Wali tarlakurrjawurlu pa pajani ngapa
rain thirsty alright with axe she chopped water

manangajangka ngapa nyanarti. Ngapa pa ngunangani mananga
from tree water that water it was in tree

purlkanga, yangkala pajani marnintu ngapa nyanarti.
big so that chopped woman water that

Wali turtapungani ngapa manajangka, yangkala
alright arose water from tree so that

yimpirlmarnani ngapa. Nyanartijangkarlu pa marnintu ngartakani
spilled water after that she woman made

yini parla Jiljimirnti ngartakani marnintu. Wali ngapa nyanarti
name its Jiljimirnti made woman alright water that

pa parayananiwarlanyparni. Ngapangu pa ngirrkarra ngarnani
it kept rising water it full up was eating

ngapangu.
water

Wali marnintu pa luka ngartakpani wamarn. Yutukani
alright woman she mud made around put

luka nyanarti pa ngapangu ngarni luka. Nyanartijangkarlu pa
mud that she water ate mud After that she

jarti ngartakani luka marnintu. Yininga Tiyatiyarla pa
in vain made mud woman at name at Tiyatiya she

ngunangani. Nyanartijangkala pa ngapangu karrartakujirni, wurnala
was after that it water scared then move

pa jawumarni karla. Wali jurumani manyanu kaparn yininga
she swam west alright waited she half way at name

Parralanurla manyanu jurumani. Wali jakarni pa karla,
at hill at Paradise she waited alright started she west

jawumarni karlarrara wurna.
swam west move

Wali yarntarni manyanu jurumani kaparn yininga
Alright again she waited half way at name

Pilla manyanu jurumani yininga Pilla Wumpumpirri yini.
at Pil she waited at name at Pil at Wumpumpirri name

Wumpumpirri pa yukarni. Nyanarti yini parla lungkurra.
at Wumpumpirri she lay that name her blue tongue lizard

Turtangkarrakanya wurna karla. Yarntarni pa jawumani karlarrara
got up and went move west again she swam west

ngapanga purlkanga. Ngapanga pa jawumarni. Yapawarnti
in water big in water she swam children

mapirri ni manya kanya yapa lumangu yiningu
also she-them carried child blue tongue lizard name

lumangu manya kanya. Jarnakanya manya yapawarnti.
luma she-them carried carry on back she-them children

Parunga manya jarnakanya yapa. Wali yarntarni manyanu
on back she-them carry on back child alright again she

jurumani yininga Mulumanta yini Mulumanta. Wali jurumani
waited at name Mulumanta name Mulumanta. alright waited

manyanu nyanawurla Mulumanta pamarra. Layimirri manyanu
she there Mulumanta at rock once she

jurumani, nyanartijangka turtangkarrakanya kulila jawumarni
waited after that got up and went south swam

pamarrwarlanykarti purlkakarti pamarra. Wali ngapangu ngarnani
to another rock to big rock alright water ate

nyanarti marnin. Nyanartuwarnti yapawarnti palu jawumarni
that woman those children they swam

pamarrakarti karlarrara. Nyanartu marnin pa ngapangu ngarnani,
to rock west that woman she water ate

yini parla luma ngapangu ngarnani luma Yini luma ngarnani
name her luma water ate luma name luma ate

ngapangu. Wali puju.
water alright finish

Three women used to live at the waterhole called Kunajarti a long time ago. They used to drink from the soak there. Once one of them said to the other two, "You two watch out for me in the north where the lightning flashes." They said to her, "What are you talking about?" and she answered, "Nothing, I'm just talking."

The two women set off to look for ngarlka nuts and the other woman walked off to the north to get ngarlka nuts for herself. The lightning was flashing in the distance all day and night and the woman went past it. She didn't notice it and went on.

Later when she was thirsty she turned around and saw the lightning. She chopped a big tree with an axe. There was water in the tree and it came up out of the tree and spilled out over the top. The woman then named the place Jiljimirnti.

The water kept on rising until it covered everything. The woman made a wall of mud to try and stop it but the water covered the mud too. It was not enough to stop the water. That place is called Tiyatiya. She was afraid of the water and started to swim west. She paused at Parralanu, then swam again to the west. She stopped again at Pil which is also called Wumpumpirri and she slept there. (This woman was the blue tongue lizard). She moved off again to the west swimming in the flood water. She was carrying her children on her back while she swam. She paused again at the hill called Mulumanta and waited there one day, then she swam south to another big hill. It was there that she drowned and the children swam to a rock in the west (and were saved). The woman, the blue tongue lizard, died there in the water.

Note: The children can be seen as small rocks on top of the large hill at Looma. The woman, the blue tongue lizard, who drowned, is represented by the sandhill nearby.