Murray Butcher, storyteller

‘This is a Creation story about how the moon, and how other animals came to be, in a time Paakantji people called purli wilpinya. It was a special time; a time of creation, when stars, the hills, the creeks, the rivers, the people and the animals came to be. This was a time when everything was new and strange. People could be animals, animals could be people, and they could all change their form.

‘This story I’m telling you is a story passed to me by my grandmother. When a person’s been through law, they get told a more detailed version of the story, so each age group has different levels of the story that can be taught. I want you Paakantji and Ngiyampaa (Ngee-am-paa) kids to learn your stories, to remember where you’re from and who you are, and be proud.

‘Australia, I’d like you to appreciate and respect Aboriginal people and their ways when you travelling through your country Australia, our Country too. You travelling through sacred lands, lands that have history, that have stories, that have spirit, and these things should be respected to be fully appreciated.’

Glossary:

Creation story—an Aboriginal story that explains the creation of the land, plants, animals and the laws people should live by

purli wilpinya—the Paakantji word for Dreamtime; in Aboriginal belief, this is the time long ago when special people, animals and spirits created the Country and all the things in it

been through law—passed through an initiation ceremony that has given you the right to access different parts of secret knowledge

Ngiyampaa—another language group who also live around Wilcannia
Patjuka told him, ‘You’re not getting any emu. Go and look for wild bananas.’ The next day, Patjuka decided to take Punu to look for tree grubs. They went to Tartna Point, down past Menindee, where there were a lot of box trees and a young gum tree.

Glossary:
- **gecko**—a small, flat lizard
- **waaka-linya**—uncle and nephew
- **ceremony**—the acts performed on certain sacred occasions
- **box trees**—a type of eucalyptus tree