

Support Materials for Ricky Buchanan – Scott's Head Dreaming

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1. Glossary of terms from the story

Gumbaynggirr: the traditional language of Aboriginal custodians of the region including Scotts Head and Bowraville where Ricky is from.

Wirriiga: the two goanna sisters who are central to the Dreaming story

Bunggirr: the two Koala brothers who are central to the story

Baalijin: the quoll (nocturnal marsupial) who is the trouble maker in the story

Muniimba: "become stone" the words that B said to save himself from the waves

Ngaarluwa: the word the younger sister said as moved north and she struck the ground and water came out

Giduorra: the words the older sister said as she struck the ground and sand came out

Terms pertaining to aspects of kinship that Ricky refers to and students should know.
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https://www.commonground.org.au/learn/kinship-systems

Kinship: determines how everyone relates to one another, as well as their roles, responsibilities and obligations regarding one another, the environment and ceremony

Moiety: According to moiety, everything is split in half. This includes you and your environment. Each half of these entities are a mirror of each other. To understand the whole universe, the two halves must come together to form a whole. You can share the same moiety as other people. If you do share the same moiety, you are considered siblings, and thus, are *forbidden to marry*. Having the same Moiety also means having a duty to reciprocally support one another.

Totems: link a person to the physical universe: to land, water, geographical features, and animals. Although family, clan and nation totems exist before a person is born, an individual totem will recognise personal weakness or strength. Individuals are accountable to their totems and must ensure these totems are protected and passed on to future generations.

Songlines: trace the journeys of ancestral spirits as they created the land, animals and lore (customs and stories of the Dreamtime) (<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/songlines-indigenous-memory-code/7581788>)
The spirits of the Wirriiga Sisters are believed by the Gumbaynggirr to have entered this songline.

2. Summary of the story for teacher background and for students to use as a guide for their own research

Dreaming story summary: “Inextricable connection between Dreaming, the land and identity” (Syllabus)	
Place	The story takes place in Scotts Head – north coast NSW
Traditional custodians	the Gumbaynggirr people whose lands stretch from the Nambucca River in the South to around the Clarence River in the North and the Great Dividing Range in the West
Language	Gumbaynggirr
Story focus	How the landscape of Scotts Head was re-shaped when the sea level changed – why this was the case
Brief story summary	8000 years ago the sea level was much lower in this region. Ricky references that this has been proven by science. During this time, the Gumbaynggirr would go far out (50 – 100m) from where the beach is now to forage. One day while people were out there, the Bunggirr (Koala) brothers who were the “clever men” of the tribe, were practicing boomerang throwing when they realised that the sea level was rising. They warned the tribe and threw “their strings” (their intestines) across the water. This formed a land bridge for the people to cross back to safety. This is part of the mural shown in the video – multi-coloured dot lines joining the tribe to the land. This formation is now the southern headland of Scotts Head. While the people were out foraging, the Wirriiga (Goanna) sisters who had remained back on what is now the beach were being harassed by a quoll, the trouble maker Baalijin. He was also teasing the ocean whose waves grew angrier, their white caps becoming like teeth. Baalijin wanted to marry one of the sisters but according to kinship and moiety obligations she was the wrong choice. The sisters gathered two digging sticks and started striking the ground which caused sand and water to rise up – this changed the sea level and alerted the tribe to their danger. As they struck the ground they chanted Ngaarluwa, Giduurra over and over. Having saved the tribe, the Bunggirr brothers summoned the ocean to use its waves from the south and the north to trap the Baalijin as punishment for the way he had treated it and the sisters. In order to save himself, Baalijin shouted “Muniimba” and turned into a rock which remains as a prominent landform at Scotts Head. The sisters continued travelling around Australia striking the ground while chanting and causing sand and water to appear. When their work was done they returned to Coffs Harbour (near Scotts Head) and their spirits entered the Pleiades star cluster which is known as the Seven Sisters Songline
How the story exhibits connection between Dreaming, land and Identity	Ricky Buchanan (Gumbaynggirr educator and youth leader): “The stories about these locations have meanings underneath. They take a long time to learn and I’m always finding new meaning. Our lives are governed by these messages. They tell us: - what is right and wrong - who you can talk to and who you can’t - who you can marry and you can’t - who we should look after and respect – aunties, uncles, parents, grandparents.” NB connection to all aspects of kinship Examples from the story of the above: Bunggirr brothers: are the example of how to respect and care for family and the environment: - saved the tribe from the rising ocean - respected their sisters and the ocean who were being taunted by Baalijin Wirriiga sisters: similarly show respect for family and tradition - they knew that marriage with Baalijin was wrong as was his teasing of the ocean - they teach responsibility for protecting others – their warning that the sea was rising. The stories remind are a reminder of “the ripple effect” for good that we are challenged to make. Ricky reminds us that we each have to keep learning, especially about different people and cultures and that we have to use this knowledge to work together for a more inclusive, harmonious and respectful world.
Research references	Ricky Buchanan Scotts Head Dreaming story video + notes taken during the filming project in November 2019

3. Summary table template for student research

Dreaming story summary: “Inextricable connection between Dreaming, the land and identity” (Syllabus)	
Place	
Traditional custodians	
Language	
Focus of the story	
Brief story summary	
How the story informs identity	
Research sources – for bibliography	