SONG BOOK

Children's Services Office
Northern Country Region
1 Stirling Road
Port Augusta 5700
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HOME

(Verse 1)
The Aborigines they build a bush Wiltja,
Made out of leaves and boughs.
It stopped the wind from trying to get in,
That's what Aborigines called their house.

(Verse 2)
The Aborigines lived in a big,
cave with sand and overhanging stones.
They'd have a fire inside,
Keep warm with possums hide.
And that's what they called their,
Dreamtime home.

(Verse 3)
The Aborigines can live like a white man,
In a house within the city square.
It doesn't seem to bother him
With traffic making all the din,
With cars and buses going everywhere.

(Verse 4)
Yes, we can live in a house.
Like the rest of society,
But if I had to go back
Where the mulga grows
I bet it wouldn't bother me.

(Chorus)
But now they live in a house,
With hot and cold water taps,
With carpet on the floor and a polished oak door,
With a welcome mat just above the steps.
TURRAMULLI THE GIANT QUINKIN

In the Dreamtime .......
Yalanji people, lived in Cape York,
They were skillful hunters,
Gathers of fruit and honey,
They lived in fear of this sound.

Chorus

Turramulli, the Giant Quinkin,
Ate everything he saw in sight,
As he hunted for his prey,
Made an awful sound,
A sound that was feared by all

Repeat Chorus

Moonbi and his sister
Went with Mum and Dad
Out, one day to look for food,
They gathered food,
Until they heard the sound
Of Turramulli closing in on them.

Repeat Chorus

Moonbi and his sister,
Was chased by Turramulli
Up and down Quinkin Mountain
Warrenby and Margara watched in fear
Turramullie chasing their children

Repeat Chorus

The children then fell,
Off Quinkin Mountain
And Turramulli falling with

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CHILDREN OF THE BUSH

Chorus

Ah we
Are the children of the bush
We walk through the seasons,
As they change around us,
And we,
Like to gather bush tucker,
When we put it in our tummies,
It makes us feel good.

Verse 1
I like to munch on a mayaka, mayaka, mayaka,
I like to munch on a mayaka,
It's like a little green banana.

Verse 2
I like the taste of minnera, minnera, minnera,
I like the taste of minnera,
It's like a tiny red raspberry.

Verse 3
I like to suck an iga, iga, iga,
I like to such an iga,
It's like a wild oranges.

Chorus

Verse 4
I like to chew nguri, nguri, nguri
I like to chew nguri,
It's gum from an acacia tree.

Verse 5
I like to swallow a witchery grub, witchery grub, witchery grub,
I like to swallow a witchery grub,
It's a little white worm and it lives in a log.

Chorus

Verse 6
I like to live in Nepabunna, Nepabunna, Nepabunna,
I like to live in Nepabunna,
It's a beautiful place to be.

Chorus

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YULA'S SONG

At Leigh Creek there's a fire burning underground,
And today it's a place where all our coal is found,
It was the Kingfisher's way of letting people know,
    That he as coming down,
To a big ceremony down south at Wilpena Pound.

Chorus
Yula, Yulura, an old man who was so free,
He came over from the Queenie territory,
Down to Wilpena to start a corroboree,
    Yula Yulura he came for a ceremony.

Adnyamathanha's called it Yula's coal,
    Before white man ever came,
Although the years have passed,
The story has never ever changed,
When Yula Yulura's fire died out,
    Where the northern Flinders roll,
There's a township called Leigh Creek,
    Where they dig up Yulu's coal.

Chorus
Yula, Yulara, an old man who was so free,
He came over here from the Queenie territory,
Down to Wilpena to start a corroboree,
    Yula Yulura he came for a ceremony.

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TIDDLIK

Tiddalik the big, green frog,
spends all day sitting on a log.
In the mornings and the evenings too,
he likes to sing a little song to you.
He goes CROAK, CROAK, CROAK, CROAK, CROAK, CROAK, CROAK, CROAK, CROAK

Tiddalik one day was dry,
he hadn't had a drink for a long, long time.
He drank up the rivers and he drank up the streams
and the lakes and the waterholes it seems.
He went GULP, GULP, GULP, GULP, GULP, GULP, GULP, GULP

Soon the land was very dry,
the birds and the animals thought they might die,
They walked across the desert and the dry creek beds
and gather 'round Tiddalik and all at once said,
"We want to DRINK, DRINK, DRINK, DRINK, DRINK, DRINK, DRINK, DRINK, DRINK."

The wombat said, "Let's make him laugh.
He'll giggle out the water and we'll all take a bath".
So they danced and they tickled and they pranced all around
but all old Tiddalik could do was frown.
He went FROWN, FROWN, FROWN, FROWN, FROWN, FROWN, FROWN, FROWN, FROWN.

The kookaburra laughed and the kangaroo hopped
and the little koala did a bop-she-bop.
The emu said, "The splits are fun".
but landed up sitting on his rum-tum-tum.
He said, "OCH, UCH, OCH, UCH, OUCH, OUCH, OUCH, OUCH, OUCH, OUCH.

But still old Tiddalik would not smile,
even at the antics of the crocodile.
Just when the animals had given up hope,
along came the snake sliding down the slope.
He went WEEEEM, WEEMEEM, WEEMEEM, YAHOO!

Old snakey did a dance like you've never seen before.
He slithered and he quivered and he shook some more.
He turned into a spiral and he twisted around
and Tiddalik started to lose the frown.
He went HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA

Tiddalik did a big belly laugh
and animals said, "Here comes our bath."
He gushed and he fought and drank and drank
but poor old Tiddalik shrank and shrank.
They went SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLASH,

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THE OLD MAN

An old man sits daydreaming,
About the days gone by,
Of all the things he'd done,
When he was young,
The things that he remembers,
Being teardrops to his eyes,
And what he told me,
Makes me realise.

(Chorus)

Back in the older days,
When they had their tribal ways,
Where the law was so strict and strong,
Everyone had to obey and so no-one went astray,
'Cos the law would not permit them to go wrong.

These modern days he said to me,
The young have gone astray,
Drinking wine and fighting all the time.
Stripped of all their dignity,
And the pride that they once had,
And they wonder why they make,
This old man sad.

Chorus
NEPABUNNA SONG

(Verse 1)
There’s a place eastward of Copley,
Where the Yuras settled down,
After leaving from Ram Paddock, years ago,
You can see the hills and valleys if you gaze around,
Its the only place for me because I know.

(Chorus)
Nepabunna in the Flinders, I'll always call my home,
Its on a rocky hill by a creek, with tall gum trees,
In the summer its hot and dusty, but when the sun goes down,
The night is cool with a gentle southern breeze.

(Verse 2)
Sometimes I used to go down to the water hole,
Where the cool water would ripple through the sands,
And in the afternoons I'd go for a ride on my donkey,
To me this is Adjamathanha's Land.

(Chorus)
Nepabunna in the Flinders, I'll always call my home,
Its on a rocky hill by a creek, with tall gum trees,
In the summer its hot and dusty, but when the sun goes down,
The night is cool with a gentle southern breeze.

(Verse 3)
I recall an old man singing, a yura's tribal song,
While carving boomerangs from a mulga tree,
The warmness from his camp fire, would keep me from the cold,
While he shared an ancient story with me.
IMAGINE

I can imagine how the Yuras
lived here long ago,
With perfect harmony in the land that
they loved so,
And the old folks telling stories to the
children who sat around,
By a camp fire at night at a Yuras camping ground.

Chorus:
I wish I could go back in time
Way back in the good old days,
So I could understand how to live the tribal ways,
I can imagine how I'd be living with my family,
I know I'd be so happy and free.

I can imagine a good season with native fruit on the trees,
Climbing gums for witchery grubs with the greatest of ease,
On the Acacia there would be nguri,
The glow of tarnished gold,
And wild life in abundance way back in the days of old.

Chorus:
I can imagine the old wise man chanting
Songs for us to hear,
Tapping wadnas while he's singing with a voice
so loud and clearly,
And the children playing around at a Yuras
camping ground,
In a country a place I love so dear.

Chorus
THE MAGPIE AND THE CROW SONG

A long, long time ago,
The magpie and the crow,
Had feathers just like the white cockatoo.
The eagle used to dance and sing,
But those cheeky birds used to copy him,
He got tired of this so into the sky he flew.

Then one day an idea came,
To the wise old eagle,
He'd invite those birds for a party inside a cave.
Those cheeky birds yelled,
"We'll come to your party",
And later on inside you could hear them rant and rave.

So the eagle lit a fire,
Right inside that cave,
To burn those birds who had mocked him for so long.
The magpie escaped and was partly burnt,
But the crow was too slow,
And that's how they learnt you must respect your elders.
That's the moral of this song.

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THUKERI SONG (by George Trevorrow)

I will sing to you a song about two Ngarrindjeri men
Who went fishing on the lake one day
To their favourite fishing spot in their little bard canoe
They slowly travelled on their way.

When they reached Loveday Bay on that lovely sunny day
They tied the canoe to the reeds
And with their fishing lines that we really call nungi
They began to prepare for the day.

(Chorus 1)
Grubs and worms upon the hooks, many thukeri they did hook
The canoe was getting very full
So they said we must stop because we have a lot
So they started to travel to the shore.

As they slowly paddled in a stranger came to them
Whom they’d seen in the distance far away
So they covered up this fish with the rushes woven mats
They were greedy men and didn’t want to share.

The stranger said to them you are Ngarrindjeri men
I am hungry can I have some fish to eat?
But the greedy men said no we haven’t go enough
We’ve got children, wives and many old folks too.

(Chorus 2)
The stranger looked at them and began to walk away
Then he stopped and turned around and said to them
You are very greedy men you are telling me a lie You have many fish and do not want to share.

The two men were puzzled they didn’t understand
Till they tried to clean the lovely thukeri
They were so full of bones, that when the men went home
They were shamed and did not want to tell.

They sat down with the elders and told them what they’d done
The elders called the man Ngurunderi
Because of what they’d done, he cursed the thukeri
Now the thukeri are full of tiny bones.

(Chorus 3)
A lesson you will learn while listening to this song
Don’t be greedy and never tell a lie
For that one time lovely fish that we call the thukeri
Was cursed by the great Ngurunderi

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WINDA THE OWL

(Verse 1)
Winda was an owl in the land of the Narrunga,
His home was in the cliffs, right beside the Wauwa.
He lived with two big Gudlis, and Winda would go hunting with them,
Then one day the came across the Tuketjas,
And their five young children.

(Verse 2)
Winda saw the old Tuketja’s leaving,
Then he ordered his two big Gudli’s
Go over and kill the Tuketja’s young and,
They both obeyed no worries.
So when the Tuketja’s returned they both cried at what they saw,
It was the work of the Gudli’s for sure.

(Verse 3)
Father Tuketja marched to the cliffs,
To seek out the cruel Owl Winda.
And on his way he met a kangaroo,
So he told the sad story to this Nuntha.
Then they both went together up to the cave,
And the Nuntha killed the Gudli’s in a fight.
And Tuketja cursed Winda the Owl,
To only come out in the darkness of night.

(Verse 4)
Winda was an Owl,
In the land of the Narrunga.
His home was in the cliffs,
Right beside the Wauwa.
Now he only comes out at night,
He can’t stand the sun in his eyes.
And the Tuketja’s still mourn for their young
With loud howling cries.

(Chorus)
Winda was an owl,
In the land of the Narrunga.
His home was in the cliffs,
Right beside the Wauwa.

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OH! MY WARLLA!

(Verse 1)
If I saw a kangaroo or a great big feathery emu,
I’d chase them with my twenty two, then make a tasty stew.

(Verse 2)
If I saw a wallaby,
Or a great big juicy witchetty,
I’d cook them up just for me,
Then go to sleep under a big gum tree.

(Verse 3)
Then I woke up in my bed,
With all this bush tucker in my head,
So I’ll have a coke and pizza instead,
But then I turned around and said "yaki-Ngachu-Warlla"?

(Chorus)
Oh! My Warlla!
It’s rumblin’, it’s tumbling’,
Oh! My Warlla!
It’s rumblin’, like a big bass drum,
Du-du-du-du-du-du-du-du,
I’m dreamin’, I’m dreamin’, I’m dreamin’,
Du-du-du-du-du-du,
Then I woke up.

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WILPENA POUND

(Verse 1)
When I was just a kid I used to play around,
The Flinders Range Mountain I called home,
And whenever a summer rain would fall,
The creeks they’s all come down,
And I’d sit and watch the water flow,
Down the gullies of Wilpena Pound.

(Verse 2)
I’d walk around the hill sides like any kid would do,
Throwing stones into the gum trees,
At the crows and the cockatoos,
It was just one great playground,
From dawn til sun went down,
Near the foothills of the place I love,
Called Wilpena Pound.

(Verse 3)
Big mountain I think of you,
Where as a kid, I used to roam,
When I see your pictures in post-cards,
I feel like coming home,
But now I’m living far way,
But sometimes when I lay down,
I close my eyes and come back to you,
Big Mountain, Wilpena Pound.

(Chorus)
Big mountain you mean so much to me,
You stand there in your glory,
You’ve got a place in history,
The old Adnyamathanha people told me stories about you,
That’s why I always feel so glad just to see you so misty blue.

(Chorus and repeat last line)

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BLUE RUGGED MOUNTAINS

(Verse 1)
Blue rugged mountain, clear starry nights,
Wildlife all round you, what a beautiful sight,
Big shady old gum trees and native pines,
Hear the birds all singin' in the mornin' sunlight.

(Verse 2)
Colourful rolling plains with white flowers in the spring,
Camp by a creek-bed and listen to the crickets sing,
So, do what I always do, roll your swag and leave town,
Go up to the Flinders where you can just laze around.

(Chorus)
It's good to go home back to the Flinders,
I feel so peaceful when I'm travelin' out there,
From Mt Brown right out to Arkaroola,
I feel much brighter when I breathe in that fresh, country air.

(Chorus - change line 3 to:
"From Wilpena right up to Mount Chambers" and repeat last line)

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ADNYAMATHANHA SONG

(Verse 1)
The Adnyamathanha people used to roam so freely,
Around the country they knew oh so well,
Around the shadows of Artuwarapana Mountain,
Not far from the eagle shaped hill.

(Verse 2)
Natural food and water they had plenty,
And they grew up so healthy and so strong,
And the old people held their initiations,
To show the young ones what was right from wrong.

(Verse 3)
Then one day white man came into their country,
Strangers from a different part of this world,
They came and took away all the things that black man owned,
And built a station down on Mount Searle.

(Verse 4)
The white man said it was wrong how the blacks were living,
And they had to show them the European ways,
Yes, they came and took away all the things Yura owned,
and put sheep and cattle on their land to graze.

(Verse 5)
(Repeat Verse 1, starting with Yes, and repeat last line)

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EMU AND TURKEY

The wala is the wild turkey
The emu is the warranti
And that's what Adnyamathanha called them years ago.

They were happy along,
Until jealousy came along,
And her's what happened many years ago.

The warranti tricked the wild turkey,
Told her to kill her babies,
And leave only two to care for.

Then showed wala all her chicks,
And laughed about her dirty trick,
Many, many, many years ago.

The wala went away very mad,
And thought about a way to make emu sad,
And this is what wala planned to do.

She told emu she had cut her wings,
And said you should do the same,
So warranti fell for wala's dirty trick.

Wala then flapped her wings,
Flew up high and laughed and sang,
And left emu standing never to fly again.

The moral of this song
Is never to trick anyone,
'cos someone could play a dirty trick on you.

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Tjilbruke
Words and Music by Buck McKenzie © 1990

(Verse 1)
Years ago, in the dreamtime,
Coolatowie committed a crime,
He'd done something which was taboo,
Coolatowie was Tjilbruke's nephew

(Verse 2)
Coolatowie, he was knocked down
And he fell dead,
Right down to the ground, by the fire,
Where he cooked an emu,
It was the end of Tjilbruke's nephew.

(Verse 3)
Tjilbruke came along, picked up his sister's son,
And he carried him in his strong arms and he was sad,
When his nephew died,
That's why poor old Tjilbruke cried.

(Chorus)
Tjilbruke, the Ibisman,
He carried Coolatowie along the beach sand,
And when he cried,
His tears flowed down and it turned into fresh water.

(Verse 4)
Now today, where Tjilbruke wailed,
There's a track, called Tjilbruke's Trail,
And along there's fresh water springs,
To mark where old Tjilbruokes been.

(Chorus)
Tjilbruke, the Ibisman,
He carried Coolatowie along the beach sand,
And when he cried,
His tears flowed down and it turned into fresh water.

Tjilbruke, the Ibisman,
He carried Coolatowie along the beach sand,
And when he cried,
His tears flowed down
and it turned into fresh water
and it turned into fresh water
and it turned into fresh water.
IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

F C

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.
(arlaarlps)

Bb

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

F

If you're happy and you know it you really ought to show it. If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.
(arlaarlps)

Verse 2: stamp your feet (mandaawi)
Verse 3: nod your head (t-par-dal)
Verse 4: wriggle your nose (ryun-dyula)
Verse 5: do all four
FEELINGS

Verse 1

Sometimes I feel good
Sometimes I feel bad

Sometimes I feel happy
Sometimes I feel sad. (To chorus)

Chorus

All these feelings I get
are part of me
so remember next time.

All the boys and girls
all over the world
have feelings like mine. (To Verse 2)

Refrain

I'm the same as you
and you are the same as me.

All these feelings we get
all come naturally.

Piano accompaniment pattern

C

2. Sometimes I get so lonely
So lonely I could cry,
When my friends all go away,
And when I say goodbye.

(Chorus)

(Refrain)

3. Sometimes I feel like singing
A pretty song.
Get my friends together,
For a sing-along.

(Chorus)

(Refrain - repeat refrain.)

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