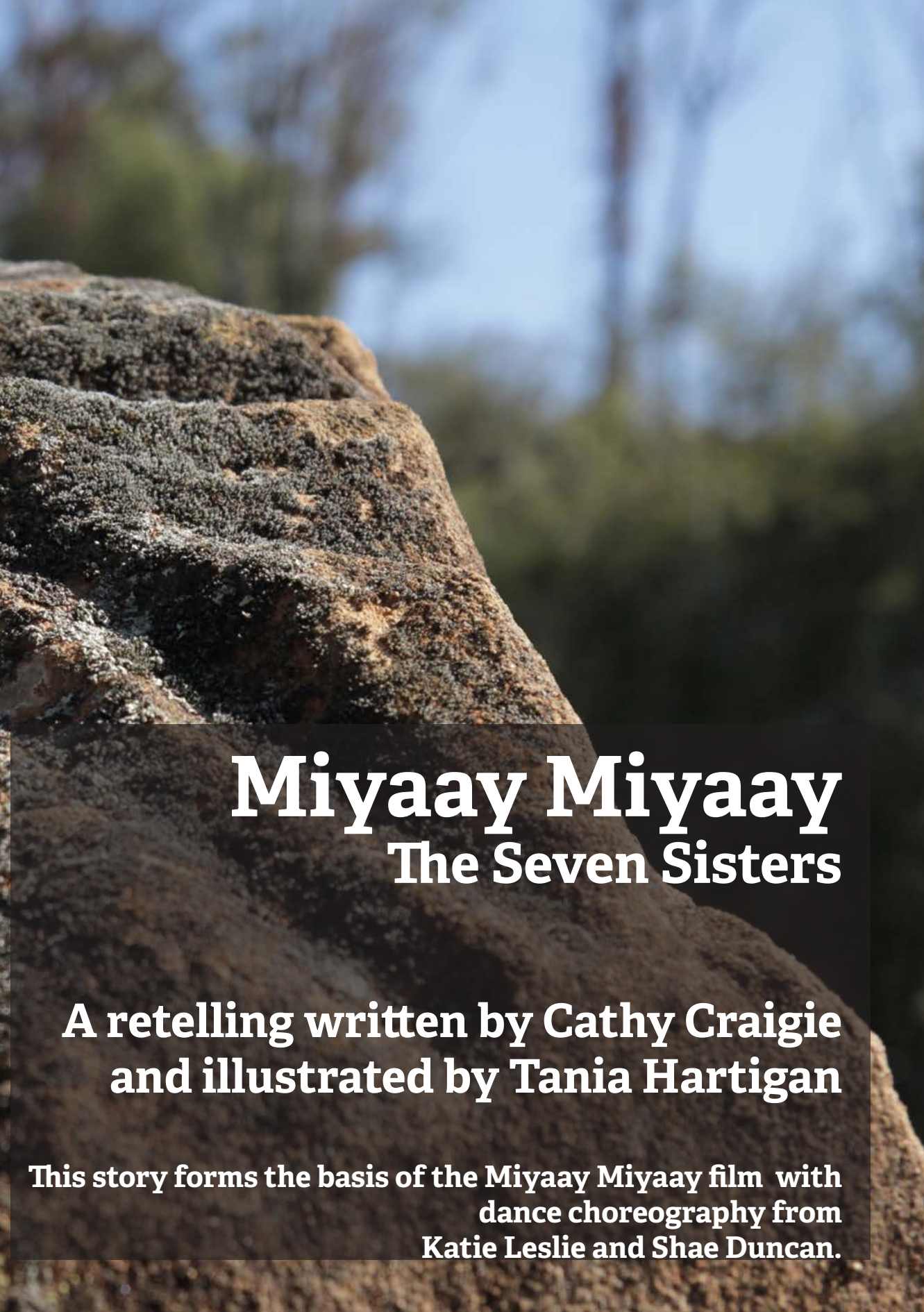


# MIYAAY MIYAAY

## The Seven Sisters







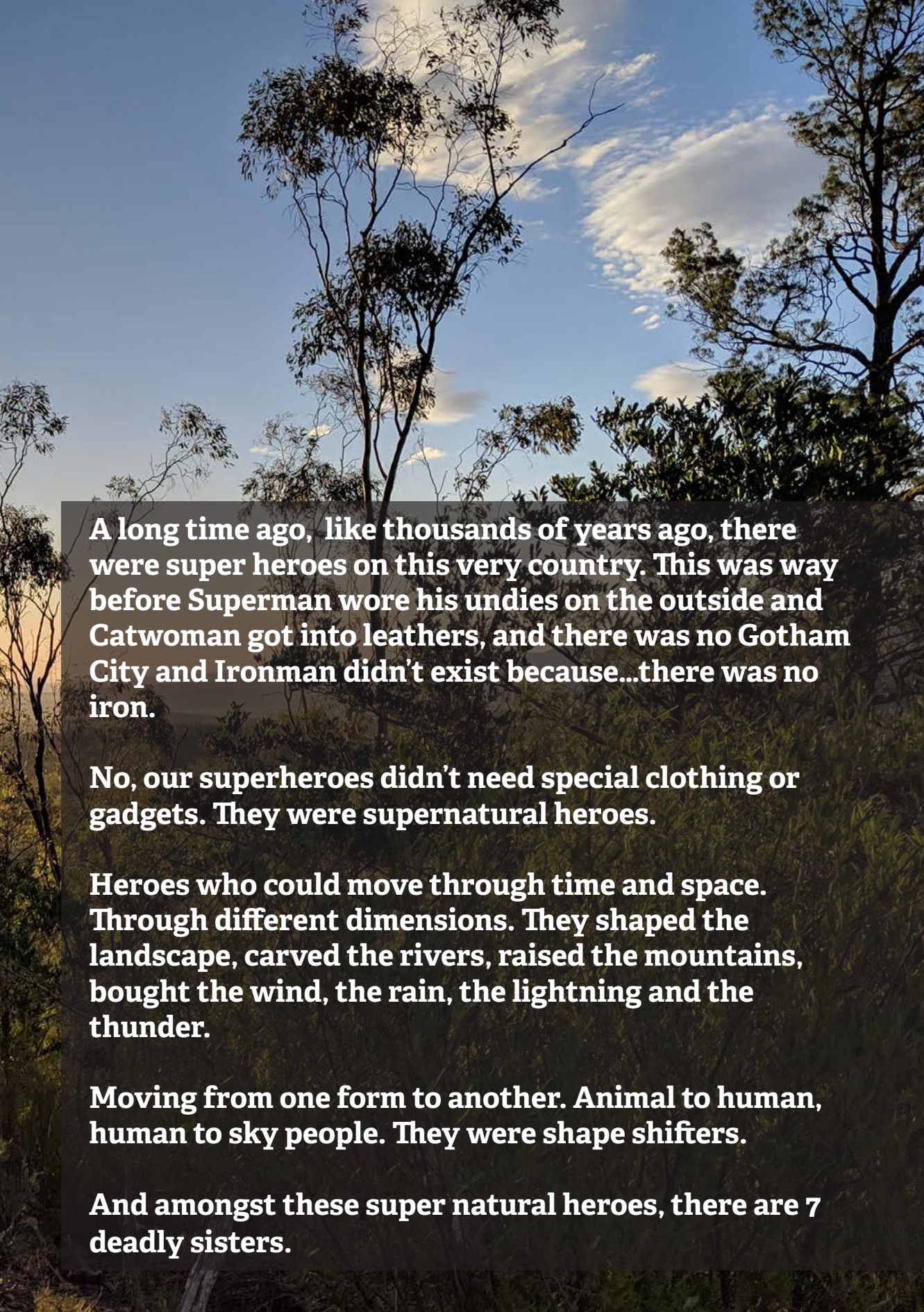
# **Miyaay Miyaay**

## **The Seven Sisters**

**A retelling written by Cathy Craigie  
and illustrated by Tania Hartigan**

**This story forms the basis of the Miyaay Miyaay film with  
dance choreography from  
Katie Leslie and Shae Duncan.**





**A long time ago, like thousands of years ago, there were super heroes on this very country. This was way before Superman wore his undies on the outside and Catwoman got into leathers, and there was no Gotham City and Ironman didn't exist because...there was no iron.**

**No, our superheroes didn't need special clothing or gadgets. They were supernatural heroes.**

**Heroes who could move through time and space. Through different dimensions. They shaped the landscape, carved the rivers, raised the mountains, bought the wind, the rain, the lightning and the thunder.**

**Moving from one form to another. Animal to human, human to sky people. They were shape shifters.**

**And amongst these super natural heroes, there are 7 deadly sisters.**

**Their story is part of the oldest story in the world.  
And the only universal story.**

**In every ancient culture the story of the Sisters can  
be found.**

**In Greece they call the sisters the Pleiades. This  
is also the Western astronomy name of the star  
constellation.**

**In New Zealand, the Maori call them Matariki and  
celebrate their new year when the Sisters rise in the  
southern hemisphere.**

**The Japanese called them Subaru (yes the car was  
named after them!)**







**In Australia, we have many stories of the sisters.**

**Even though the 7 sisters stories differ in some ways, there are common threads.**

**Each story upholds morals and values that can guide us humans and how we live. Each story tells of the capture of some of the sisters.**

**And each story has them escaping to their home in the Sky.**



**And Here in Gamilaraay we call them,  
the Miyaay Miyaay.**

**Ooh, they were something else! Long black hair,  
glistening with icicles,**

**Strong in mind, strong in body.  
And clever....very clever.**



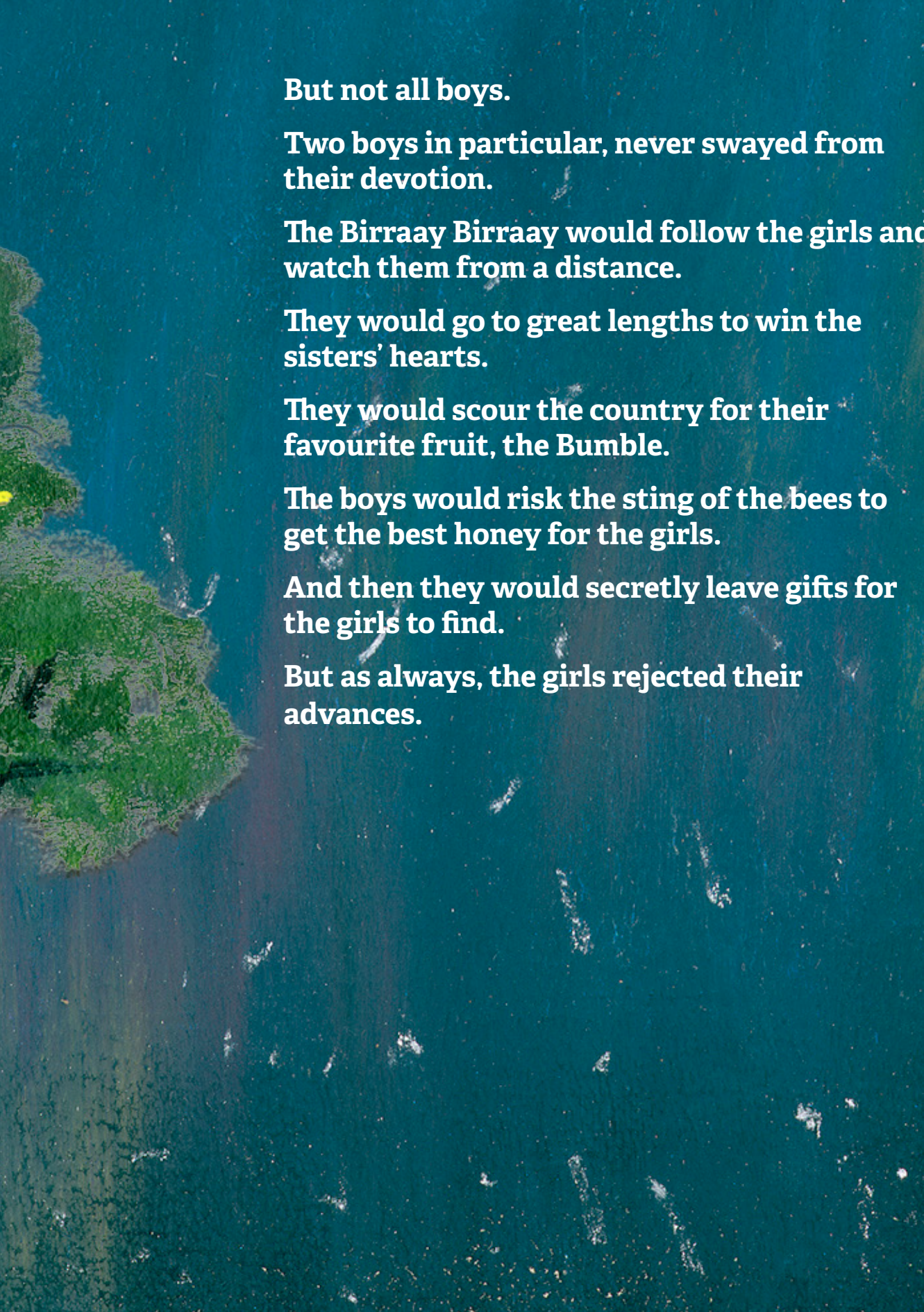


**Ah, and those girls could sing. Voices as sweet as honey.**

**Many would try to woo the sisters, to make them their wives. But the girls ignored them.**

**After trying.... and failing, most would turn their interests elsewhere.**





**But not all boys.**

**Two boys in particular, never swayed from their devotion.**

**The Birraay Birraay would follow the girls and watch them from a distance.**

**They would go to great lengths to win the sisters' hearts.**

**They would scour the country for their favourite fruit, the Bumble.**

**The boys would risk the sting of the bees to get the best honey for the girls.**

**And then they would secretly leave gifts for the girls to find.**

**But as always, the girls rejected their advances.**

**There were others who tried but failed. Some even captured two of the girls**

**But as always, the other sisters would help them escape back to the safety of their home in the sky.**

**Sometimes they come back to visit their parents who live on the highest mountains. But they also come to check on us.**

**To see if we are following the lessons they have left us with.**







**Gamilaroi Country**  
**Photography: Suzie Wicks/Caroline Downer**

**Watch the Miyaay Miyaay film here:**  
**<http://www.artsnw.com.au/miyaay-miyaay-film>**



# **USB: Miyaay Miyaay**

## **Film credits**

**Cathy Craigie  
Katie Leslie  
Shae Duncan  
Tania Hartigan  
Caroline Downer  
Emily Hungerford  
Miranda Heckenberg  
Suzie Wicks  
Loren Ryan**

**Writer / Narrator  
Choreographer / Mentor / Dancer / Actor  
Choreographer / Dancer / Actor  
Artist for animations  
Producer  
Filmmaker  
Production Manager / Animator  
Additional Filming  
Incidental Music**

**"Shanelle and Miah"  
Yooralahni Griffiths  
Jinaya Taylor**

**Shanelle  
Miah**

**"Joan and Jannali"  
Tania Hartigan  
Shae Duncan**

**Joan  
Jannali**

**"Ro and Lou"  
Katie Leslie  
Cindy Foley**

**Ro  
Lou**

**Celestial singing and voices  
Aunty Pearl Slater  
Aunty Rona Slater  
Shae Duncan  
Cindy Foley  
Tania Hartigan**

**Yooralahni Griffiths  
Lyniece Keogh  
Katie Leslie  
Jinaya Taylor**

**Yulugi Marumali Dancers**

**Director: Shae Duncan**

**Khyra-Lee Binge**

**Takaya Boney**

**Talinda Boney**

**Ally Duncan**

**Eva Duncan**

**Nevaeh Duncan**

**Kaylee Picker**

**Brianna Pitt**

**Alarni Smith**

**Jalari Swan**

**Tylee Swan**

**Lorraine Townsend**

**Mary-May Townsend**

**Allinah Washington**

**Martinah Washington**

**FILMED ON GAMILAROI COUNTRY**

**Community Consultation**

**Elaine and Mindy at Toomelah Local Aboriginal Lands Council**

**Aunty Marilyn Binge**

**Creative Development**

**Jessicah Binge**

**Jennifer Whitton**

**Lorelle Munro**

**Monica Foley**

**Shakayla Spearim**

**Thanks**

**Raquel Clarke**

**Sascha Estens**

**Bridget Guthrie**

**Kate Tuart**

**Youthie**

**Dhiiyaan Centre**

**Rabbit Hop Films**

**Tamworth Regional Gallery**

**Bank Art Museum, Moree**

**Tamworth Regional Council**

**Arts North West acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands we work on; the Country upon which language, arts and culture has been shared and practised for thousands of years.**

**Miyaay Miyaay is an  
Arts North West initiative.**

**[www.artsnw.com.au](http://www.artsnw.com.au)**

**2022**

**Arts  
north  
west**



**Australian Government  
Regional Arts Fund**



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