

#### **About the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service**

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) has provided holistic care to the Community for over 40 years by delivering a range of medical, dental and social services. Aboriginal health refers to the social, emotional and cultural well-being of the whole Community, so the services we provide include many aspects of life, rather than only focusing on the physical wellbeing of an individual.

The VAHS Healthy Lifestyle and Tackling Smoking Team are working towards reducing rates of smoking in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Melbourne through health promotion and attendance at Community events.

#### Follow the VAHS Healthy Lifestyle and Tackling Smoking Team

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(Search "Victorian Aboriginal Health Service")

#### **Acknowledgements**

The VAHS Healthy Lifestyle and Tackling Smoking Team, including: Laura Thompson, Sarah Sheridan, Greg Semmler, Jan Muller and Joanne Dwyer
Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder
Bubup Wilam for Early Learning
The Aborigines Advancement League
The City of Darebin
The Fitzroy Stars Football Netball Club
The Melbourne Stars Basketball Club
Yappera Children's Services















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ISBN: 978-0-6480024-0-6



## Written by:

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Healthy Lifestyle and Tackling Smoking Team

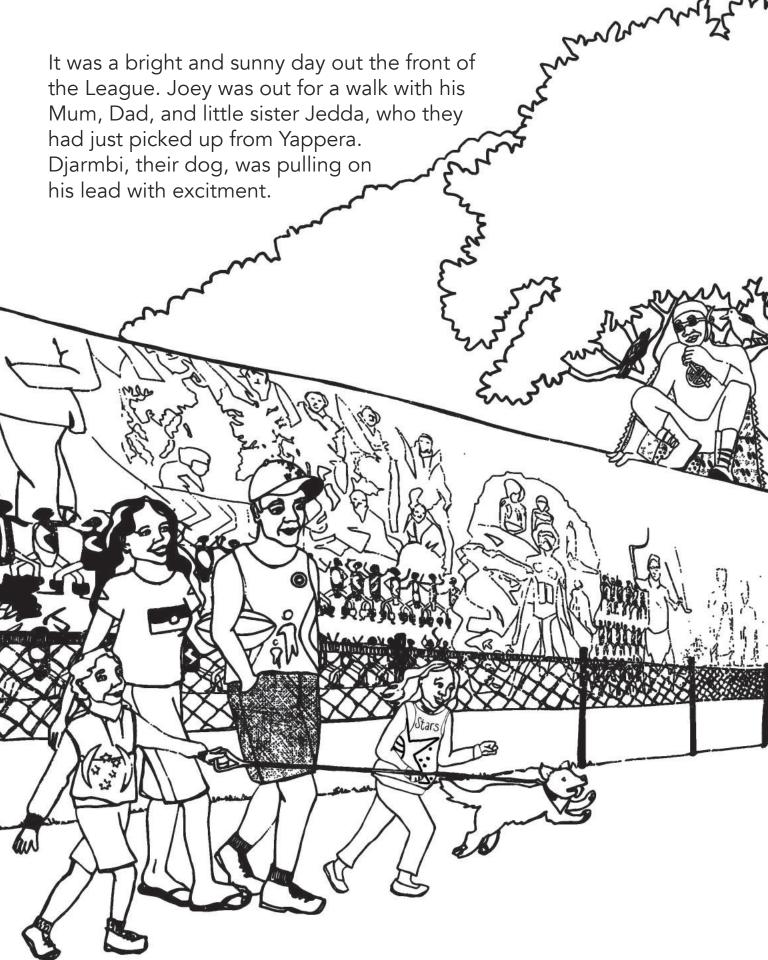
# Illustrated by: Sarah Campbell

Sarah is a freelance illustrator, originally from Canada, who has a strong belief in the power of art, books and education as a driving force for positive change.

We acknowledge that the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service is located on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to the Elders of our Community, past, present and future. Our Elders hold the wisdom, customs, culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia.

The land upon which we stand is, was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

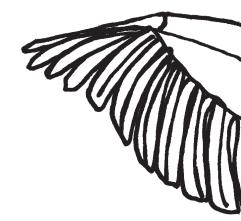


Joey and his family went down to the Doug Nicholls Oval for a kick. A group of year nines were hanging out at the gate smoking.

They thought they looked cool.

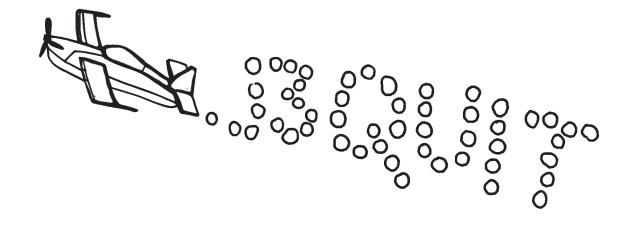
A cloud of their stinky smoke floated towards Joey's family and they all started coughing. Even Djarmbi started coughing!





The teenagers laughed.
Suddenly, the wind started to blow. The magpies flew away and the dust swirled around.
Djarmbi started barking. Then, a voice boomed, "YOU SMOKE, YOU CHOKE!"





The family huddled together and waited for the dust to settle. Standing before them was a big man in a mask wearing a possum skin cloak. "Who are you?" they asked. "I am Deadly Dan, the smokefree man! Wominjeka! I'm here to make sure my mob is safe from the dangers of tobacco!"







The teenagers didn't care and blew their smoke in Deadly Dan's face. Deadly Dan shielded himself with his cloak and turned the smokes into healthy carrots and green beans! The teenagers were angry when they tried to take a puff of a carrot, and yelled, "GIVE US BACK

OUR CIGGIES!"



Deadly Dan held up his smokefree boomerang and said, "The power is within you, repeat after me..." 12

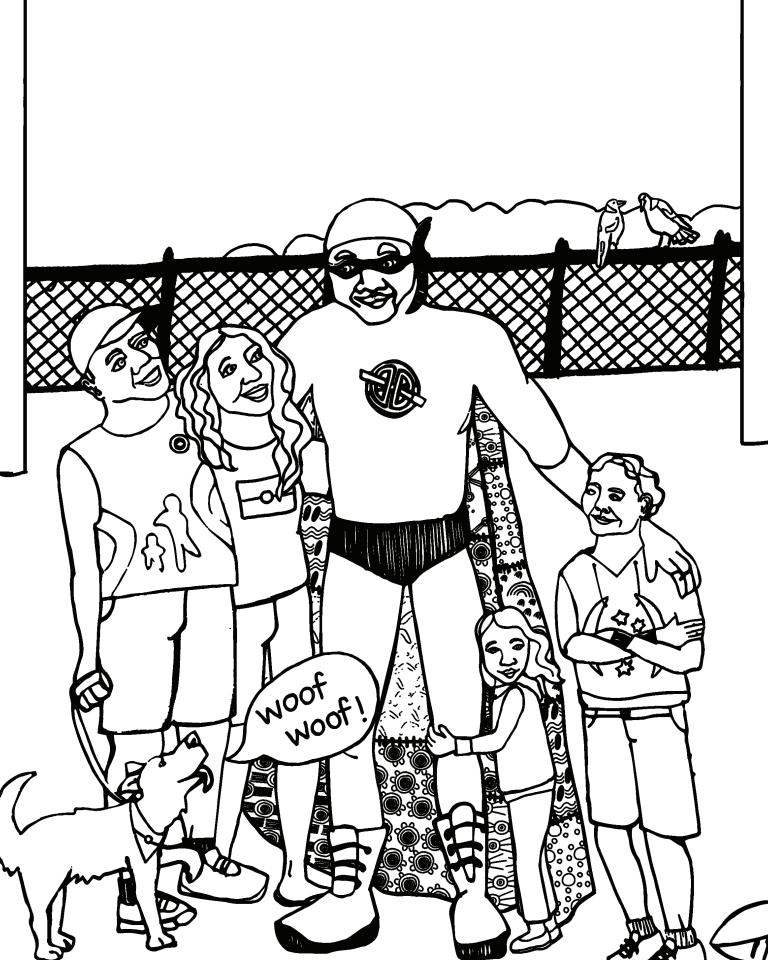


Deadly Dan lowered his smokefree boomerang and the teenagers looked down at the carrots and green beans in their hands. They smiled and took a bite. "Yum," they said. "This is cool! I feel better already!" and jogged off.

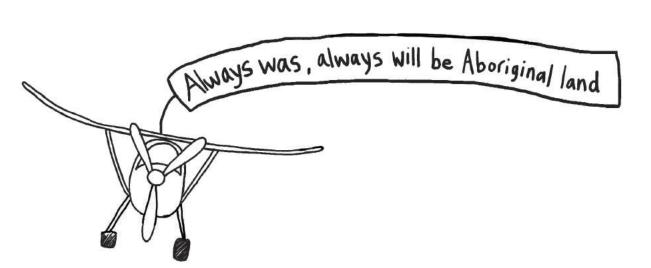




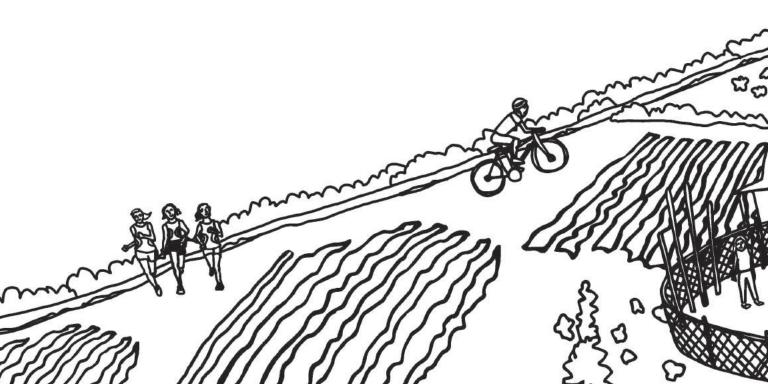
Joey and his family were happy and Jedda gave Deadly Dan a big cuddle. Djarmbi wagged his tail. "We love you, Deadly Dan, thanks for keeping us safe! Will we see you again?" Joey asked.



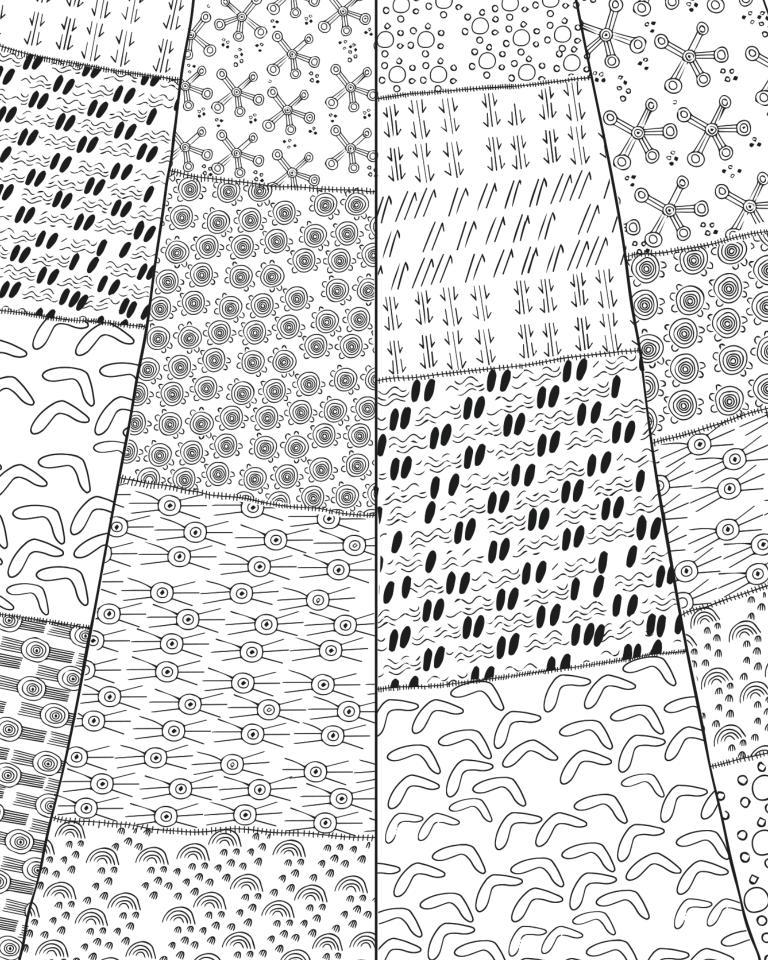




Deadly Dan replied, "You sure will! Whenever one of my mob is suffering from the effects of tobacco, I will be there to help." Deadly Dan flew off over The League, over Country, ready for his next adventure...







### **Deadly Dan's Possum Skin Cloak Design**

Possum skin cloaks have been made for thousands of years by Aboriginal Communities from across South Eastern Australia. Cloaks were an important trade item and were worn far and wide.

In days gone by, cloaks were used in everyday life to keep warm, to sleep in and to carry our babies. Cloaks were significant in ritual and ceremony. Today, we use these beautiful cloaks in both celebration and in remembrance.

A baby's first cloak was made at birth and more possum skins were added as the person grew to adult-hood.

The designs on the possum skins told a story and mapped the owner's connection to country, language and clan.

Deadly Dan's possum skin cloak design tells a story about smoking in Community, the journey towards quitting and staying smoke free.

## Spears and Kangaroo Tracks



**Resting Places** 



**Meeting Places** 



#### **Smokes and Shields**



**Honey Ants** 



Rainbows and Footprints





Campfires with People Sitting



Stars





We would like to thank Aunty Diane Kerr for her support and input, and Jacqueline Morris for making Deadly Dan's possum skin cloak.

Image: Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder

## **Glossary:**

Bunjil - a spiritual being, creator, eagle

**Ciggies/Cigarettes/Smokes/Tobacco** – all mean cigarettes

Country - the land/area where you come from, your family lineage

**Deadly** – good, excellent, grouse

**Djarmbi** – mate, friend, brother boy

**Doug Nicholls Oval** – Fitzroy Stars Football Netball Club oval, named after Sir Pastor Douglas Nicholls, located on the Aborigines Advancement League site **H**<sub>2</sub>**O** – water

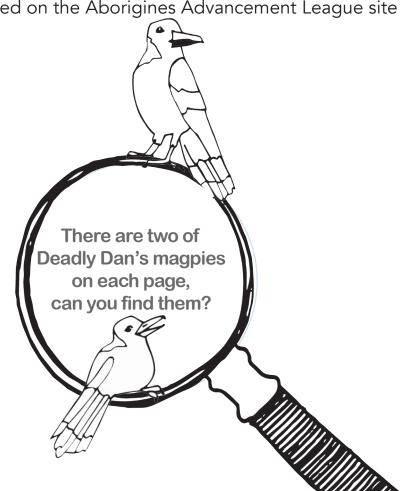
**Kulin Nation** – a group of family or clan groups in South East Victoria, made up of five language groups

**Mob** – Community or family

**The League** – The Aborigines Advancement League (AAL) located in Thornbury **Wominjeka** – "Welcome"

**Wurundjeri** – local language group and land of the people in the Melbourne area

**Yappera** – A multifunctional Aboriginal children's service, caring for our Aboriginal children and families, located on the Aborigines Advancement League site





**#STAYSMOKEFREE** 







Who can smell smoke all over Wurundjeri Country?

Who can fly as fast as Bunjil?

Who can turn smokes into healthy fruit and veggies?

## It's Deadly Dan the No Smokes Man!

Deadly Dan and his magpies are at The League, find out what they are up to and join them on their adventure.

