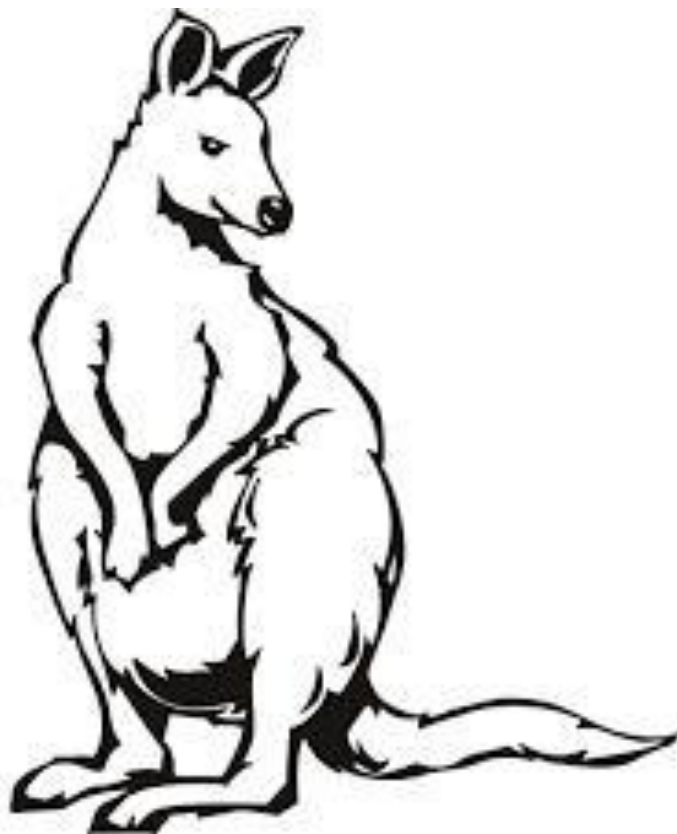


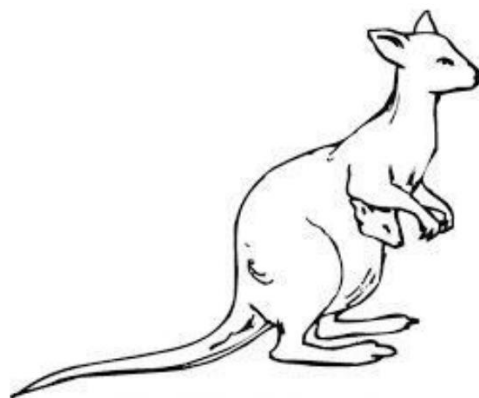
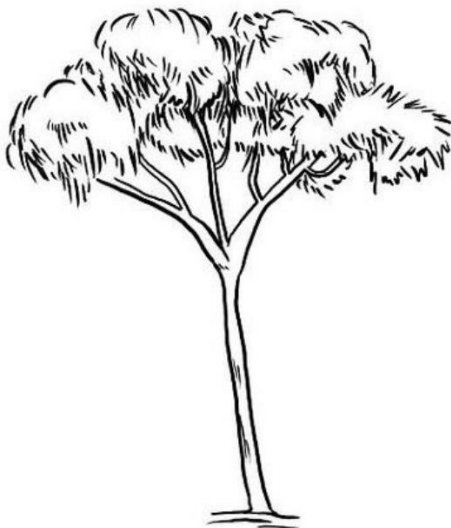
# **There Once Was A Kangaroo**

**Written by**

**Robyn Opie Parnell**



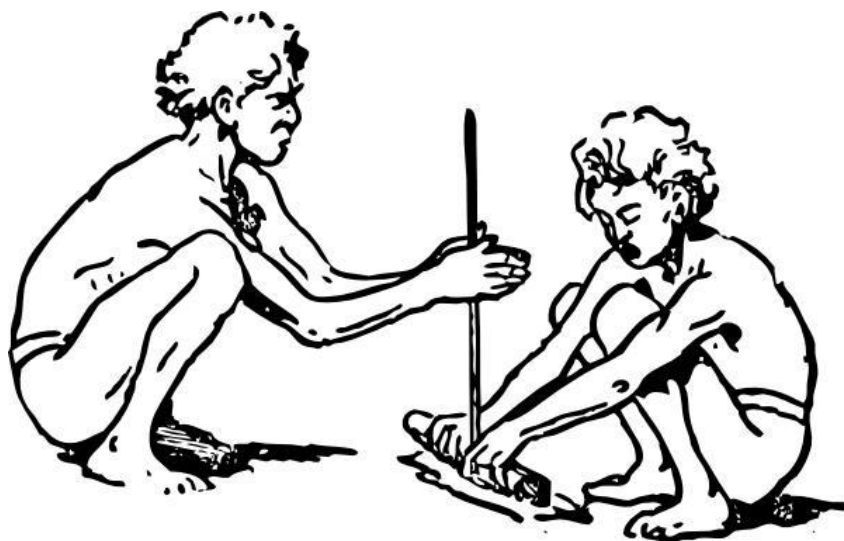
**Once upon a time, there was a land far, far away, a paradise of lush forests, crystal streams, beautiful beaches and unique animals.**



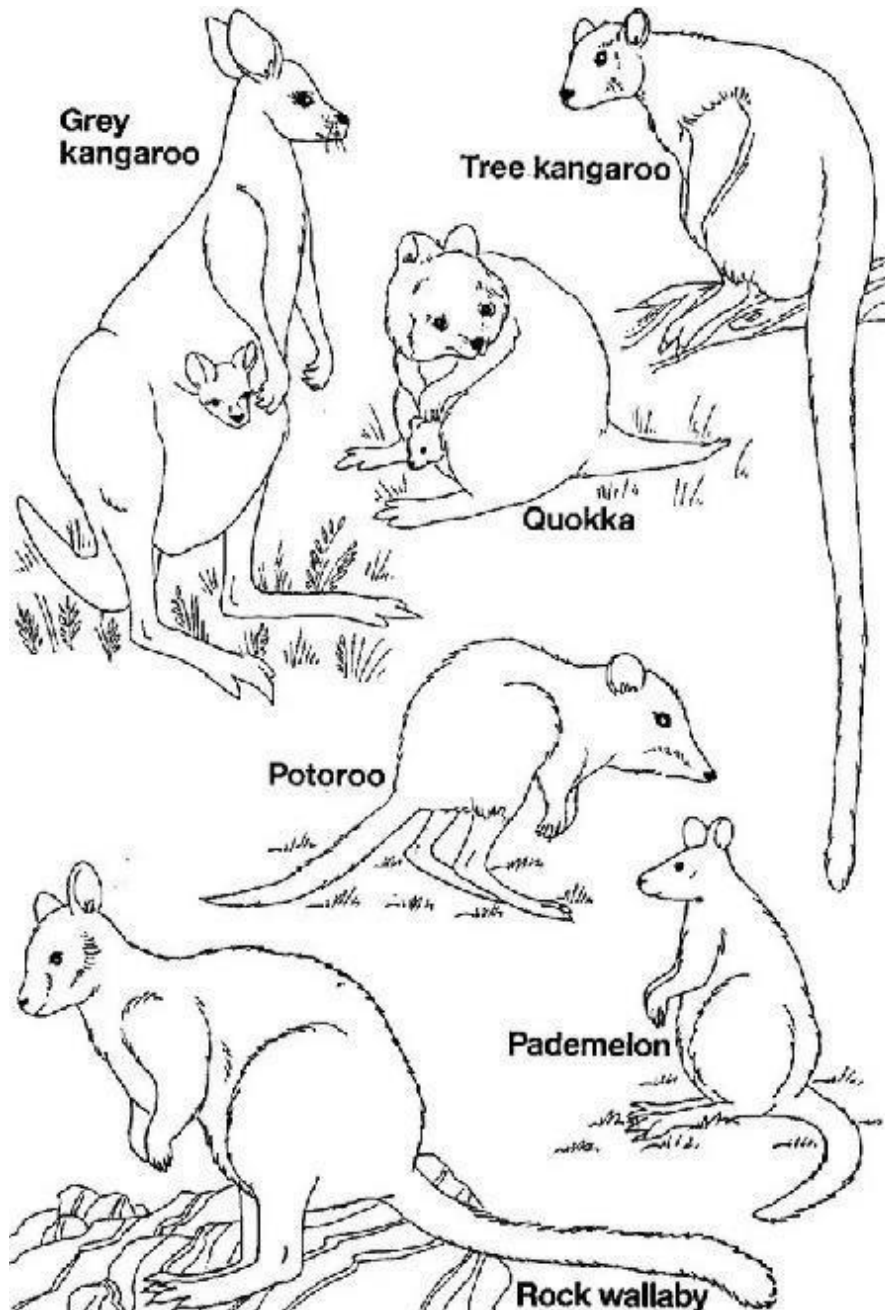
**People lived in harmony with the land and each other.**



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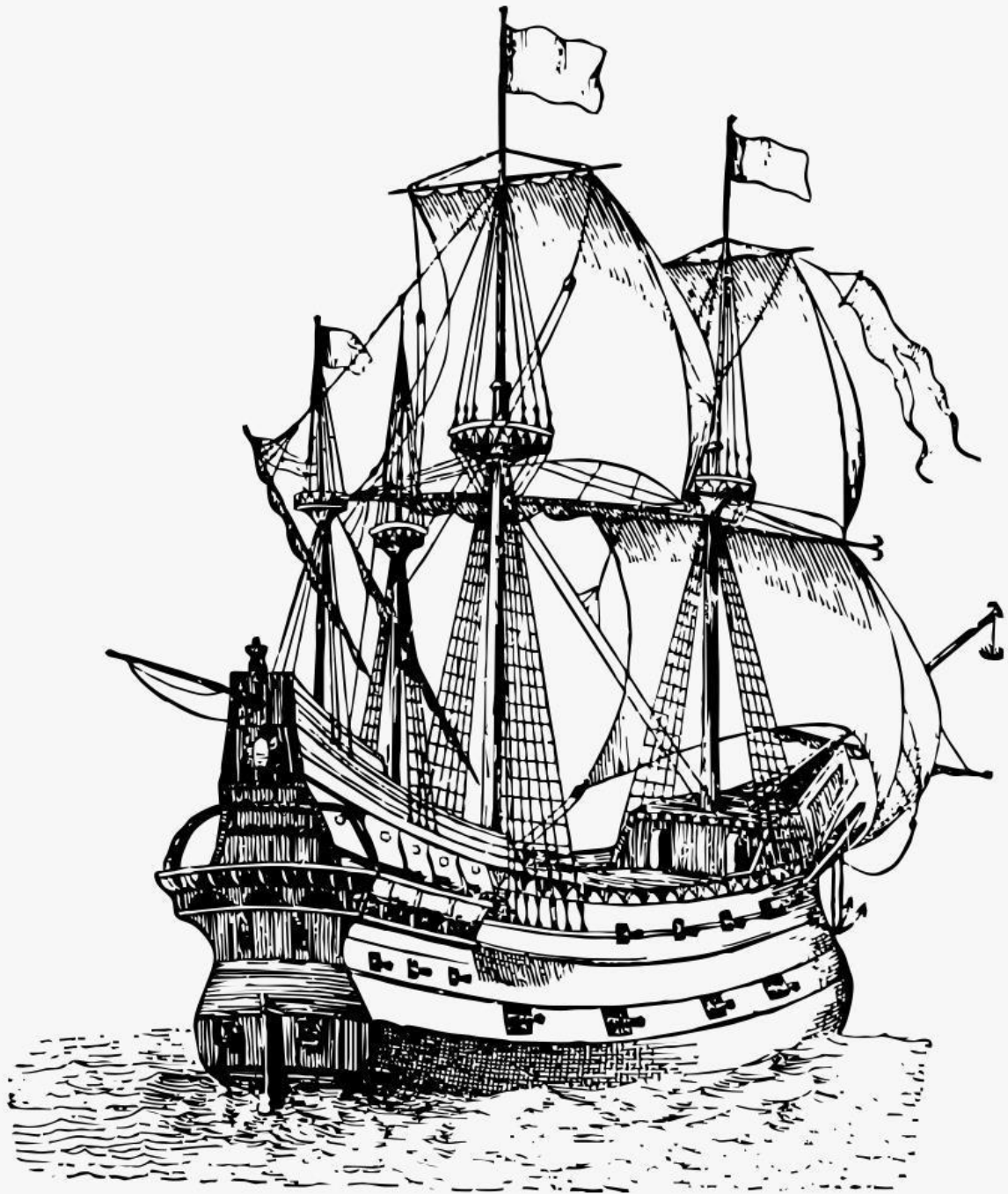


**They told stories about the animals who also lived in harmony with the land and each other.**



**Life was perfect in paradise until...**

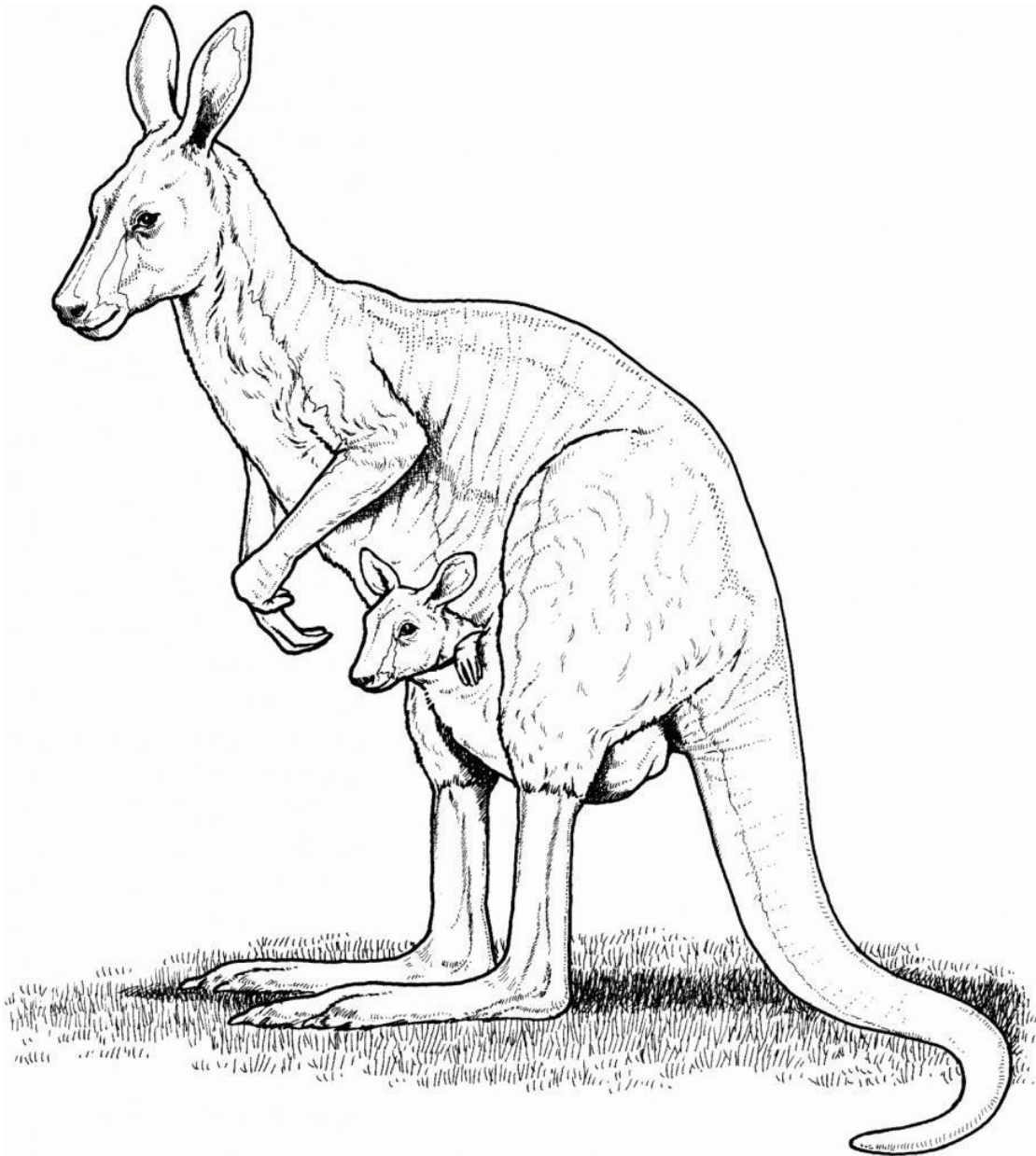
**Ships came, bringing strangers to paradise.**



**The lush forests, crystal streams and beautiful beaches were new to the strangers. When they saw the unique animals, they said, “My, what large ears you have.”**

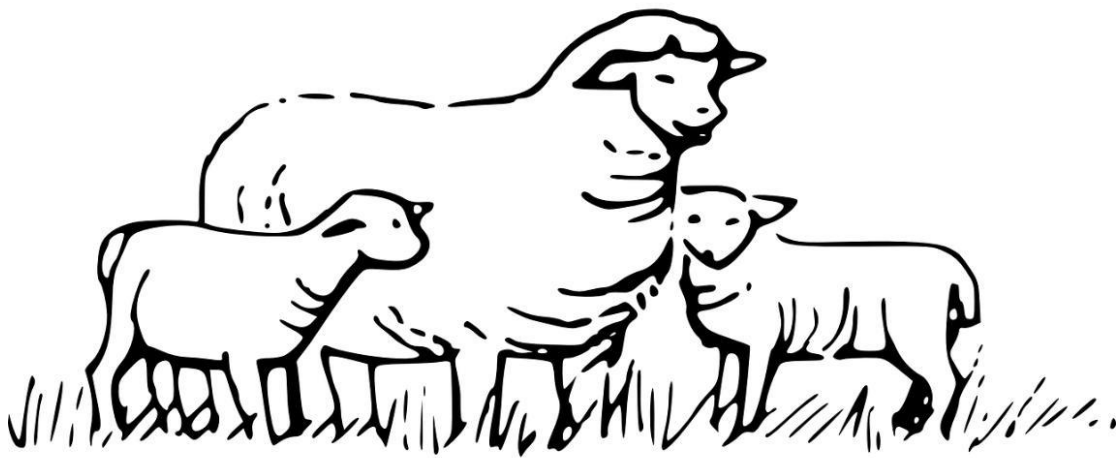


**And, "What a long nose you have."**



**And, "What a big pouch you have."**

**The strangers wanted to farm the land and graze sheep. There were no sheep living in paradise. The strangers bought sheep with them from home.**



**Paradise was full of trees.**





**So, the farmers cried, "I'll huff, and I'll puff,  
and I'll knock the trees down."**

**They huffed and they puffed, and they  
puffed, and they huffed, and they knocked  
the trees down.**



**Farmers bought special seeds from home.  
They planted the seeds where the trees once  
stood. The seeds grew and grew and grew to  
become wheat-stalks.**



**Farmers loved to count their money in their parlours.**

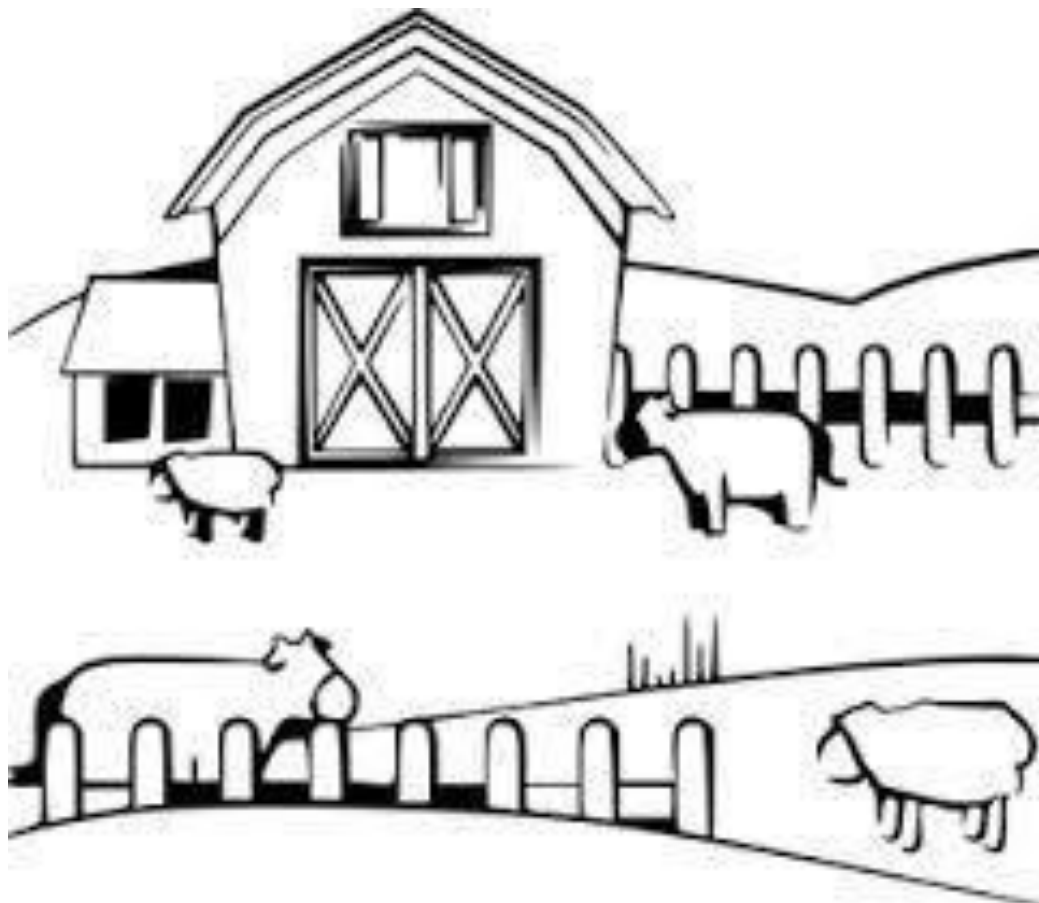


**One day, a farmer growled, "Who's been in my field nibbling my wheat?"**

**Another farmer growled, "Who's been in my field drinking my water?"**

**Kangaroos had lived in paradise for millions of years. Now, paradise was gone, replaced by paddocks and paddocks and paddocks of wheat. If not wheat, then paddocks and paddocks and paddocks of sheep and cows. There was nowhere for kangaroos to go except for...**

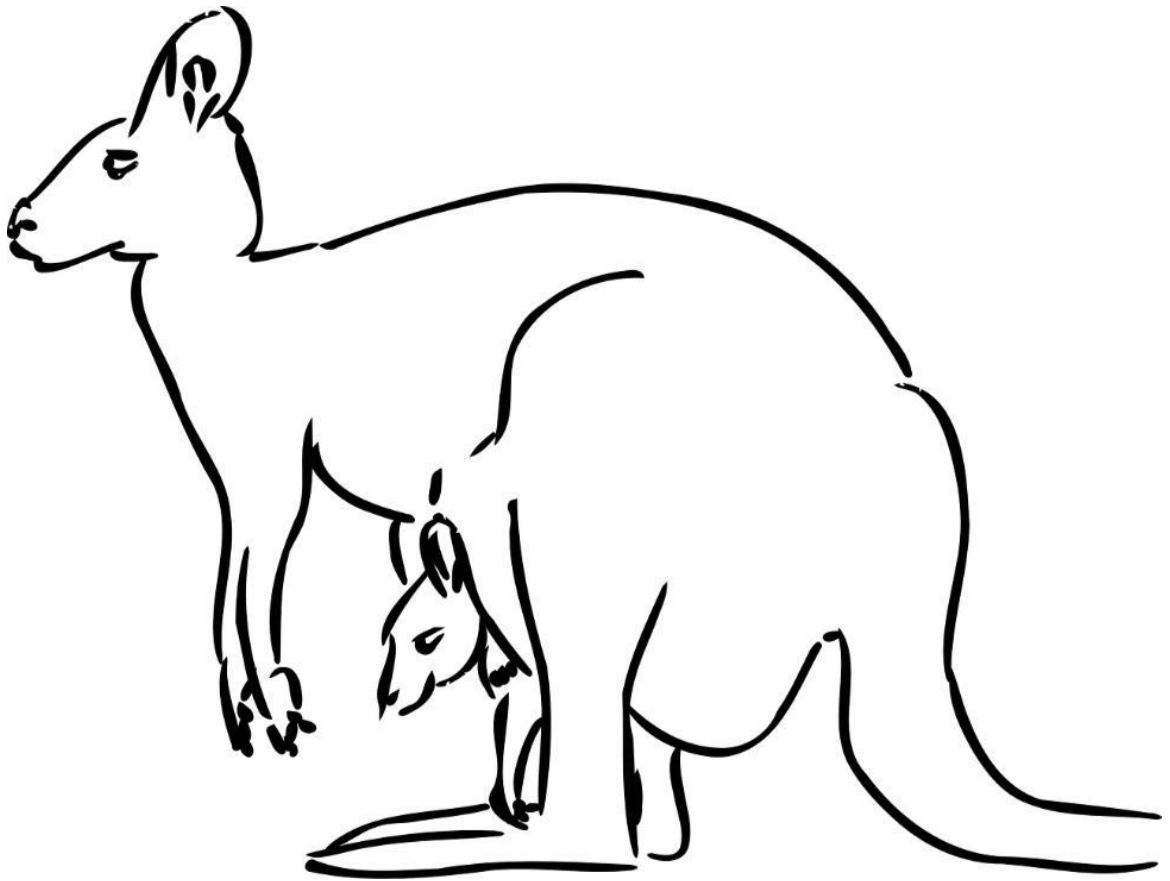
**The farm.**



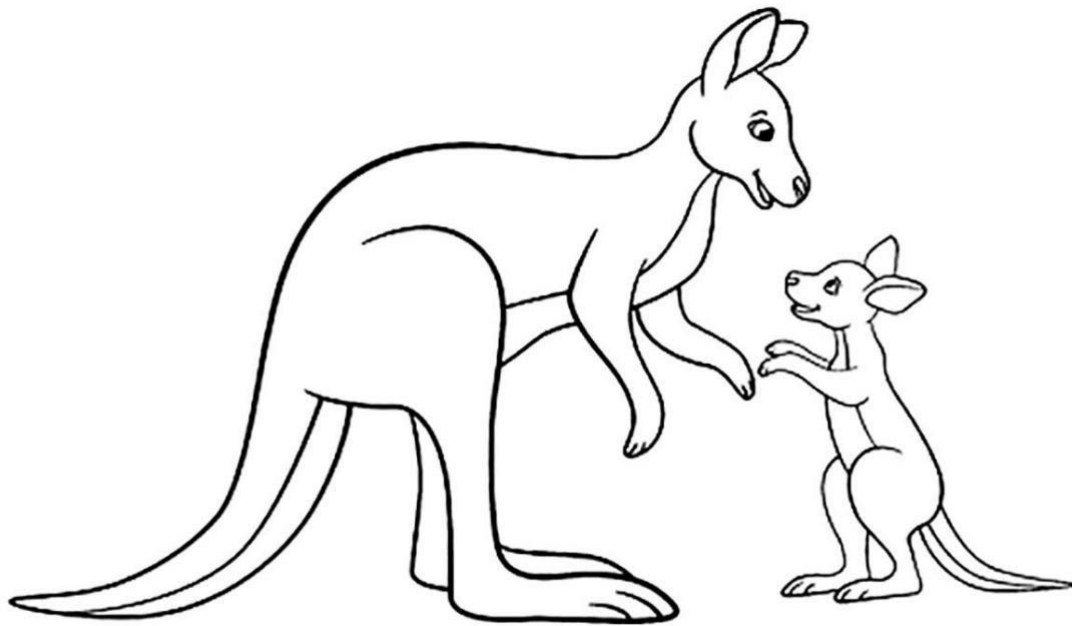
**“Fee! Fie! Foe! Foo! I smell the blood of a kangaroo,” roared the farmers.**



**Mother kangaroos loved their families,  
keeping babies safe in their pouches.**



**Father kangaroos loved their families,  
teaching their sons how to grow big and  
strong.**



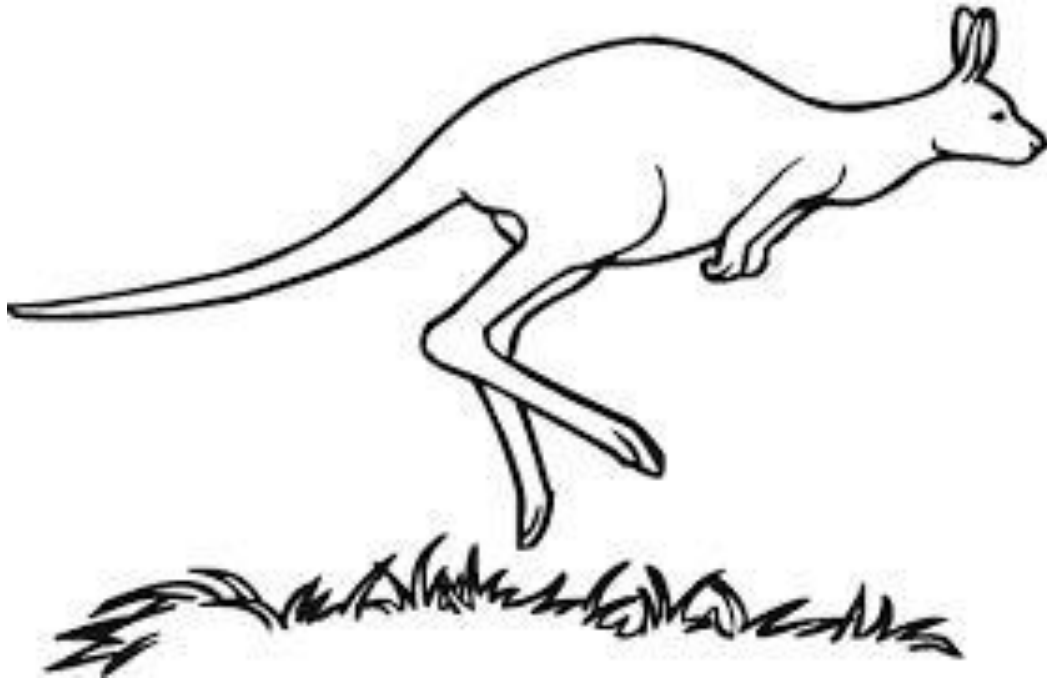
**Until...**

**“A-hunting we will go. A-hunting we will go.  
Heigh-ho, the derry-o, a-hunting we will go,”  
sang the farmers.**

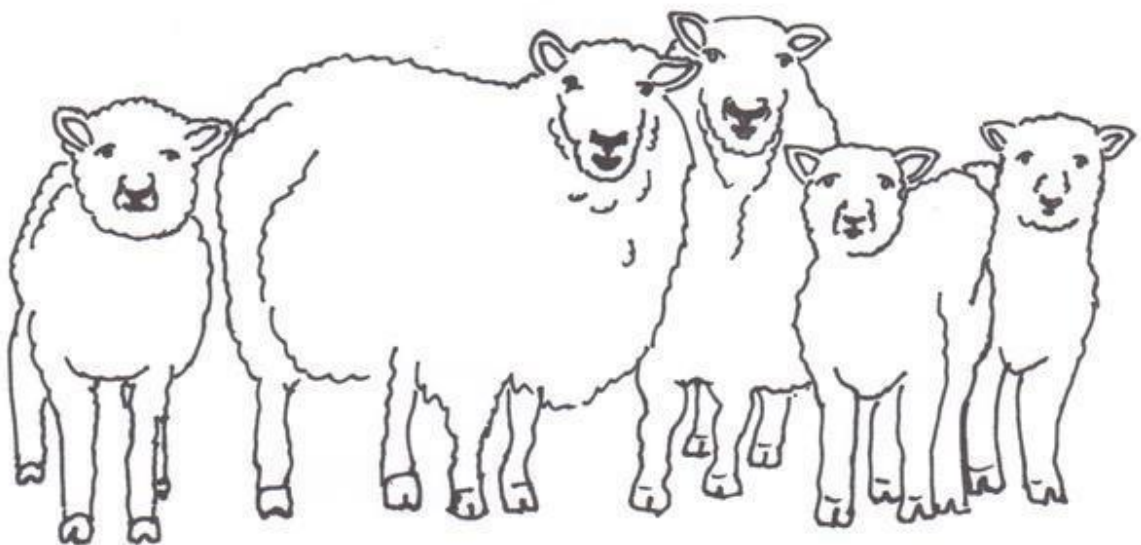




**Kangaroos tried to flee in fright but not all of them reached safety.**

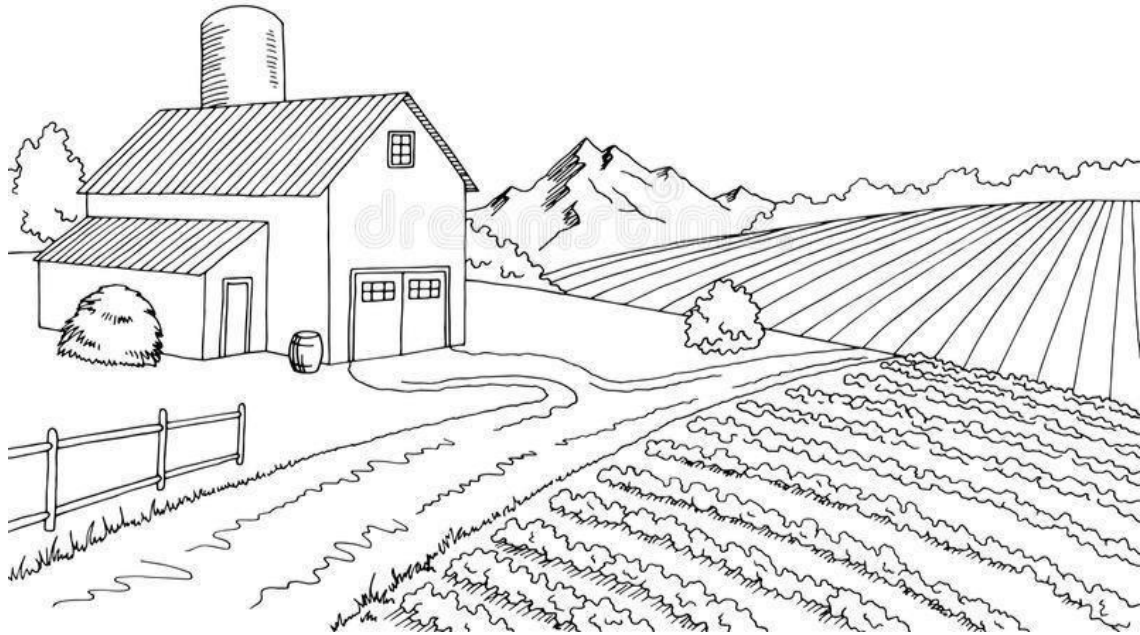


**Over time, kangaroos disappeared from the land.**



**Until...**

**One day, all the kangaroos were gone.**



**Brought to you by World Kangaroo Day**