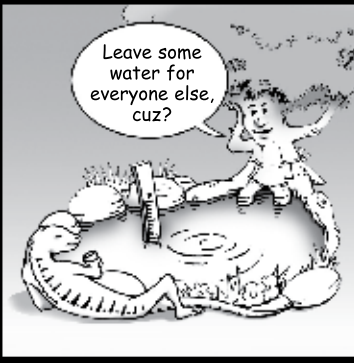


Flat out like a lizard drinking



1

2

3

1

Ngamal the goanna is relaxing at the water hole. He's lazing around in the sun and is pretty thirsty. He's having a good old drink from the springwater that's bubbling up from the bottom of the water hole.

Boodgeragah the fig tree is a bit worried though, because Ngamal is drinking so much! He loves the taste of the water and is gulping it down like there's an endless supply!

2

The more that Ngamal drinks, the less water there is left in the water hole.

(Can you see the level on the measuring stick going down as Ngamal's belly gets bigger and bigger?)

Boodgeragah reminds Ngamal that he needs to share the water with the other creatures.

3

Finally, Ngamal has drunk so much water and his belly is so full that he falls asleep in the shade of Boodgeragah. He's "flat out like a lizard drinking!" as the saying goes.

As he sleeps, the waterhole is filled again by the spring.

(Can you see another shy creature who has been waiting for their turn at the waterhole?)

Messages for all of us:

- *We need to share water. There are many important human uses for water, including drinking, cleaning and cooking, agriculture and industry. It's important to remember, however, that all living things depend on water, so we need to make sure that there's enough water for the local plants, animals and ecosystems.*
- *Although there is not a limitless supply, we do live in a region (Bundjalung Country) with good water sources. If we take care of them and give them a rest, they can replenish.*
- *We need to measure, monitor and be aware of how much water we're using and respond accordingly.*
- *Trees are the guardians of our water supplies. Trees and vegetation filter out unhealthy substances in 'run-off' from agriculture and other human activities within water catchments. They also hold the soil together, preventing erosion, and provide habitat for native animals. Trees also act like huge filter-pumps that purify water through photosynthesis and respiration, releasing pure water vapour into the air.*
- *Many animals are shy and 'voiceless'. We don't notice them straight way but they are important parts of our community. They have needs but are not able to make us take notice of them.*



The “Messages for all of us” on the back of each of the cartoons are themes behind each story. As a parent, you might use these as a way of exploring the stories with the kids you are reading with. As a teacher or student you can use these topics as a study guide to inspire further research or projects.