

Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton



WRITTEN BY ANDREA MUSULIN

Illustrated by Safy and Lara Tashkandy



This book is dedicated to all the amazing kids, and all the adults who were once kids, growing up in Geraldton and Mullewa.

'Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton'

Child Focused Safety Services and **Desert Blue Connect** would like to thank the Year 4 students at **Geraldton Primary School** who contributed to and helped shape this story and the images.


Proofread by

Chris Jaques



Child Focused Safety Services respectfully acknowledges the Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners of the land, The Naaguja, Wilunya and Nhanhagardi. We also pay our respects and acknowledge Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Yamatji Peoples. We are inclusive of all people and culture, languages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expressions.

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Have you ever wondered how big the world can
be?

Located in the Mid-West of WA,
there's a country town called Geraldton that sits
along the sea.

The first people of this land were the Yamatji
People, they lived on this land where the desert
meets the ocean.

And today, in Geraldton, many aboriginal
languages are spoken.





You
are
here



In Geraldton, you'll find windsurfers riding the waves so grand, fishermen casting lines and kids building castles in the sand.

Whilst there are many parks, playgrounds and schools, a favourite place to go is Aquarena, the public swimming pool.





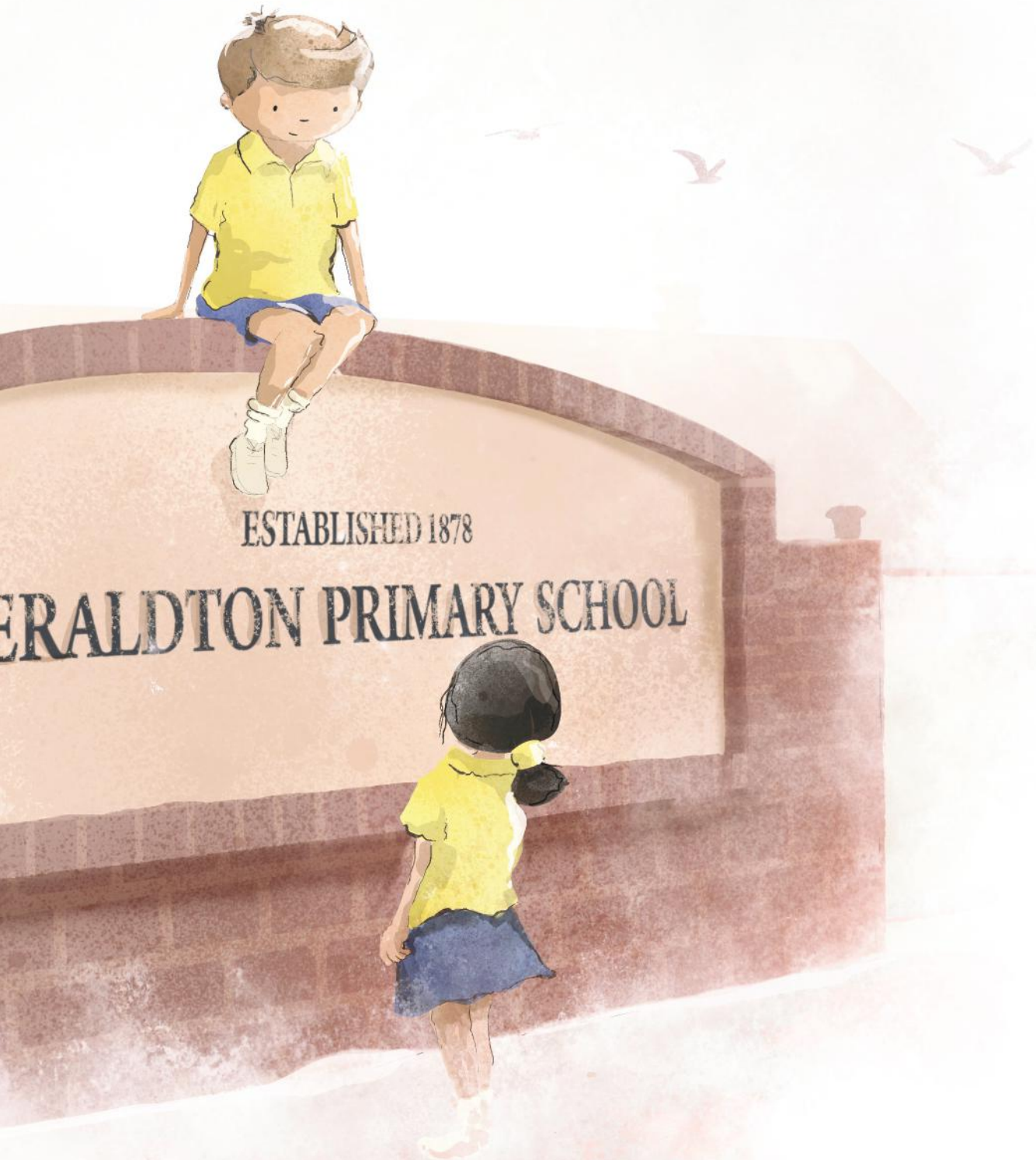
There are many primary schools in Geraldton, 17 to be exact, so we haven't named them all. Some have lots of children and others are very small.

There's another little school but you won't find children there because this school is called the Meekathara School of the Air.




The oldest school of all is Geraldton Primary School.
It was opened in 1878 and is still open today.

This makes it one of the oldest operating primary schools in all of WA.







Geraldton also sits along wide open sandy plains.

In the summer, the days are warm and windy and
winter brings the rain.

On Point Moore stands the lighthouse.
It's the fisherman's guiding light.

It also steers the big ships that come into
Geraldton Port at night.



The PCYC has been in Geraldton since 1945.
It's always been a place of adventure and a place where kids can thrive.

The PCYC has helped many kids reach their potential
and it's a place where having fun is not an option but essential.



There's many things for kids to do and it's welcoming for all.
There's lots to be involved in, even painting on a wall.

It's where opportunities are endless and kids learn to aim high.
It's where possibilities and inspiration are as endless as the sky.

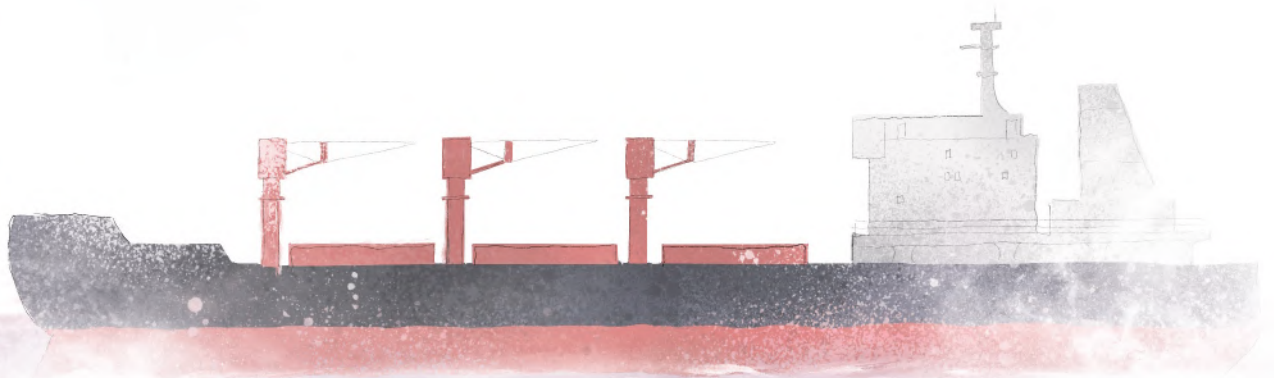


Up high on the hill is the Memorial made
out of stone.

It's a reminder of the courageous sailors
who never made it home.

On the windswept shores of Geraldton,
this monument stands upright.

It's a beacon of remembrance with its
bright shining light.



There are many suburbs in Geraldton
where the kids live and play.

There's Spalding, Mt Tarcoola, Beresford
and also Rangeway.

Then there's Deepdale, Strathalbyn and
Wandina not far away.

Sunset Beach and Glenfield are quiet and serene.
There's Drummond Cove and Beachlands where
the trees stand tall and green.

Let's not forget Bluff Point or Webberton.
Put these all together and you have the city of
Geraldton.





Glenfield



Drummond Cove



Spalding



int

Mullewa 

Webborton Strathalbyn



Map of Geraldton



Deepdale



ngenay



ola

Wandina





In Mullewa's heart where the sun shines bright,
is a meeting place for families from morning till night.



This iconic gathering place is called Doc Docherty Pool and for sixty years it's where Mullewa kids have gone to stay cool.



But wherever they live,
it's important to know
that all kids in Geraldton
still need adults to help them grow.



Geraldton kids are special, they are all one of a kind.
They may look different and have their own individual design.

Some kids are in wheelchairs or have extraordinary minds
but, most importantly,

*All kids in Geraldton have the right to feel
safe all of the time!*

Some kids feel unsafe depending on who they are with
or what they are doing,
whose house they are at or what pictures they are viewing.

It might be a secret they have been made to keep
or something at night when they are trying to sleep?

Someone might ask to see someone's
private parts under their clothes
but if it's not their job to do this, then that's not how it goes.







When Geraldton kids feel unsafe,
they might feel it in their belly or maybe they sweat or
their legs turn to jelly.

These feelings have names. It's not just in their minds.
These reactions are called

Early Warning Signs.



Their heart might beat fast, or their brain might race away.
If this ever happens, HELP they must say and,
if it is possible, try and get away.

If this ever happens, it's important to know
that all kids in Geraldton can let their feelings show.

Some worries kids hide may be big and some worries may be small but it's important for kids to talk to a trusted grown-up about them all!

Ignoring unsafe feelings won't make them go away.
If you don't tell a grown-up, the worry will stay.



Remember

Nothing is so awful you can't talk with someone about it.

Kids need to know that this is true.
So always tell a grown-up if there is something
worrying you.

When feeling unsafe, kids should try not to fear,
there are plenty of adults who are just waiting to hear.





It simply doesn't matter what you've done or what you do.
There are lots of grown-ups in Geraldton who care about you.

Maybe someone in your mob is there when things get
rough to help you see things through.

Can you think of someone you know that
you could talk to?



If at first you don't feel safe,
keep telling till you do.

Keep telling the grown-ups who you trust,
they are there to help you.

The End



About Andrea Musulin

Andrea Musulin is a former police officer who has dedicated most of her career to keeping children and women safe over 30 years of service. In this storybook, she continues her life's work and the fight against child abuse, neglect and family violence. Andrea has been involved with Protective Behaviours education since 1993 and was one of the early pioneers in the Protective Behaviours journey in Western Australia.

About Desert Blue Connect

Desert Blue Connect is a community-based organisation that specialises in women's health and wellness, and family and domestic violence services across the Mid-West region of Western Australia. DBC leads the Community Respect and Equality project (CRE) which takes a whole of community approach to embedding gender equality to prevent violence against women and children across a variety of sectors. CRE supports the earliest age-based primary prevention through the delivery of the Midwest Early Years Gender Equality Project (MEYGE) which provides foundational learnings to support care givers and early childhood professionals to break down harmful gender stereotypes and nurture healthy childhood development and wellbeing. This work also includes the prevention of child sexual abuse and violence against women and children through our Protective Behaviours programs and Respectful Relationships education.

We believe that every child deserves to live in a safe, healthy and respectful society where they can thrive and we are proud to support CFSS WA in the development of Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton.

About Lisa Dunn

Lisa has been at the helm of the Midwest Early Years Gender Equality project with Desert Blue Connect, an initiative aimed at dismantling harmful stereotypes and championing girls and boys to be equally valued, heard and respected, and to have access to equal opportunities. Lisa is committed to seeing children and families in the Mid-West continue to thrive within a safe, supported and respectful community.



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It is widely understood that a lack of education is one of the inhibiting factors when it comes to child abuse and neglect.

Set in Geraldton and Mullewa, this storybook has been written specifically for children who live in these communities.

Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton is an essential tool for teaching children about personal safety. This storybook provides essential information, guidance and knowledge on navigating unsafe situations with confidence and awareness. Through relatable places and age-appropriate messages, it introduces the concepts of the Protective Behaviours and Keeping Kids Safe programs.

A must-read for parents, educators, and caregivers looking to empower children with vital life skills for keeping themselves safe and speaking up when they don't.

This storybook was made possible through the support of

