Ah! Karnamarr. We watch them fly across the sky. They must be looking for fruits, seeds and water.

red-tailed black cockatoos

Long ago, and still today, karnamarr is a special food, rarely eaten, and only by elderly people.

See these plants growing from rock crevices? They are alyurr, pityrodia plants.

pityrodia plants that Leichhardt's grasshoppers eat

Let's look into these lush green bushes. We might find something… There is alyurr!

Leichhardt's grasshopper

Kakkak Kapindi, my mother's mother, told us alyurr are the Lightning people's children. When the rains begin, they come out of the soil. As they grow, they shed their skins and their bright colours are revealed. Soon they will find a mate.

We need to burn early here, because when there are hot fires, alyurr the pityrodia plants die and alyurr the grasshoppers have nothing to eat.

It's yekke, early dry season.
Kundenge karrire kuwarddehwardde.
Let's walk the rock country.

Wardi karribolknan, let's see what
we can see in Gagudju, Kakadu.

We pack our bags with food and water,
a billy and some matches, and a couple
of crowbars for digging.

We drive to one of our favourite places
and head off into the rocks.