

Created by students from Campbelltown Performing Arts High School in
conjunction with Campbelltown City Council

Eric the Eel



written by ~

Zynab Al Jabiry, Fao Vine And Tiperia Fepuleai

Original hand drawings by

Ezekiel Filisi Tuipala

Eric the Eel is a result of a collaborative project called Catchments Connecting Communities, involving Campbelltown Performing Arts High School (CPAHS), Campbelltown City Council and Western Sydney University (WSU).

Through expertise at both Council and WSU, students of CPAHS have been encouraged to engage with their local waterways to investigate how they can develop project ideas that can improve and enhance the sustainability, usability and connectivity of a local waterway to the surrounding community.

Council is working with a number of students to turn their project ideas into real-life concepts that will be seen by the community, used by the community and appreciated by the community.

The on-going commitment from Council to work with local high school students in the development of projects that enhance the sustainability, usability and connectivity of not only our waterways but open space in general will ensure that environmental stewardship of young people will grow through their active voice in the local community.

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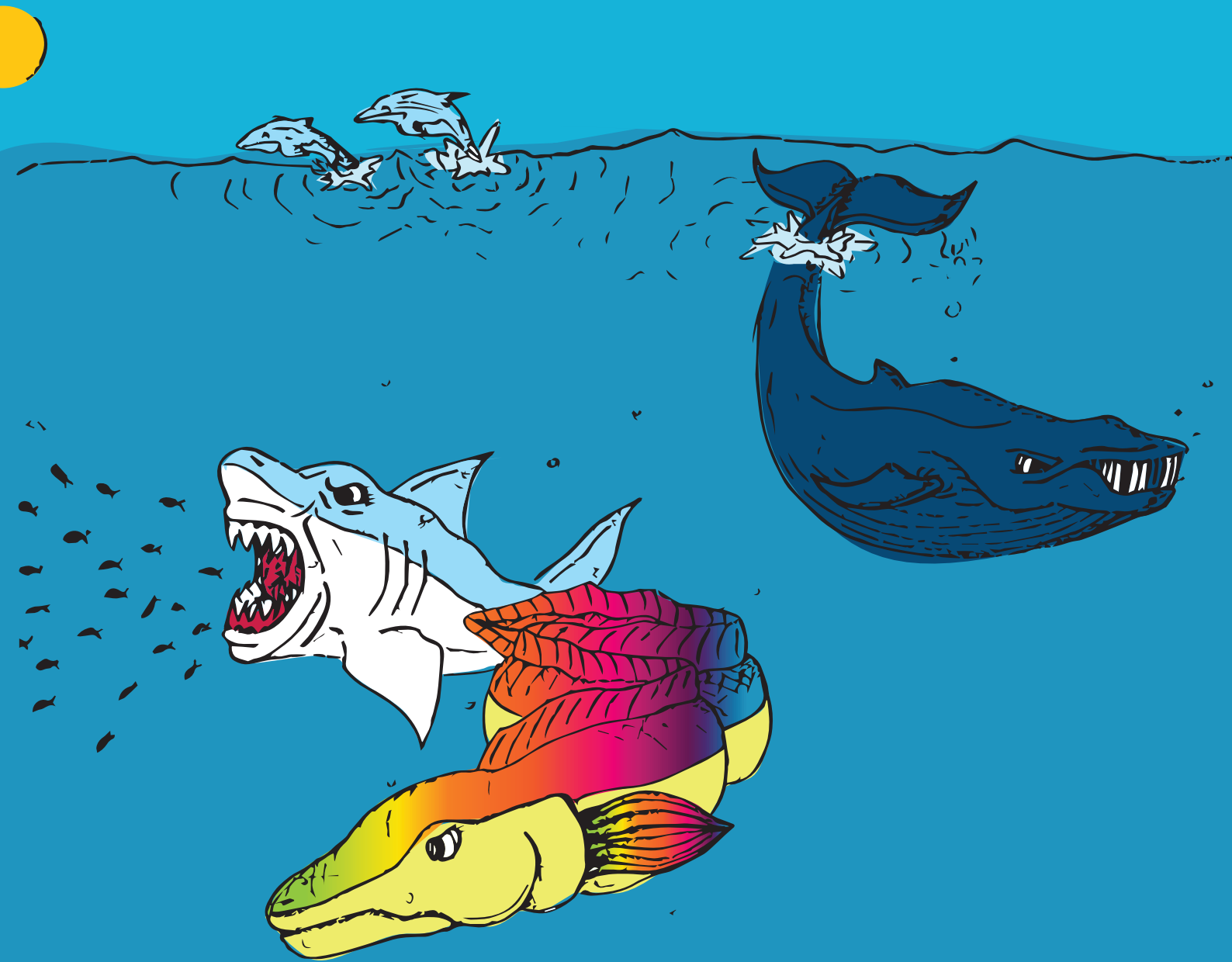
Eric the Eel was feeling excited because his parents said to him that it was time for him to leave New Caledonia.




Eric said goodbye to his mum and dad and eagerly swam off. His mum had tears in her eyes.

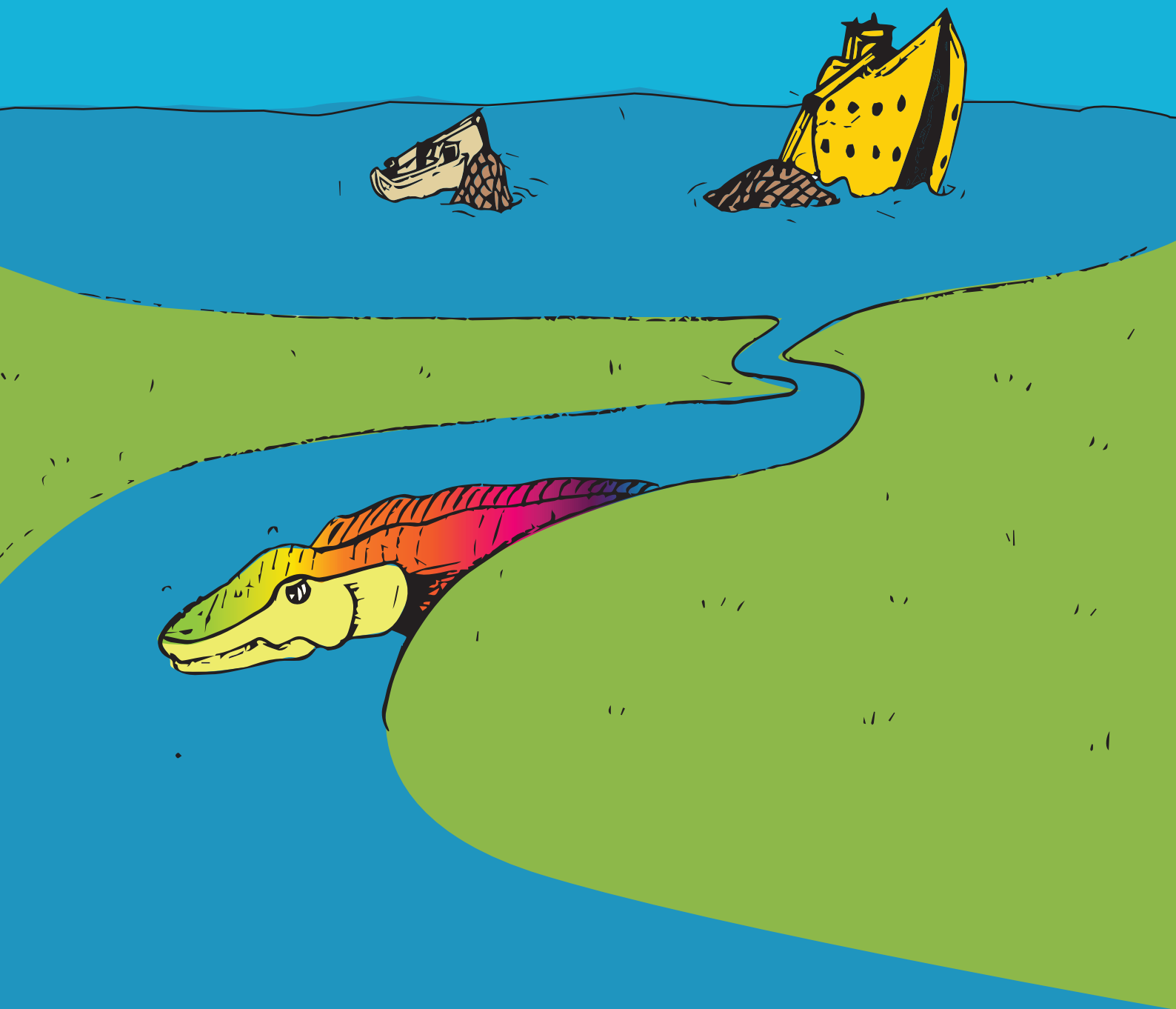


He swam across the Pacific Ocean passing
whales, sharks, dolphins and the fish

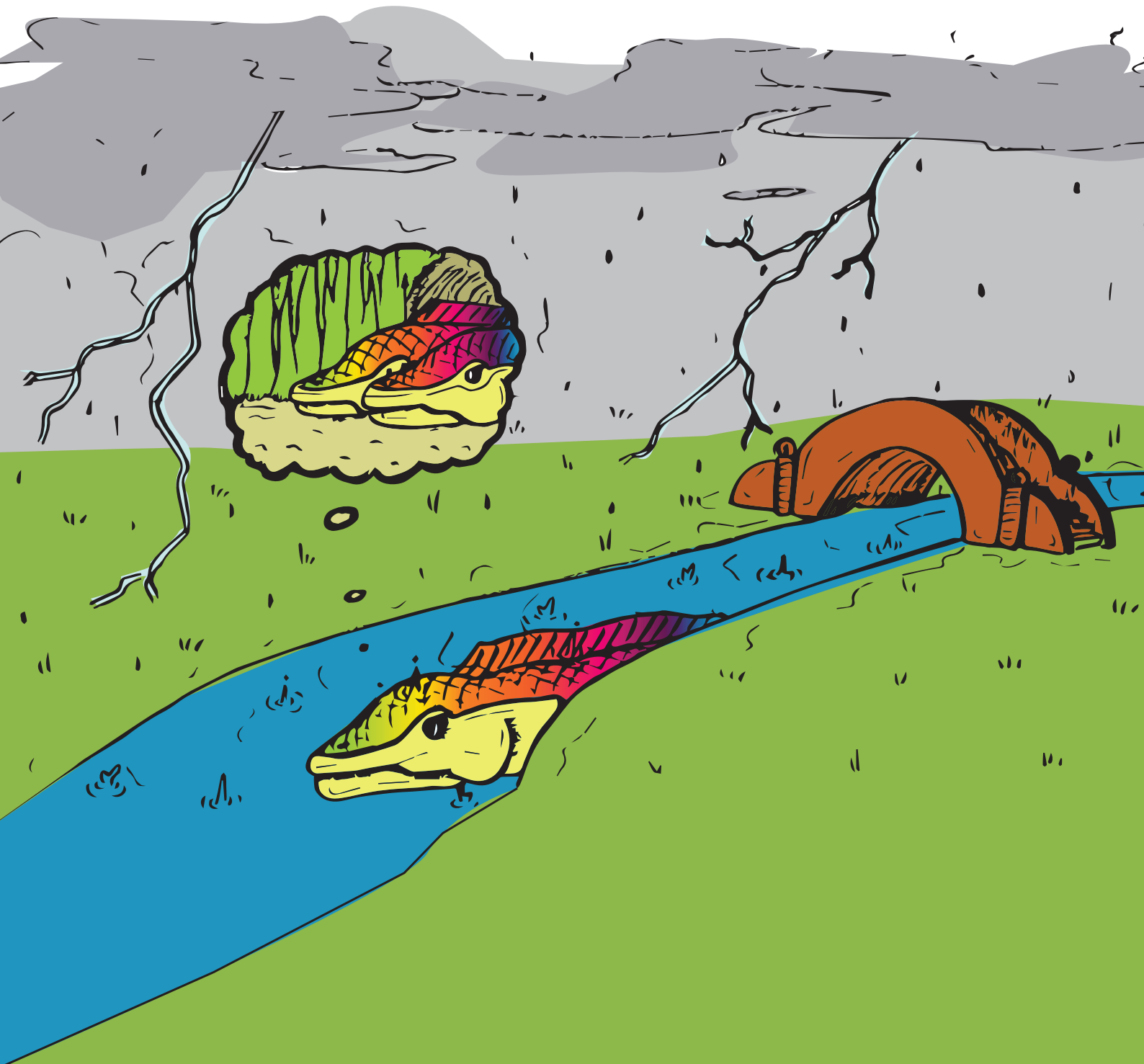




Eric had a couple of narrow misses with massive fishing nets. After two months of swimming, he swam into Botany Bay and made his way into the Georges River.



As Eric passed Captain Cook's Bridge he thought about his family back home. Eric could hear thunder above, the rain splashing into the river and the current started moving faster





The rain continued and the river rose....
Day after day...

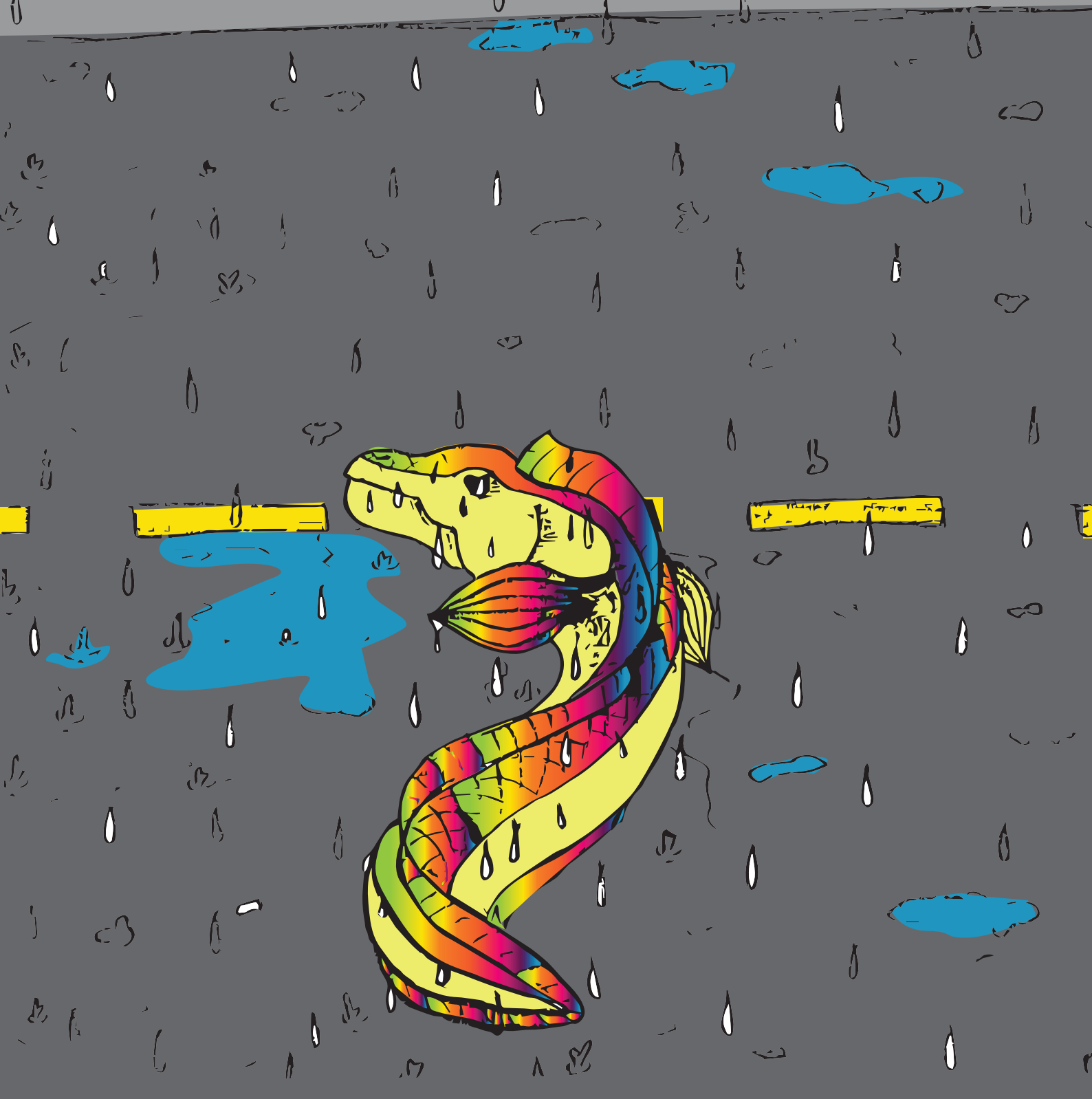
Eric swam.....and swam.....and swam,
until he eventually became exhausted. The
rain became heavier, the current became
stronger.



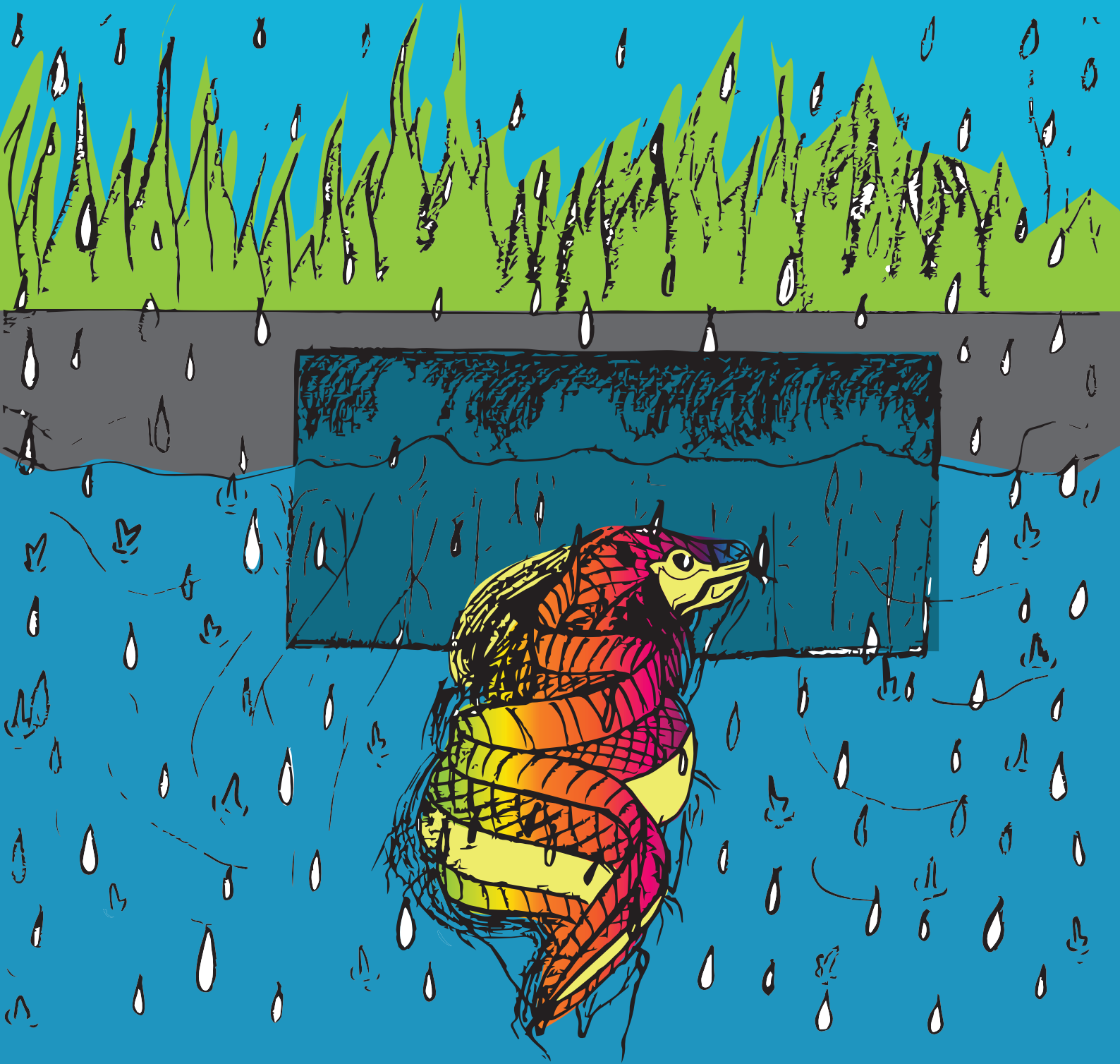


The water swirled and whirled. Eric was swept up and over and backwards onto the road. Eric was terrified as he lay on the road and tears streamed down his face.

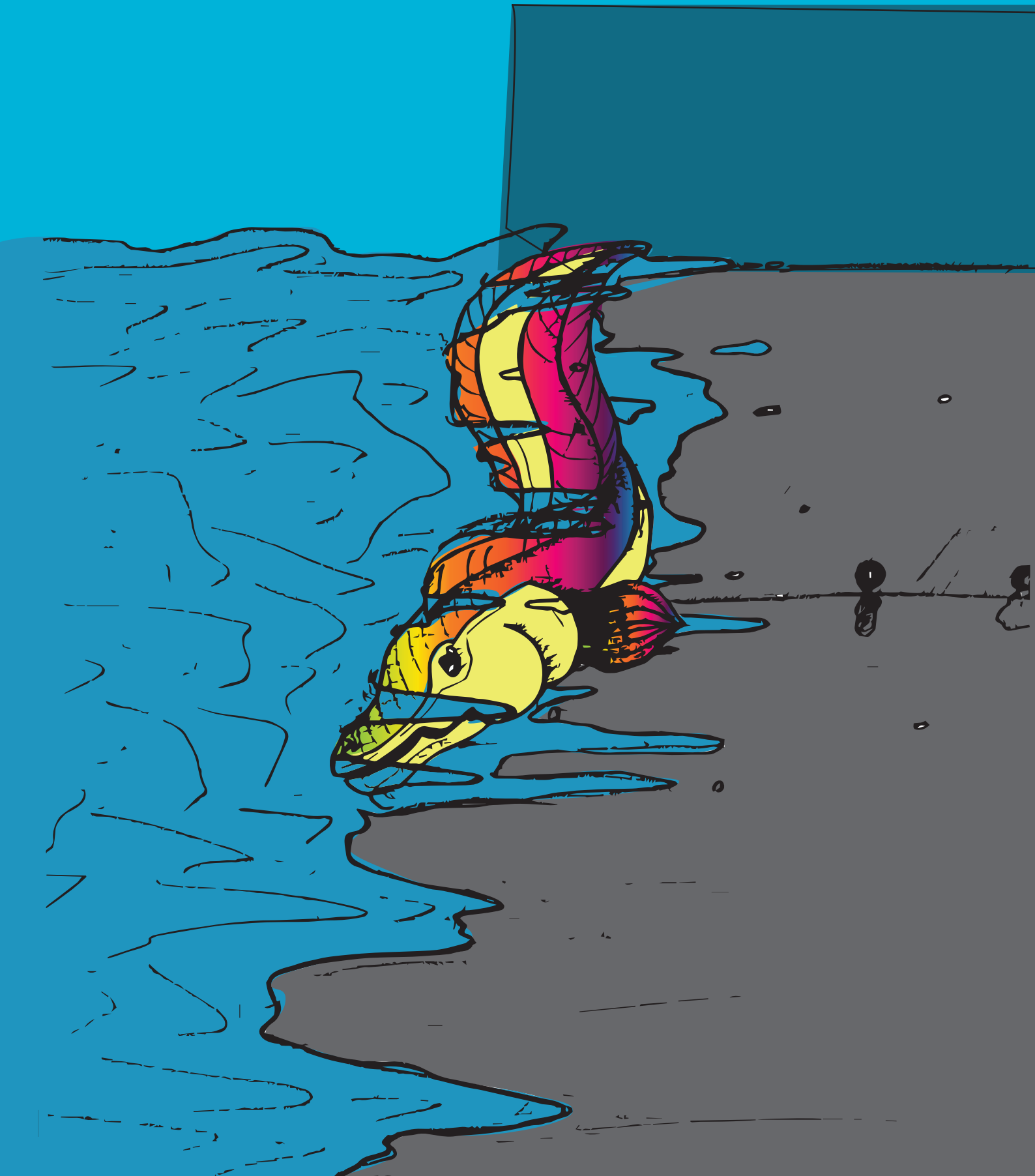
He knew that he could not live on the land forever. He could hear water rushing from the left side of the road.



Eric slithered toward the sound of the water. He could see the water running through the stormwater grate.



Eric plunged down into the drains... He was swept away in the water, he whirled and twisted and turned...



There was no point fighting the strong
current of the water.

He whirled...

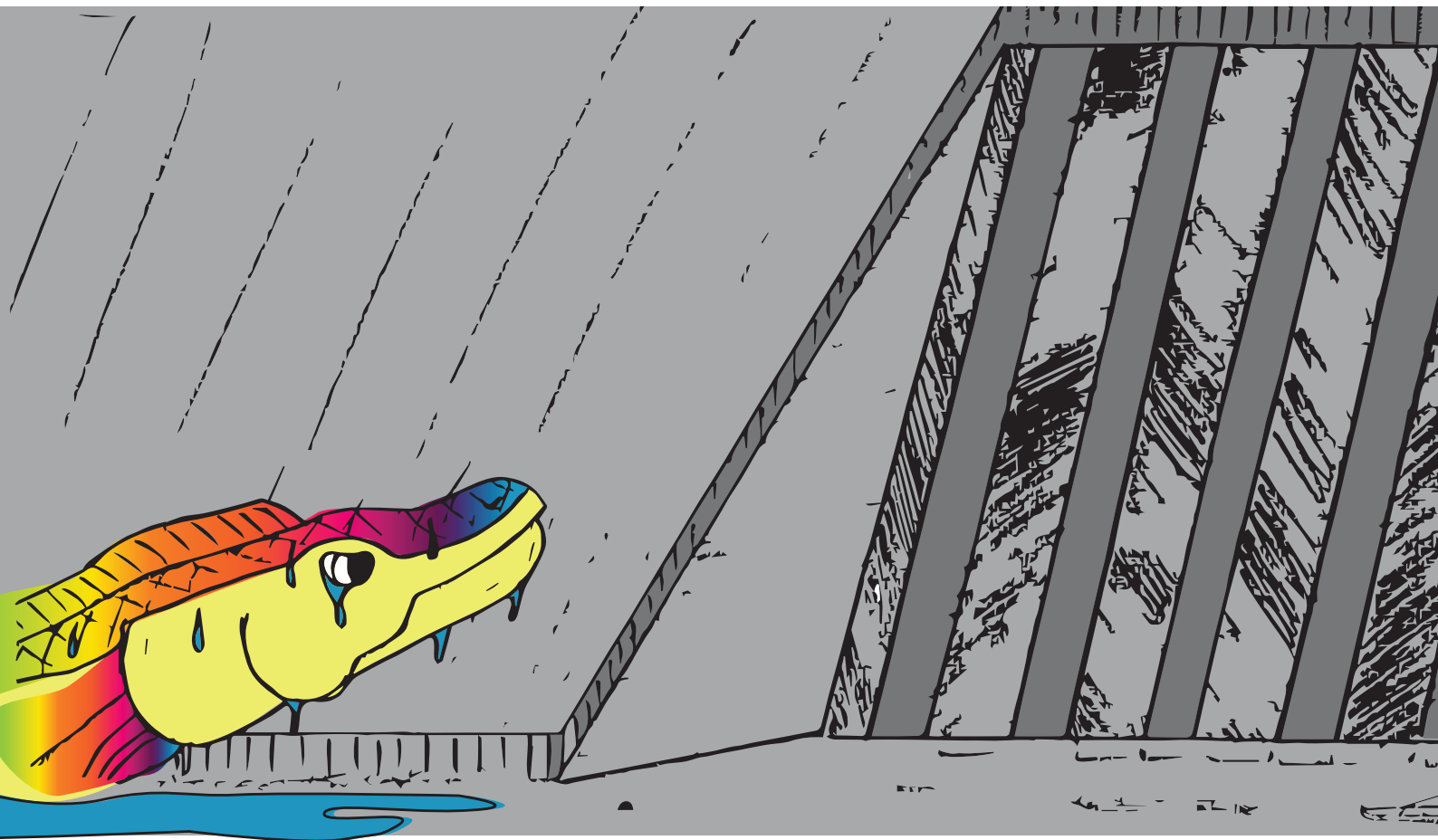
and twirled...

and twisted...

and turned.

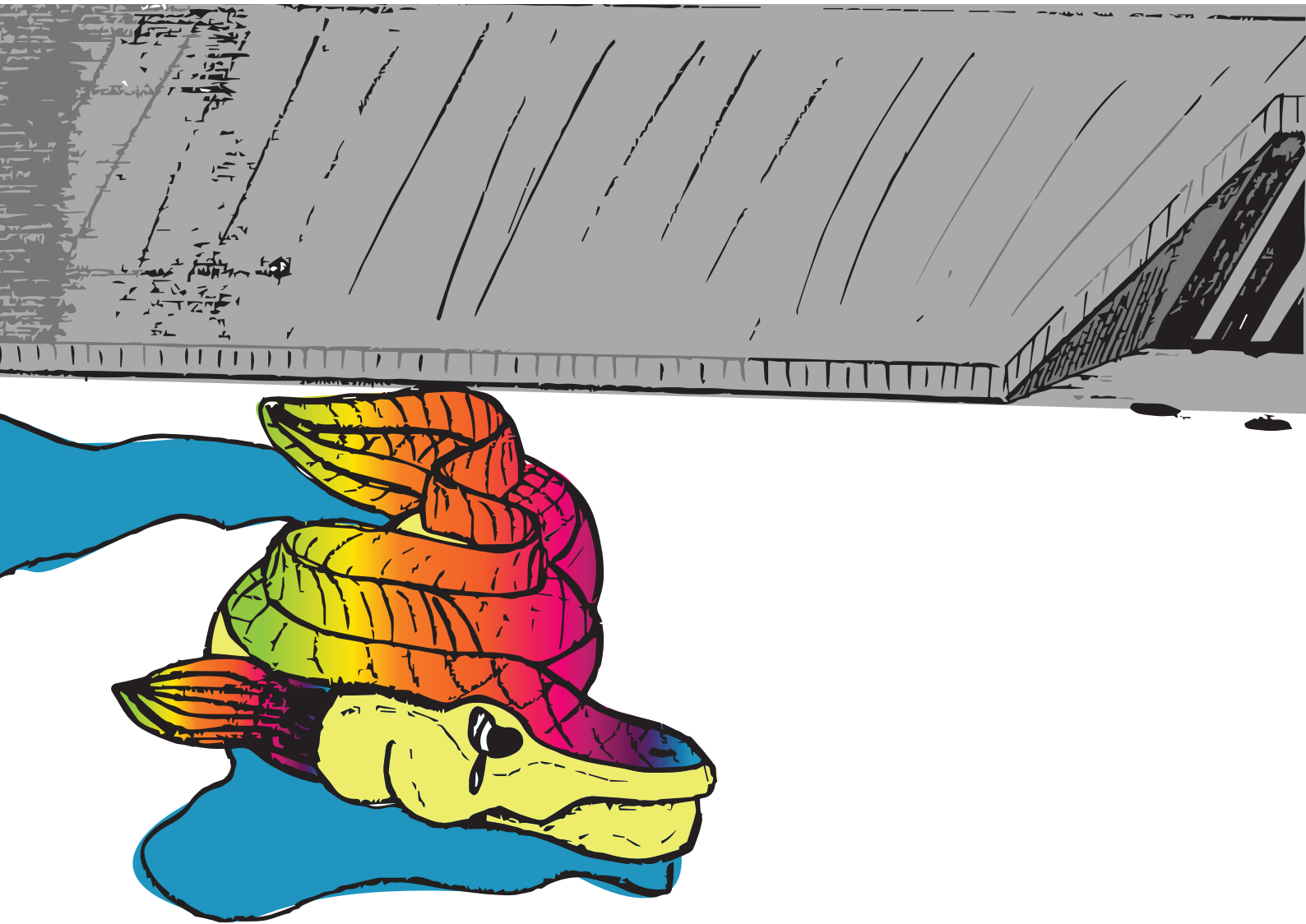


He was swept up and down, left and right...



Faster and faster until...
TTTHHHHHUUUDD!!!!!! Eric looked
up and he was on solid ground again, in
front of a giant litter trap.

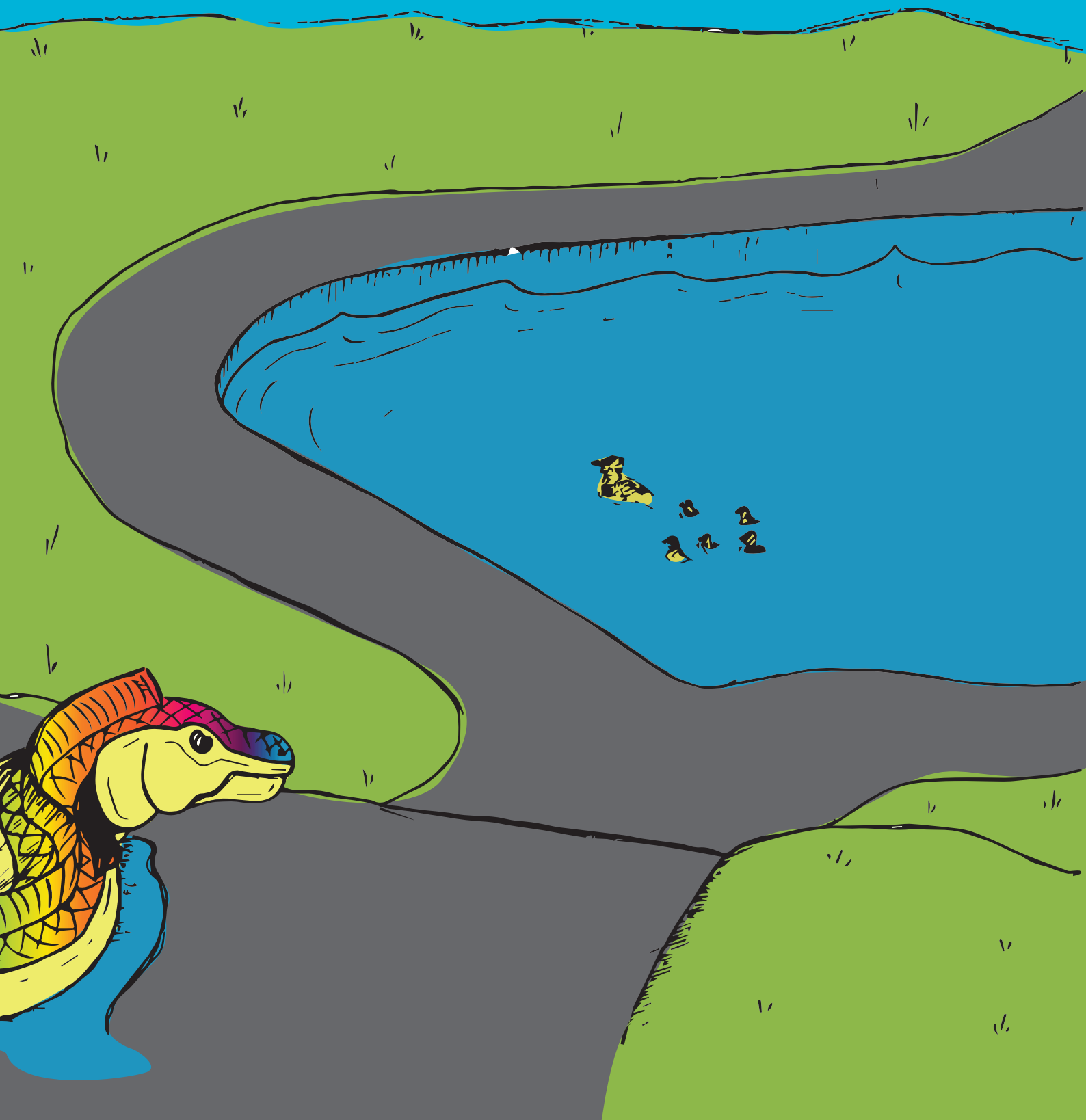
Eric had swum 2182 km, and could hear water running on the other side of the litter trap.



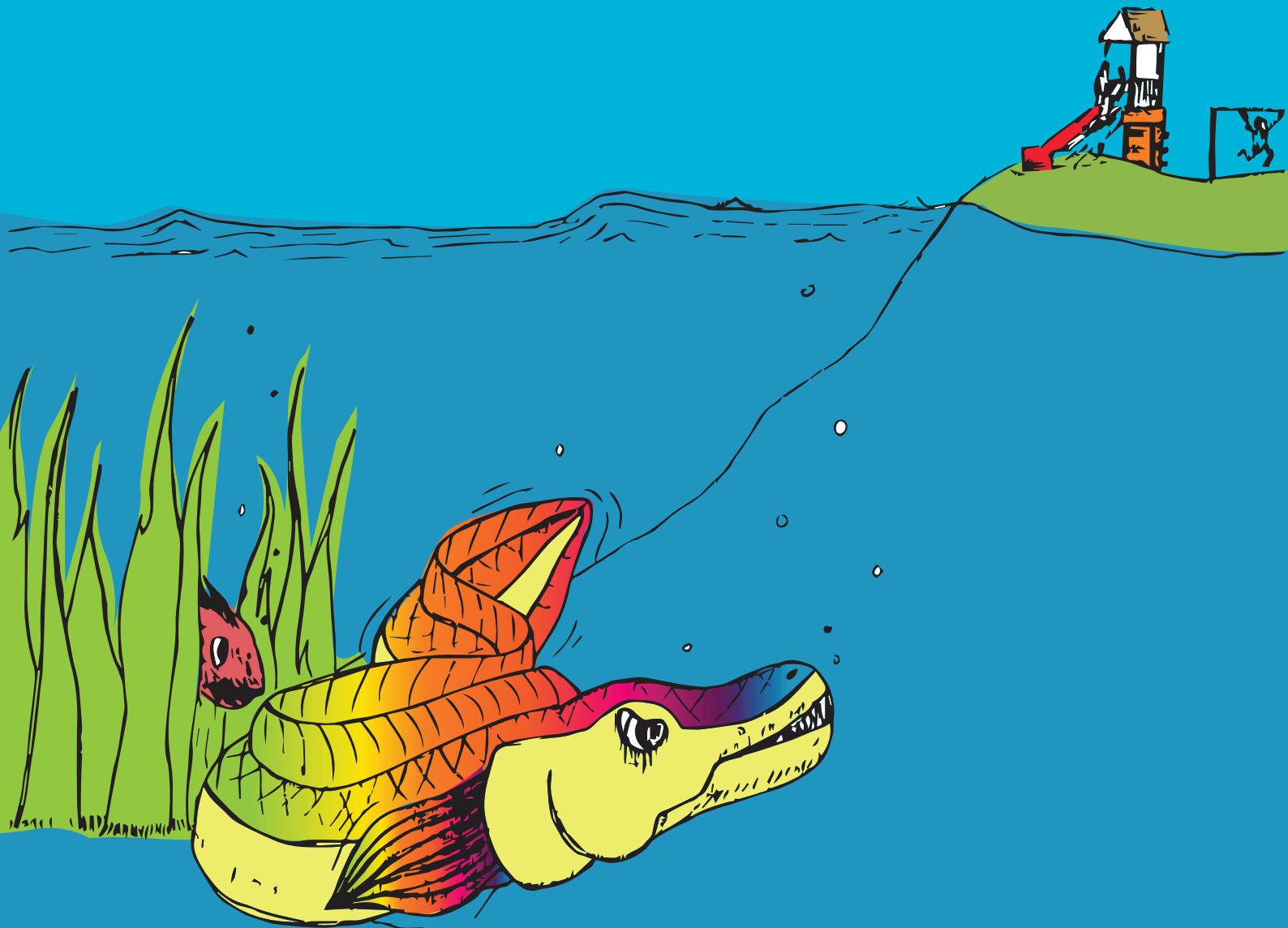
He slithered through the grates and discovered a beautiful lagoon area known as Campbelltown Park Central Wetlands! Eric slid gracefully into the nice, warm water and he felt safe again.



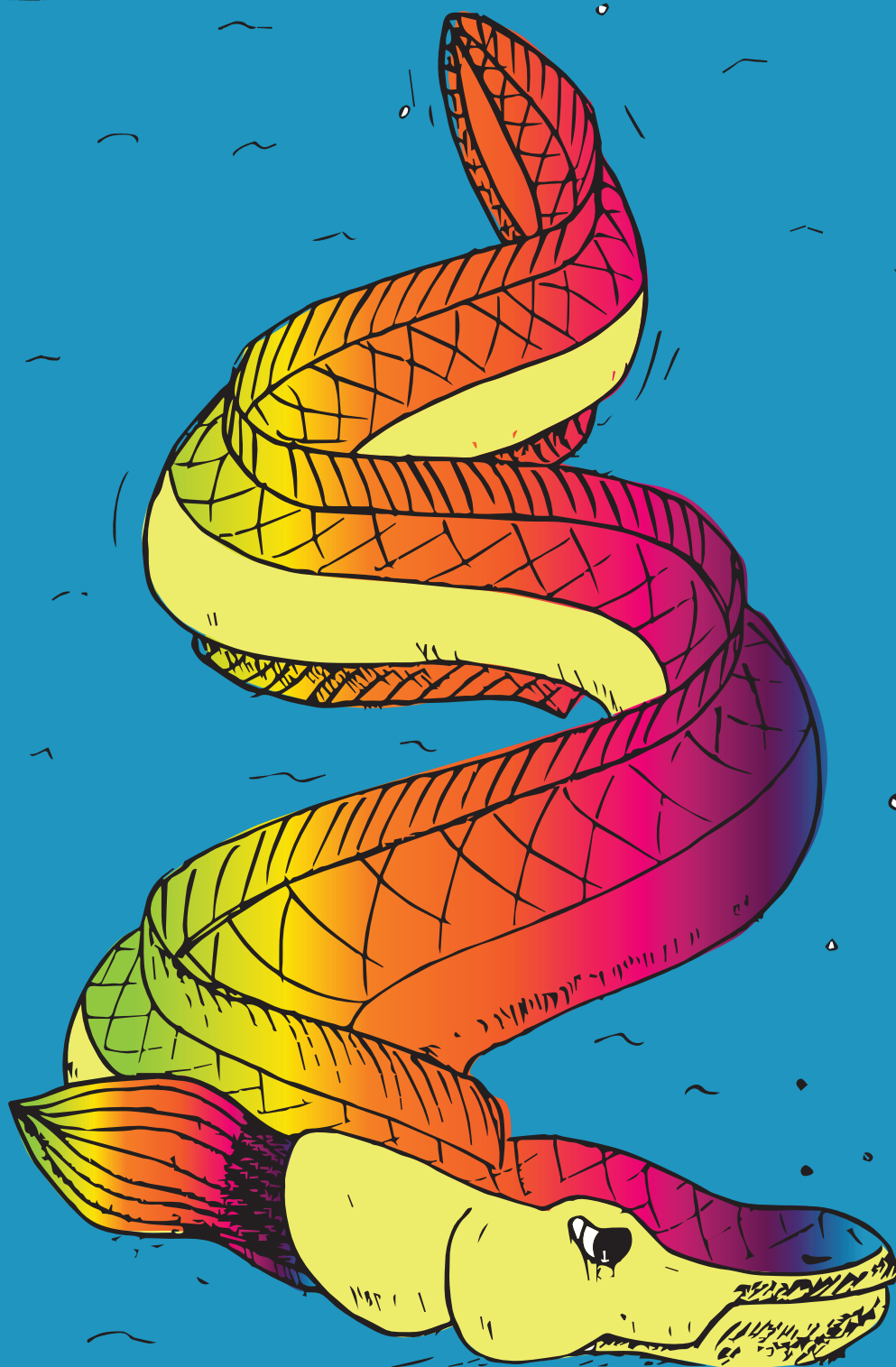
He surfaced and spotted lots of bird life
and thought to himself that there would be
plenty of food to survive.



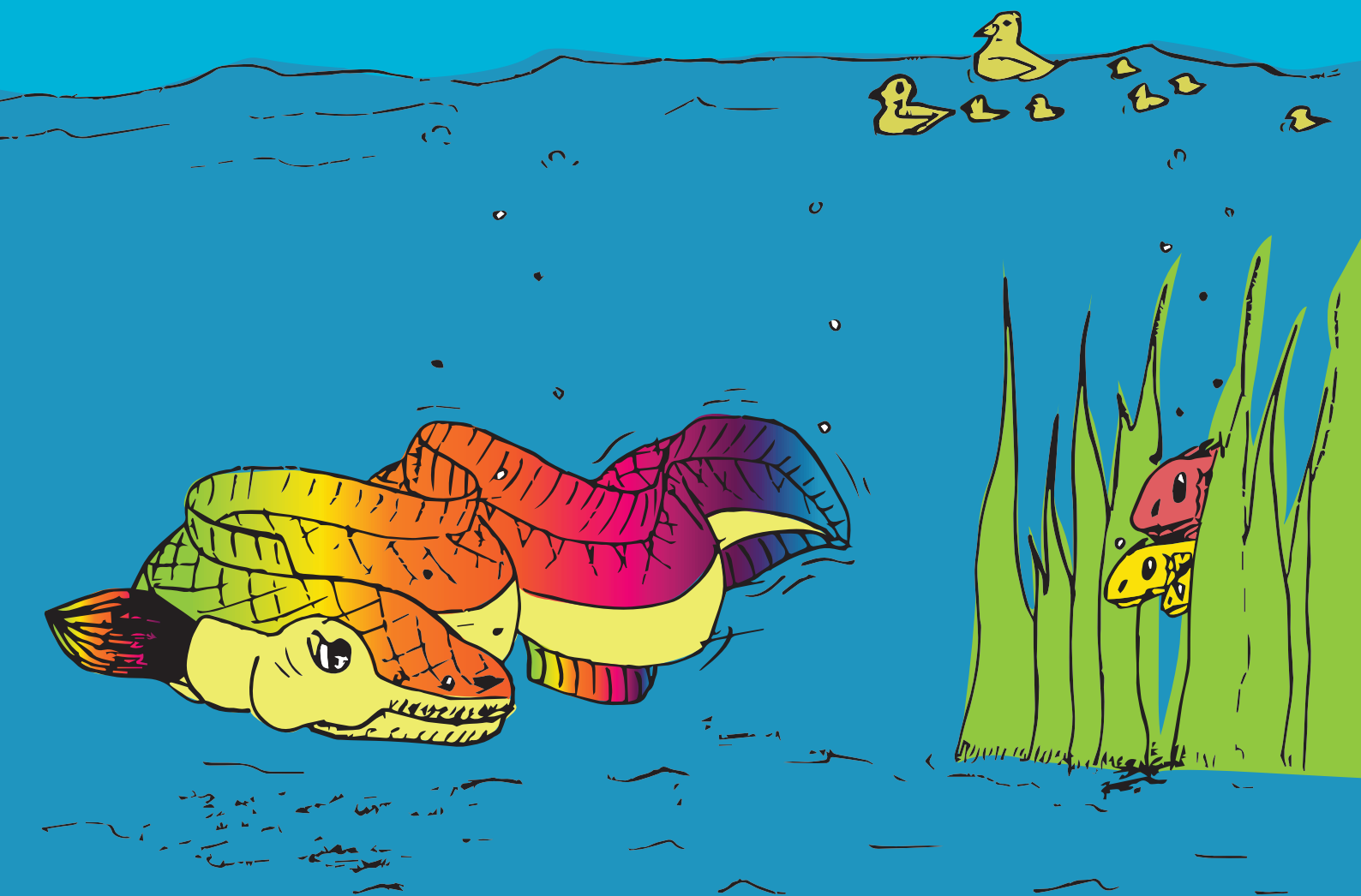
He noticed fish swimming past and peeking at him through the reeds. Eric spotted children playing in the park and purple swamp hens parading on the edge of the lagoon and knew this was going to be a friendly place to live.



Weeks, months and years went by as Eric lived a happy life with his friends at Park Central.



Eventually, Eric grew old and it was time to finally leave the wetlands and start his own family. He was very upset that he was going to leave his friends and living area but at the same time he was happy to go home to begin his new family in New Caledonia. And who knows, maybe Eric's children will return to the Park Central wetlands in Campbelltown.





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