

Ask
The
Cows

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Ask the Cows:

A story about Greater Shepparton's 'Mooving Art' and the surroundings, diversity and community of Shepparton. This book is a limited edition with only 200 copies available.

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Riverconnect Cow: Karren Pollerd (Shepparton ACE College)

Rumbalara Cow: Ronald Thompson (Aged 76)

Australia Cow: Peter Maloney

One day Mummy Cow decided to take Baby Cow to a town called Shepparton. Mummy Cow had heard that Shepparton is a very friendly place with many different types of people from many different backgrounds and cultures.

When they got to Shepparton not only did Baby Cow realise that some of the people look different to other people who live in this town, she also noticed that there were many cows that looked different to each other and didn't look like your usual black and white cow that you see on farms.

The cows that Baby Cow had noticed are known in Shepparton as 'Mooving Art'. All of the 'Mooving Art' cows were from the same place yet they all looked so very different to each other.

Mummy Cow and Baby Cow decided to go around to some of these cows and see how and why they were different...



The first cow that Mummy Cow and Baby Cow met was Tourist Cow.

"I look like this because I am a tourist. All tourists look different, some look like you and some look like me and some look different to the both of us. A tourist is someone from somewhere else visiting another place like a different town, city or country. You are a tourist, as you and Mummy Cow are not from Shepparton you are just here visiting," said Tourist Cow to Baby Cow.

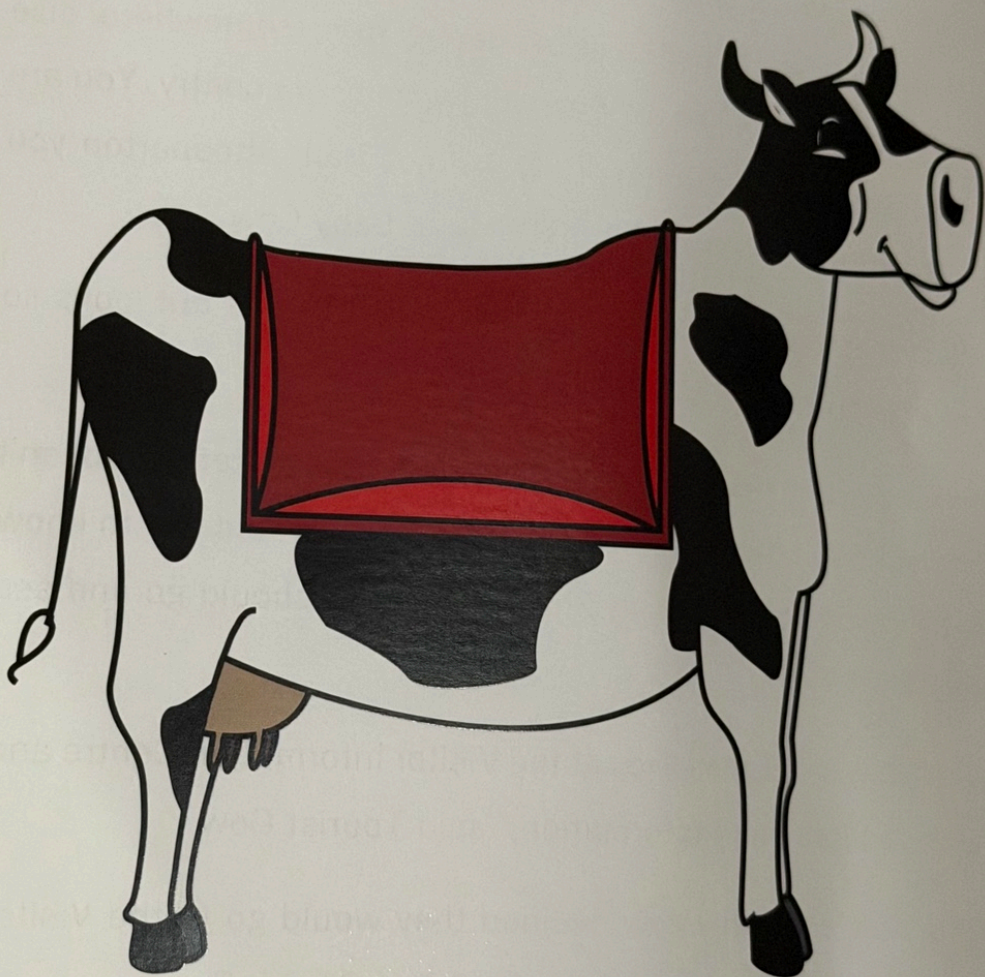
"Look at that Mummy Cow, a cow that is just like us but looks so different to how we look", said Baby Cow.

"That's right Baby Cow, just because we look different doesn't mean we are not the same in some way. If you would like to know more about different cows in Shepparton, you should go and see Cowch Cow."

"Cowch Cow sometimes lives at the Visitor Information Centre and can give you lots more information," said Tourist Cow.

Mummy Cow and Baby cow decided they would go to the Visitor Information Centre to see if they could find Cowch Cow.

When they got to the Visitor Information Centre they saw a beautiful cow sitting down that looked like a couch.



"You must be Cowch Cow," said Baby Cow.

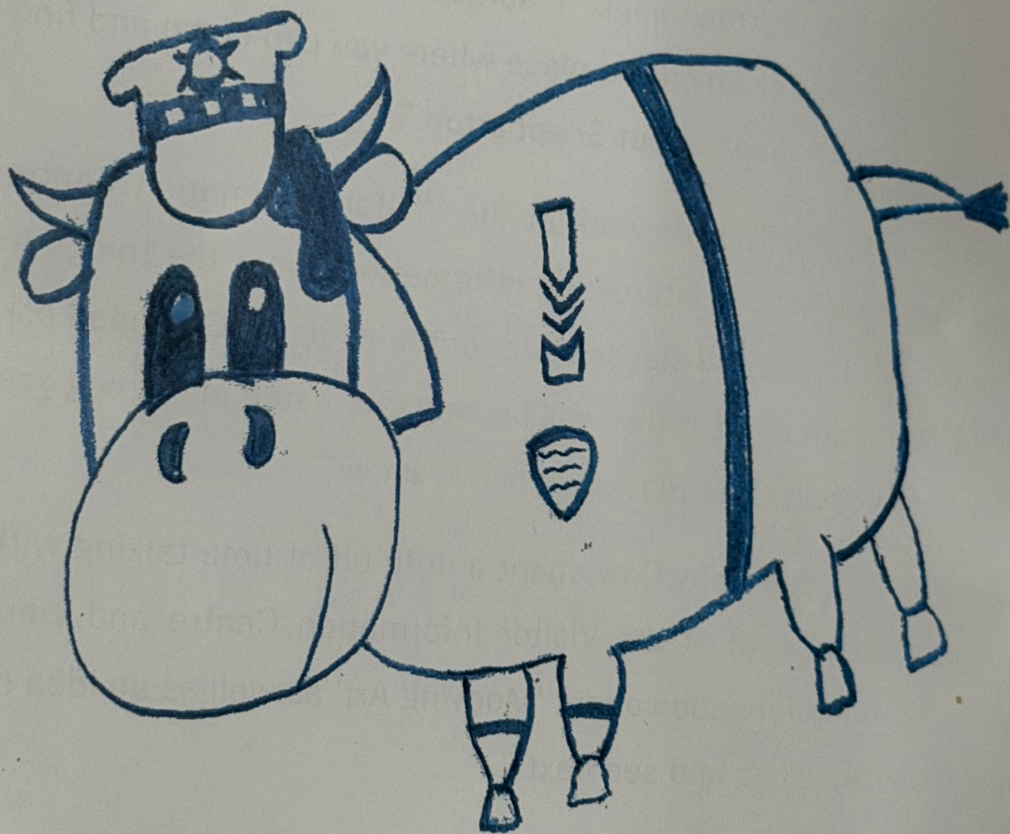
"That's right," said Cowch Cow.

Cowch Cow continued to say, "I look like a couch so that when people would like to have a rest they can take a seat on me and take in all the surroundings. I sometimes live at the Visitor Information Centre, which is a place where you can come and find out lots of information about Shepparton."

"Some very friendly staff work at the Visitor Information Centre and they have lots of interesting information about the things in Shepparton to see and places to go for things to do. Go ahead ask them about Shepparton they will be very interested in helping you find out whatever it is you would like to know."

Mummy Cow and Baby Cow spent a little bit of time talking with the wonderful staff at the Visitor Information Centre and were given a lot of information about 'Mooving Art' as well as an idea of who they should go and see next.

They then went to see Police Cow, who lives outside the police station.



"I am the Police Cow, I live at the Police Station in Shepparton and I look like this because I am wearing a police uniform."

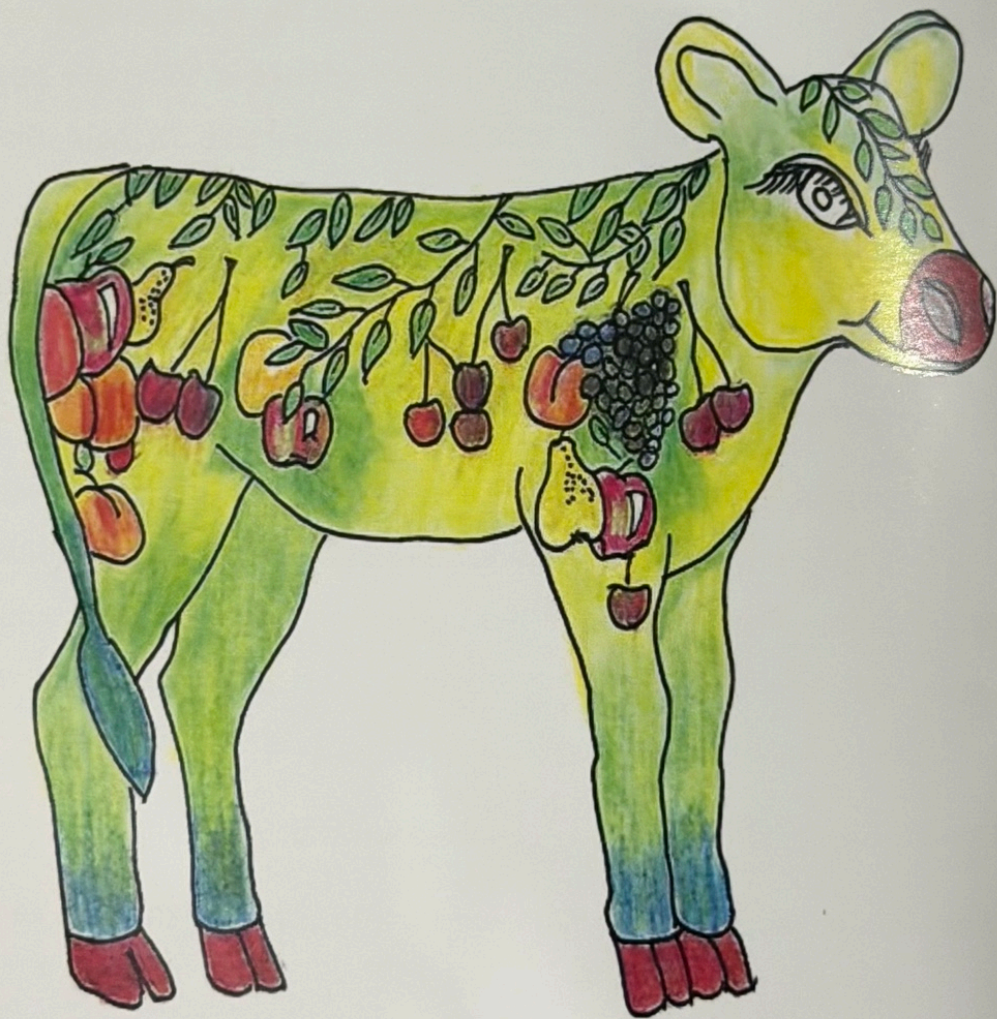
Police cow then said, "All of the police in Shepparton wear a uniform so that everyone knows who we are. No matter what we look like, where we come from or what we believe in, when we put on our uniform, we all join together as one team to help the community. There's really no need to be scared of us"

"Wow!" said Baby Cow. "It's so nice to meet a Police Cow and know that we don't need to be scared because all the police work together to help keep the community safe."

"Well thankyou Baby Cow, if you are looking for some more cows that look different to the cows you have visited so far you should go and talk to Fruity Calf who I'm sure would love to talk to you. I'm not sure where you will find her so make sure you keep an eye out for her on your way around Shepparton," said the Police Cow.

Mummy Cow and Baby Cow then went looking for Fruity Calf.

When Mummy Cow and Baby Cow found Fruity Calf, she was very much looking forward to talking to them.



"Hello, you must be Mummy Cow and Baby Cow. I'm Fruity Calf and I had heard you were in town looking to talk with cows that look different. I am a little calf with pictures of fruit all over me."

"Hello, it's nice to meet another calf," said Baby Cow.

Fruity Calf then told them all about the orchards that are all around Shepparton. An orchard is a place where fruit grows on many fruit trees, all growing together in rows or groups. You might have seen many orchards around Shepparton.

Not only does Shepparton have many orchards it also has many packing sheds where fruit goes to be packed and distributed around Australia.

Fruity Calf then said, "If you would like to know more about businesses in Shepparton, you should go and visit Business Moo. Business Moo wears a suit and I'm sure you will know this cow when you see it."

Baby cow thanked Fruity Calf for the wonderful explanation of orchards and off they went to see Business Moo.

Baby Cow was very excited to meet Business Moo and started to imagine all the things a Business Cow might do in Shepparton.



Business Moo sounds like a very important name thought Baby Cow. "I wonder if Business Moo will be as friendly as the other cows I have met?" Baby Cow asked Mummy Cow.

Mummy Cow did not answer Baby Cow and when Baby Cow turned around, Mummy Cow could not be seen anywhere. Baby Cow started to panic, there were cows everywhere and not one of them was Mummy Cow.

Just as Baby Cow started to become worried, she saw Mummy Cow not very far away at all. She was talking to a cow in a fancy suit. Baby Cow let out a huge moo of relief and ran to Mummy Cow.

"My goodness Business Moo we certainly are not used to seeing this many cows in one place," Mummy Cow exclaimed, relieved to see Baby Cow had not gone far.

Business Moo smiled down at Baby Cow, "I hear you are most curious about my job, young cow," Business Moo chuckled and explained. "I look after the community by making sure Shepparton supports local businesses and that local businesses support the community. It is like how your farmer milks your mother and in return, she provides him with milk."

All of a sudden, Baby Cow turned bright pink as her stomach grumbled loudly.

Get
well
soon!

If's a boy

congratulations
a girl

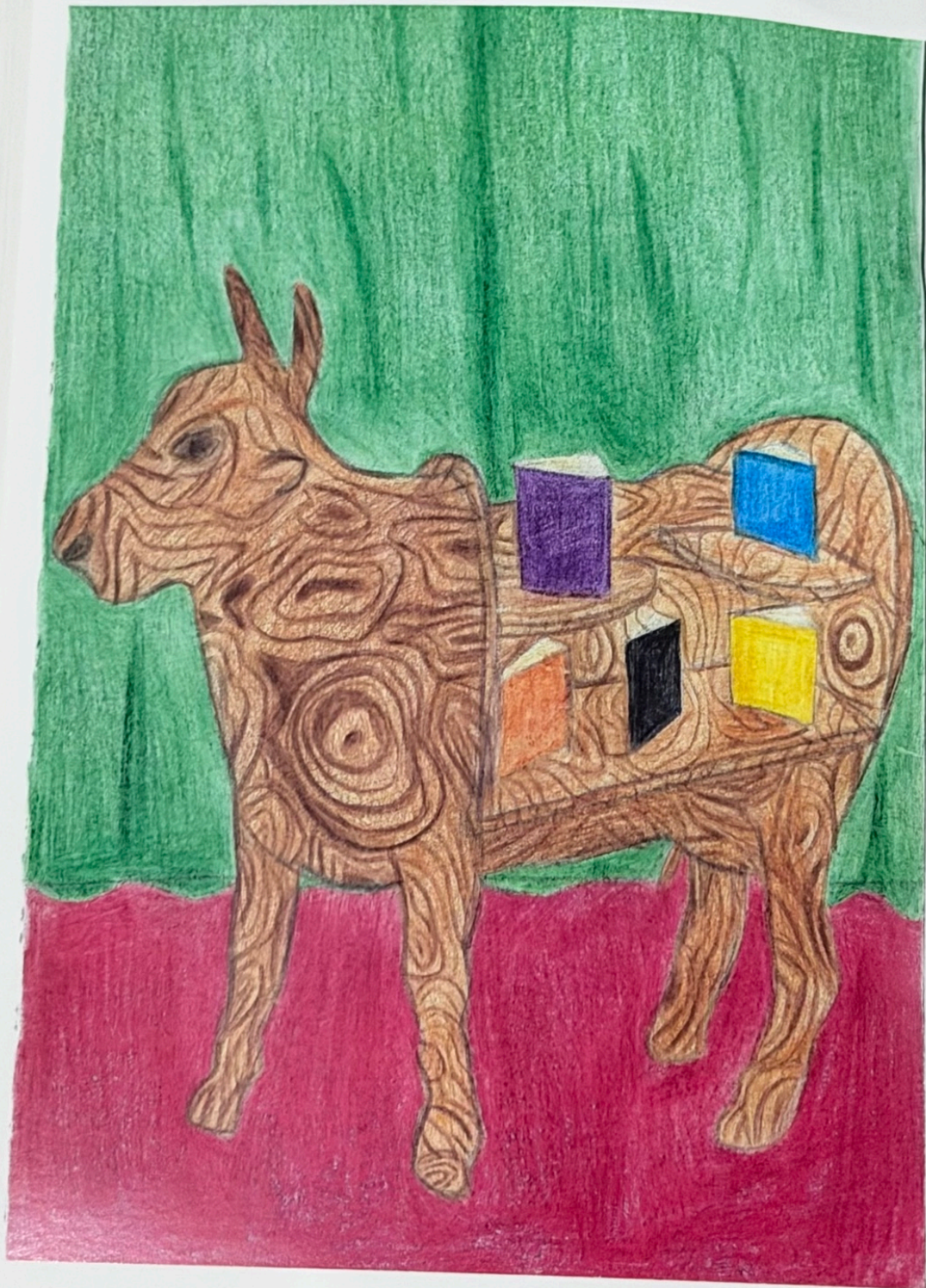
Thinking
of you



Business Moo turned to Mummy Cow and suggested they go find some lunch. All that talk of milk had made Baby Cow very hungry!

As Baby Cow and Mummy Cow were walking back into town, they came across the hospital. Baby Cow shuddered and begged Mummy Cow to cross the road. Baby Cow's older friends often told Baby Cow stories of their mothers going to hospital and coming back with a new calf. Baby Cow did not like the sound of that at all. A friendly looking cow smiled at Baby Cow from the entrance to the hospital and Baby Cow felt Mummy Cow nudging Baby Cow towards this friendly looking cow. "Hello there Baby Cow, I know a hungry face when I see one, but why do you look so worried?" exclaimed this cow. Mummy Cow explained that Baby Cow had never being to hospital before and did not know what a hospital was. "Let us have some lunch and I can tell you more about a hospital Baby Cow," this friendly cow replied.

Baby cow was surprised to learn the cow they were talking to was the called Nuclear. Nuclear assured Baby Cow that there are many reasons cows could go to hospital. Baby Cow felt relaxed talking to this cow and thought that perhaps they should not be so worried about hospitals anymore.



After they had lunch and Mummy Cow and Baby Cow thanked Nuclear for taking time with them today and they left the hospital café.

Nuclear had mentioned to Baby Cow if they want to find out more information about hospitals or Shepparton they should go visit Book Cowse at the library.

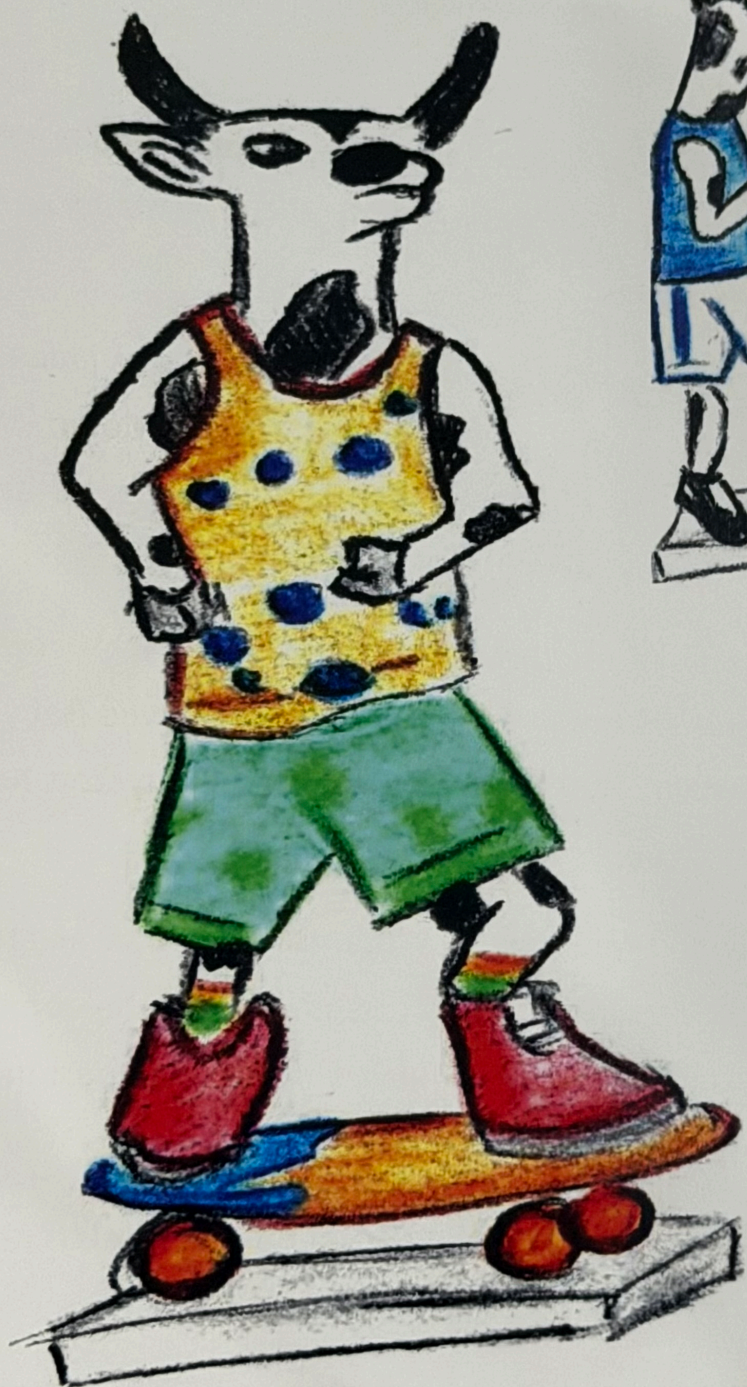
Baby Cow, excited to learn more about Shepparton was pleased to see that Book Cowse was in the library today. Mummy Cow reminded Baby Cow that the library was a quiet place, but it was okay to ask Book Cowse questions if they needed help.

Book Cowse was quite impressed with the cows Baby cow had met and heard stories from today. Book Cowse showed Baby Cow where the books about Shepparton were and Mummy Cow helped Baby Cow choose a couple of books to read.

Before Baby Cow and Mummy Cow left, Book Cowse suggested that they look at some old photos of Shepparton on the computer. Baby Cow could not believe how much smaller Shepparton used to be!

Baby cow yawned and thought, 'It must be time to stretch my legs again, I hope there is a park nearby'

Mummy Cow and Baby cow then found Skater Cow.



"Hi, I'm Skater Cow."

Baby Cow replied, "Hi, what is that you are standing on?"

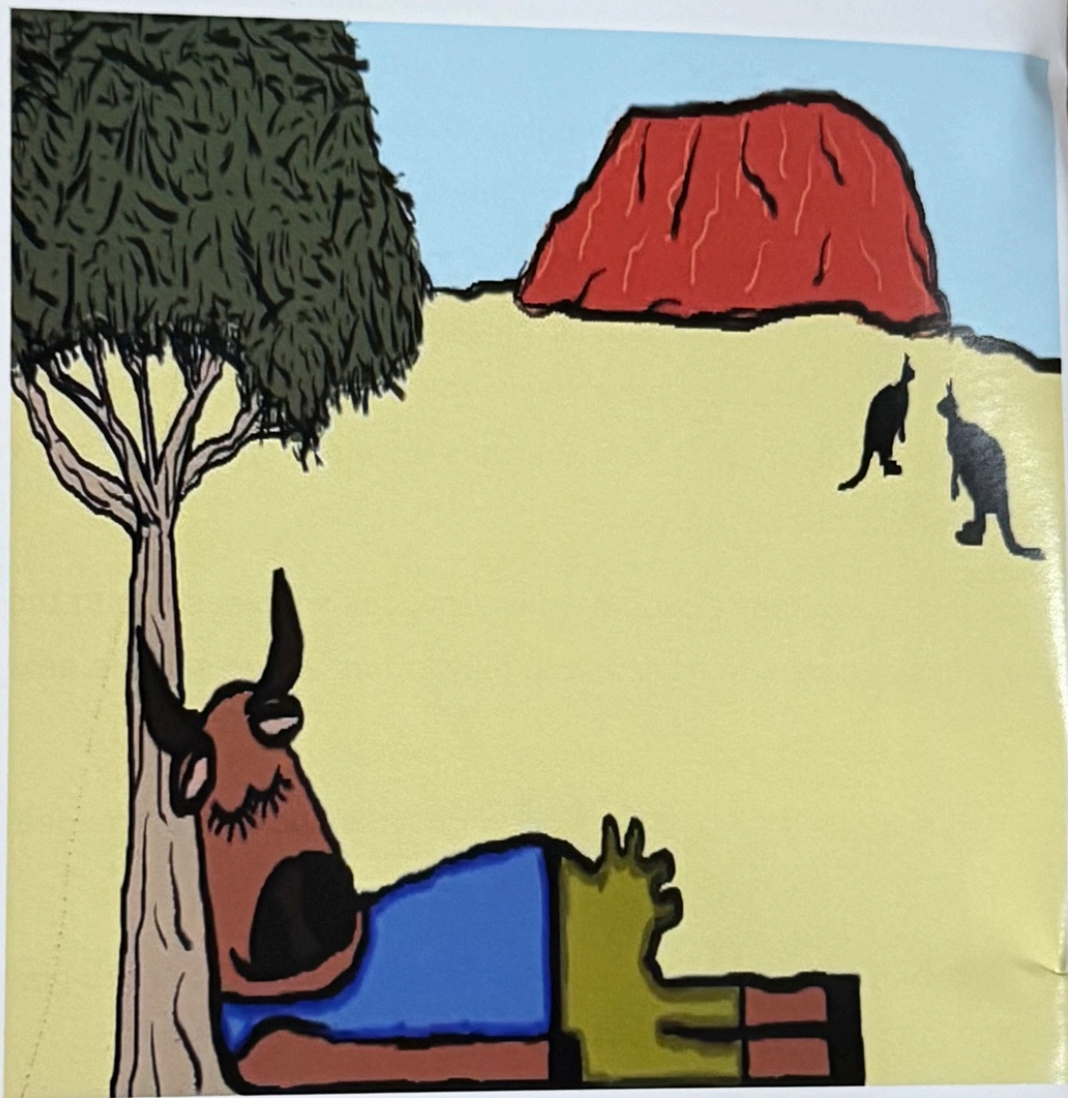
"This is a skateboard. I love to be outside doing many different activities. Today I look like this and have a skateboard but tomorrow I might look like a football or soccer player. I love outdoor activities so much that my looks change every day. Did you know that in Shepparton there are many places to go and do outdoor activities? We have a skate park, playgrounds and there is also a lake right near the skate park where many people in Shepparton from all walks of life go to enjoy outdoor activities with their family and friends," said Skater Cow.

"Amazing," said Baby Cow. "Mummy Cow can we please go to the lake and skate park to have a little play before we go see the next cow?"

Mummy Cow said, "Yes Baby Cow we have some spare time lets go and have some outdoor fun."

Mummy Cow and Baby Cow thanked Skater Cow and went to play outside in the sun for a little while.

Baby Cow still had all this energy from playing with Skater Cow on the skate park and around the lake. Mummy Cow decided that Baby Cow needed to go for a long walk.



They soon found themselves amongst what appeared to be never ending paddocks.

"We must be on a farm, Mummy Cow," Baby Cow exclaimed, excited to be around all this green grass.

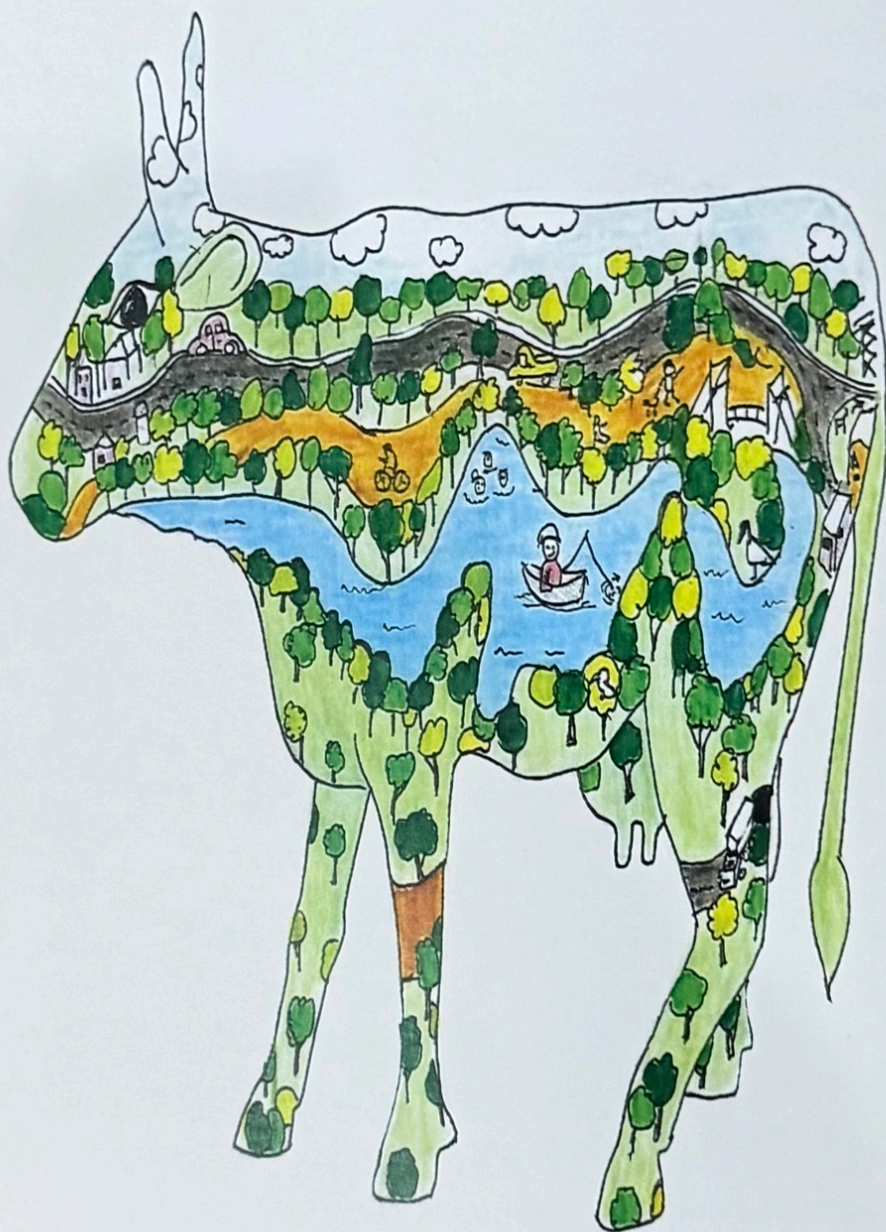
A shadow appeared over Baby Cow, "G'day, I am Bluey and you most certainly are on my dairy farm, young calf."

Baby Cow looked around her and noticed some cows were lying down in a corner of the paddock. "Bluey, why are the cows lying down? It is your farm, you should tell them to stand up!"

Bluey chuckled, "These cows are waiting to be milked. They are milked twice a day, by the afternoon some of the cows are so full of milk they need to lie down. These cows work hard making milk, just like us farmers work very hard running farms. We work long hours, even at night sometimes."

"There are also farmers who don't have cows on their farms, instead they grow crops and hay and have other animals like sheep and pigs on their farms."

Baby Cow was fascinated by Bluey's information about farms and was thrilled when Bluey told her there were some younger calves on the farm she could go and play with.



Bluey cow then suggested Mummy Cow and Baby Cow follow the river to get back into town.

As they walked along the river back into town, they found Riverconnect Cow. This cow had rivers, wildlife, and nature all over it.

"Hi, I'm Riverconnect Cow and I am very excited to talk to you about the Goulburn and Murry rivers which I believe are the heart and soul of the Shepparton community."

"Hi Riverconnect Cow, I'm Baby Cow and these rivers and wildlife sound like an amazing thing to come and see in Shepparton."

"Yes Baby Cow, they are amazing and there is a lot of bush land and natural wildlife around these rivers that we as a community need to help look after and protect. If we all work together, no matter where we come from, we can care for this environment and have this beautiful landscape for future generations to enjoy."

"The Shepparton area has great cultural significance especially to the indigenous people. If you would like to know more about indigenous people, you should go and have a talk to Rumbalara Cow," said Riverconnect Cow



Baby Cow was intrigued to learn more about Indigenous people in Shepparton, so they left to find Rumbalara Cow.

They had heard Rumbalara Cow was in a retirement pasture and had one black side and one red side with a yellow circle between the two sides.

Rumbalara cow explained, "I am these colours because I represent the togetherness of the Aboriginal people. These colours are very important to our people. The black colour represents our people and is the top colour as you can see from my coat. We use the yellow circle as the sun who we believe protects us. The bottom colour is red soil because we have a special connection to our land. We also use a special red coloured dust in our ceremonies, called ochre."

"Our flag is very important to us Baby Cow. It unites Indigenous people from all over Australia and gives us strength to celebrate our culture."

After meeting Rumbalara Cow, Baby Cow began to think about how big Australia really is. Mummy cow must have been thinking the same thing as they walked past a cow with the Australian Flag on it.

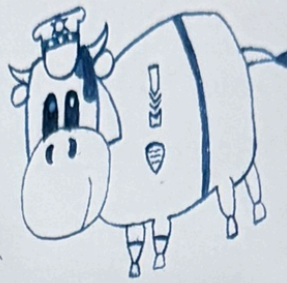
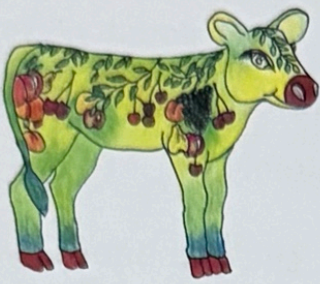


"Baby Cow, we really are so lucky to live in a big country like Australia," Mummy Cow said. "Does this mean we can go to other towns like Shepparton?" Baby Cow asked, excitedly.

Mummy Cow gave Baby Cow a huge smile as she told Baby Cow how proud she was of her today for learning so much about Shepparton. "I think we should plan a trip to another town very soon Baby Cow," said Mummy Cow.

Australia Cow, who was listening to Mummy Cow and Baby Cow's conversation gave a huge 'Moo' in support and offered to come along for their next tour. "I love being a tourist and if I come along on your next trip I can explain to you all about the states, cities and towns that make up Australia. Shepparton is a town that is in Victoria in Australia and there are plenty of other states and towns that make up this wonderful country that we live in," Australia Cow said.

"Wow, I can't wait to learn more about all of these wonderful places within Australia. We will definitely have to come back and find you once we have finished seeing all the cows and places in Shepparton," beamed Baby Cow.



It was getting late so Mummy Cow and Baby Cow decided that they did not have time to see any more cows today as they would have to head home.

They had a wonderful day in Shepparton finding out lots of information about the town and meeting many cows that are different to each other.

Mummy Cow then said to Baby Cow "It's ok to look different to another cow and have different jobs, cultures and backgrounds to what they have. When you grow up you can be anything you want to be and do any job you want no matter what you look like. We all have things in common to someone else no matter what we look like or where we come from."

"Thanks Mummy Cow, I have had an amazing day in Shepparton today, one day I am going to be just like one of the cows we met along the way, helpful, kind to other cows and full of information," said Baby Cow.

The End.

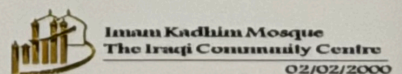
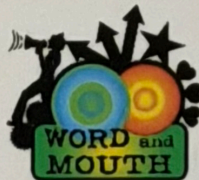
Ask the Cows Storybook

A story about Shepparton's 'Mooving Art' and the diversity of people in and around Shepparton.

Mummy Cow and Baby Cow go to visit a town called Shepparton where they notice that all of the people in Shepparton have different cultures and backgrounds.

The people of Shepparton are represented by the 'Mooving Art' cows, showing that people look different for a variety of reasons yet many have common goals/jobs even though they come from different places or have different beliefs.

It's ok to be different is the main message of this storybook and just because you are different in some way does not mean you're not the same in another way.



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