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Creatures of the Rainforest

Warren Brim and Anna Eglitis
Magabala Books, \$26.95

YOUR curious child, the one who just loves to gather insects, who is always fossicking in books to find out things – that child is going to love *Creatures of the Rainforest*. This substantial picture book is published by Broome-based Magabala Books.

This one is a "special collaboration between two friends from different cultures who wanted to use their art to celebrate friendship and reconciliation".

The two are Anna Eglitis, a Fijian-born Australian of European descent, and Warren Brim, from the Djabugay people of north Queensland. They met at North Queensland TAFE, he a student, she a teacher who helped set up the visual arts course.

Eglitis is now retired, Brim is a young man of 28, married with three children. Their superb collaboration is full of delights not just for children.

Each creature – from cassowary to green ant – is given two pages, but it's not indicated who did which illustrations. There's a description of the creature or plant, carefully done, and each is also given their Djabugay language name. I love these drawings. They are both realistic and stylised, simple and complex. The book is neither patronising nor tendentious, just a clearly respectful but joyous piece of work. There's a picture at the end of Warren and Anna holding the original linoprints which would make a fine exhibition.

Rosemary Sorensen