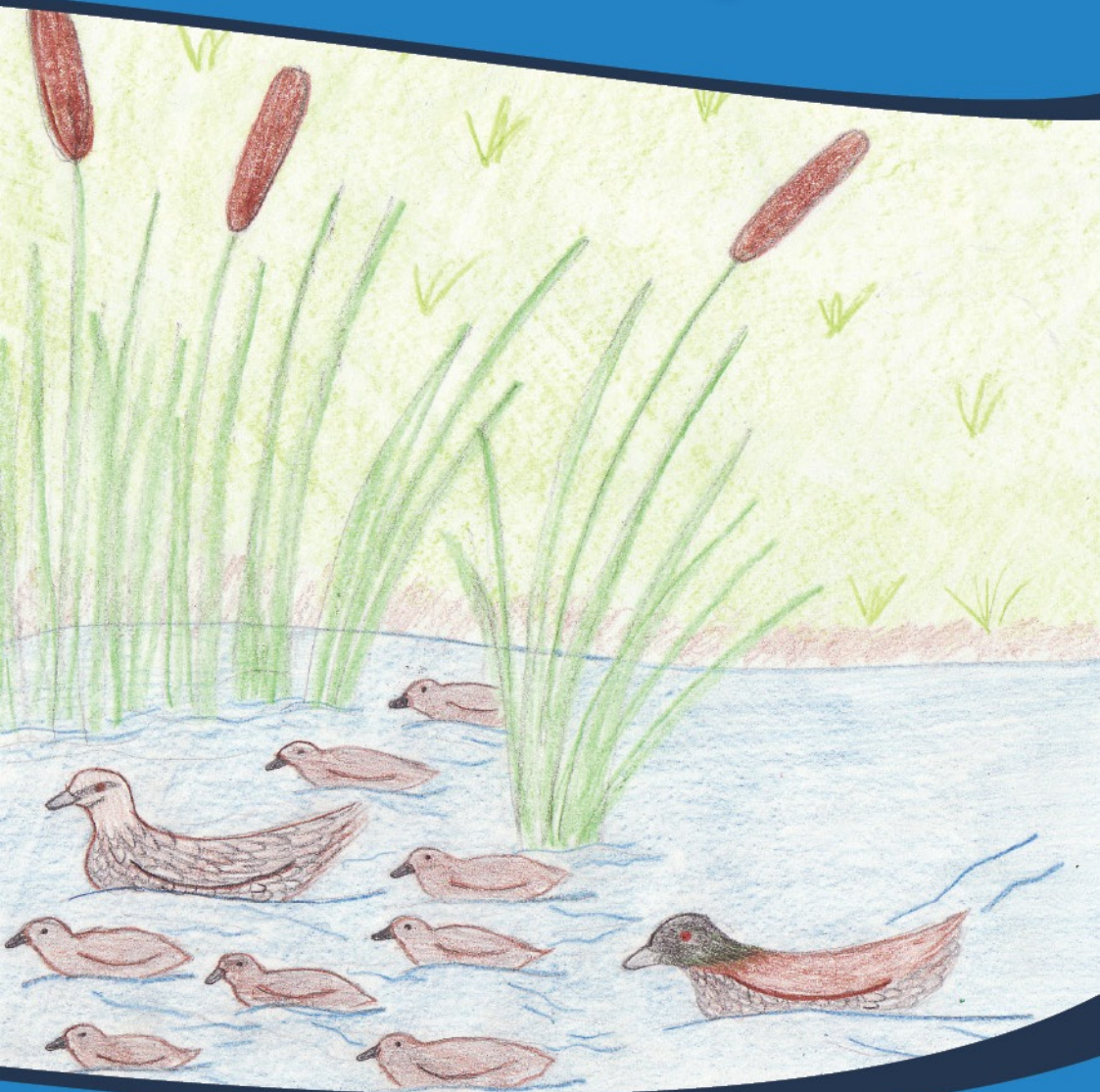


A Duck's Life



Faith Eadie
Newling Public School



Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for Primary Schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.

www.envirostories.com.au



This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2010, the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in conjunction with the Central West Catchment Management Authority, provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West Catchment is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales, flanked by the Barwon and Darling Catchments to the north and west, Lachlan to the south and the Sydney/Shoalhaven Basin to the east.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

A Duck's Life

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The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2010 “Fur & Fins, Feet & Beaks...What can you find at your local creek?” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- A Duck's Life
- Blue-Bell the Cow
- Collie the Champion Carp
- Giggle Learns to Fly
- Pippy the Platypus
- Stop the Spread
- The Fantastic Five Friends
- Trouble on Wee Waa Lagoon
- Pob's Great Search

ISBN: 978-0-9870464-2-0

Design by PeeKdesigns, www.peekdesigns.com.au

Printed by Greenridge Press, www.greenridgepress.com.au

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Not too long ago, in a small paddock in Armidale, there lived a family of ducks.

They were Donald, Delilah and their eight little ducklings.



They lived in a paddock that had a clear, bubbling creek flowing through it.

Donald and Delilah enjoyed picking at the water grasses and weeds that grew along the banks. They also liked crunching on small beetles with their strong beaks.

But their favourite delicacy was acorns.



A huge acorn tree grew nearby.
Unfortunately it was on the other side
of a long black strip of hard surface that
snaked alongside the small paddock.

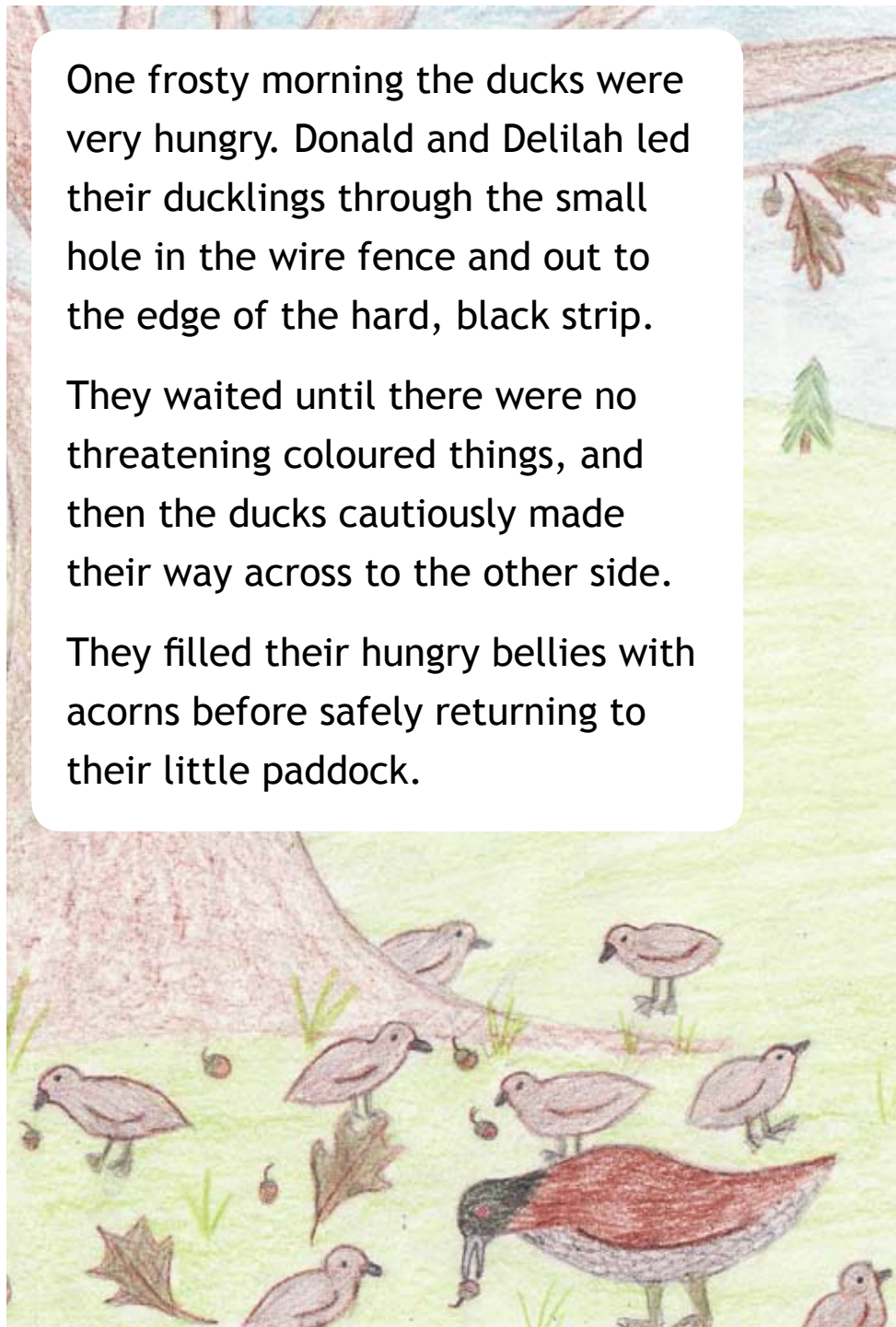
Large coloured things, with funny, round
feet and very bright eyes, roared along
the black strip.

They threatened to crush anything that
was in their way.

One frosty morning the ducks were very hungry. Donald and Delilah led their ducklings through the small hole in the wire fence and out to the edge of the hard, black strip.

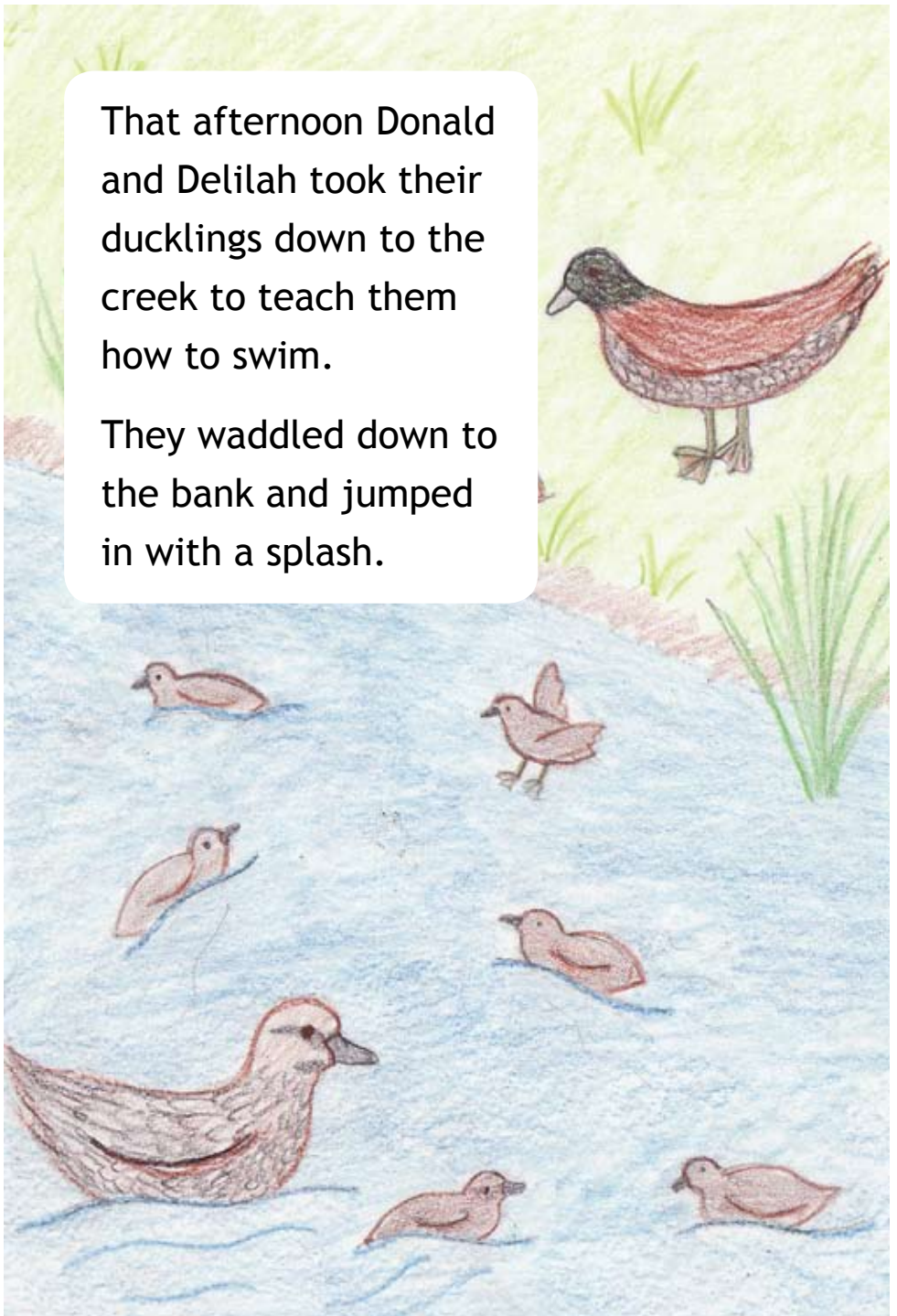
They waited until there were no threatening coloured things, and then the ducks cautiously made their way across to the other side.

They filled their hungry bellies with acorns before safely returning to their little paddock.



That afternoon Donald and Delilah took their ducklings down to the creek to teach them how to swim.

They waddled down to the bank and jumped in with a splash.





As the ducklings were taught how to dive for food, a large shadow passed over them.

They looked up and saw a big black currawong circling above them.





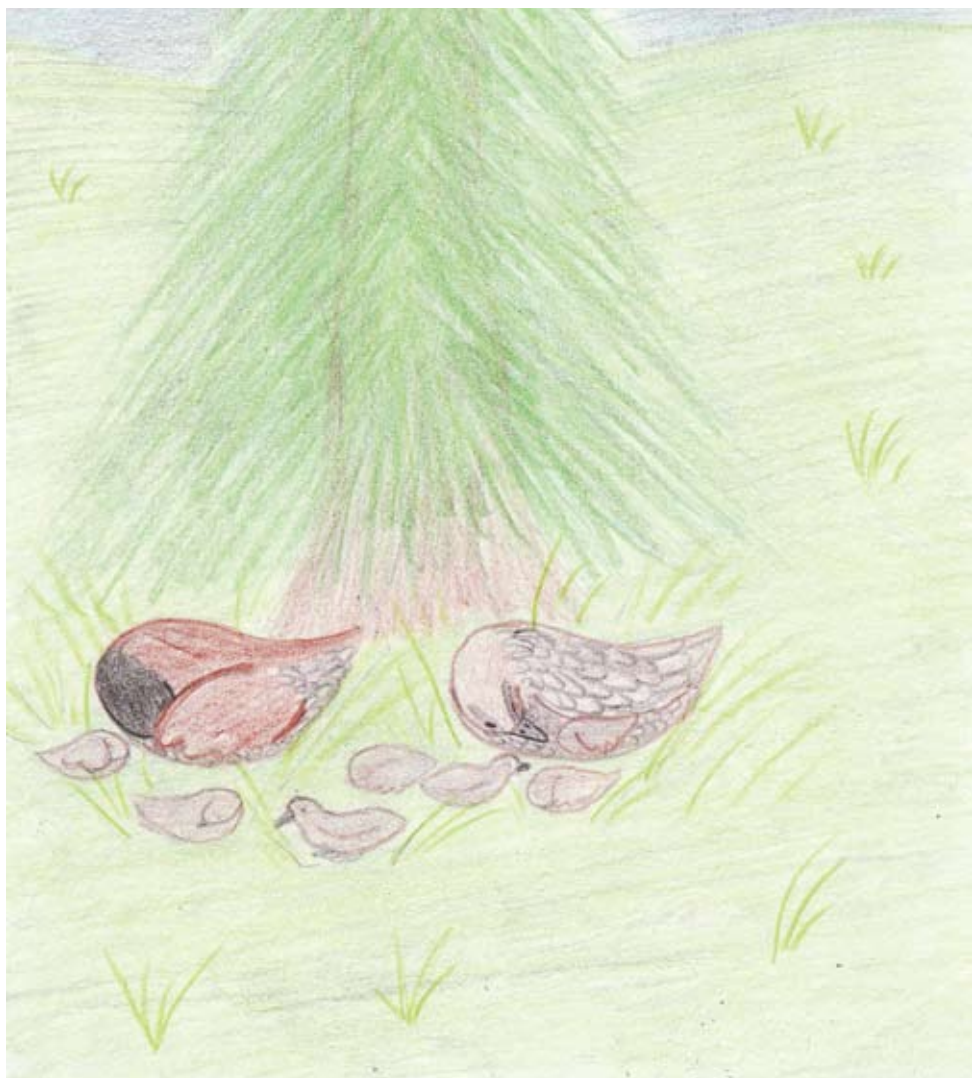
The currawong looked hungry and Delilah knew that currawongs would make a meal out of her small, helpless ducklings.

She led them, as quietly as possible, towards the reeds that grew at the edge of the creek.



The whole family hid in the reeds until the currawong gave-up in frustration and left. The ducks safely emerged from their hiding place.

It had been an exhausting day for the ducks, so they waddled back to the long grass beneath a pine tree and tucked their heads under their wings to sleep.





During the night, they were woken by a hissing sound.

The family peered out through the overhanging branches of the pine tree.

In the darkness they saw a cat as black as the night, with eyes as yellow as the sun.

The cat had seen them too and was creeping towards them.

Donald Duck had to think quickly.

He hobbled out from under the tree pretending he was injured.

He began to limp away, dragging his wing along the ground as if it were broken.





The cat forgot about Delilah and her ducklings and started to follow Donald, who cleverly led the cat away from his family.





Every time the cat got close to Donald and was about to pounce, Donald would fly a few metres ahead and begin limping again.

He did this until the cat was so far away that it couldn't find its way back to Delilah and the ducklings, so it retreated in frustration.



Donald flew home to his family and found them waiting anxiously for him. When they saw that he had returned, they breathed a huge sigh of relief. Then Donald began telling his family all about how he outwitted the cunning cat.

The family curled up for a well deserved rest. As they were falling asleep Donald and Delilah felt proud, knowing that they had protected their family once again, from the dangers ducks faced. They had also taught their ducklings valuable skills that they would need when they had families of their own to look after.





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Newling Public School, Grade 6 2010



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



environmental & educational designs & publications



Central West
catchment
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