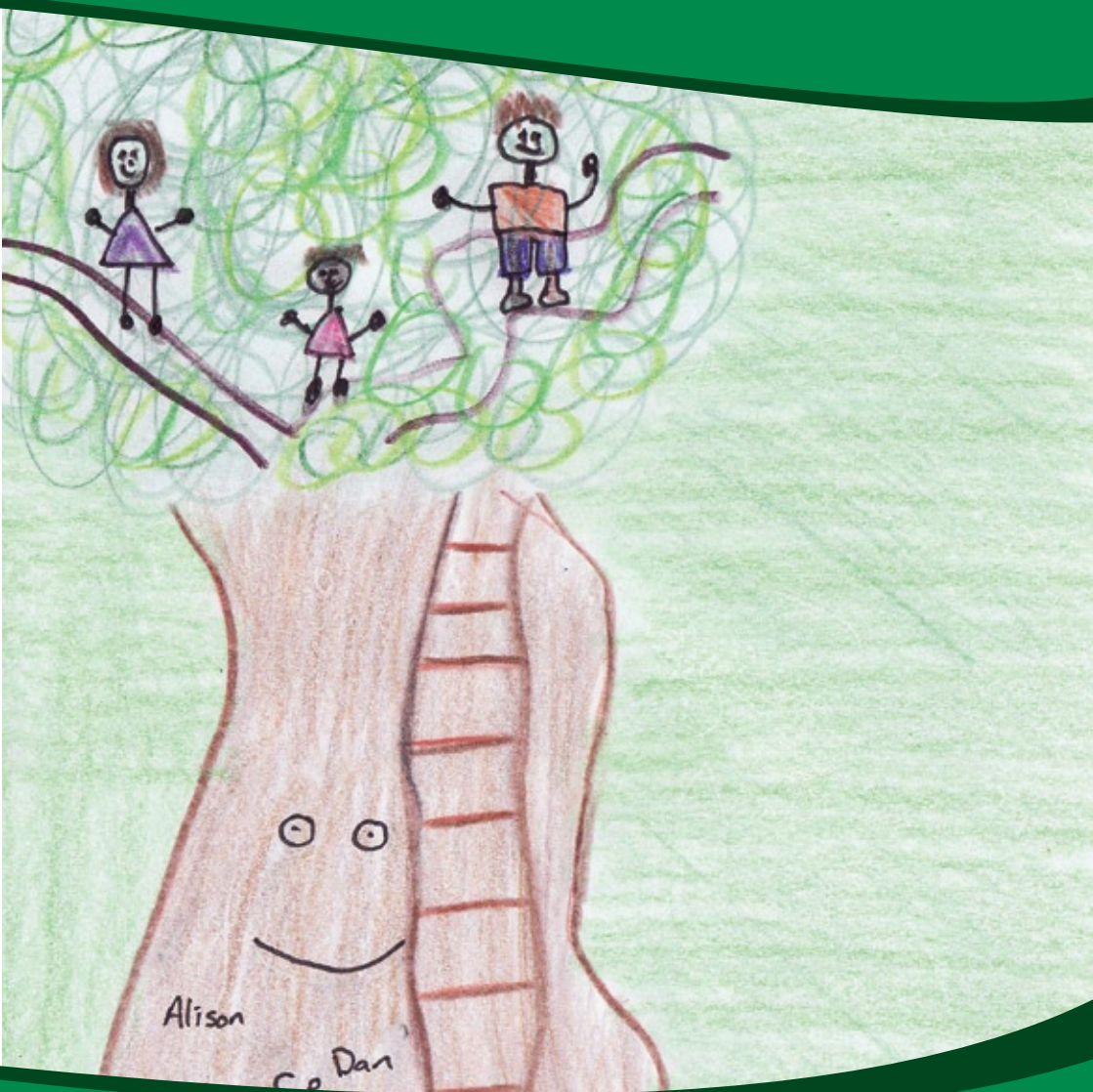


Gordon the Gum Tree



Author: Alison Green
School: Coonabarabran 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 2011, the Central West Catchment Management Authority, in partnership with the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

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

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

Gordon the Gum Tree

Author: Alison Green
Teacher: Miss. Day & Mr. McIntosh
School: Coonabarabran Public School

The Central West Catchment Management Authority 2011 “An Aussie Bush Tale” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- Information on Australian Animals
- Gordon the Gum Tree
- Home Sweet Home
- Billie the Ghost Bat
- Out of Control

ISBN:

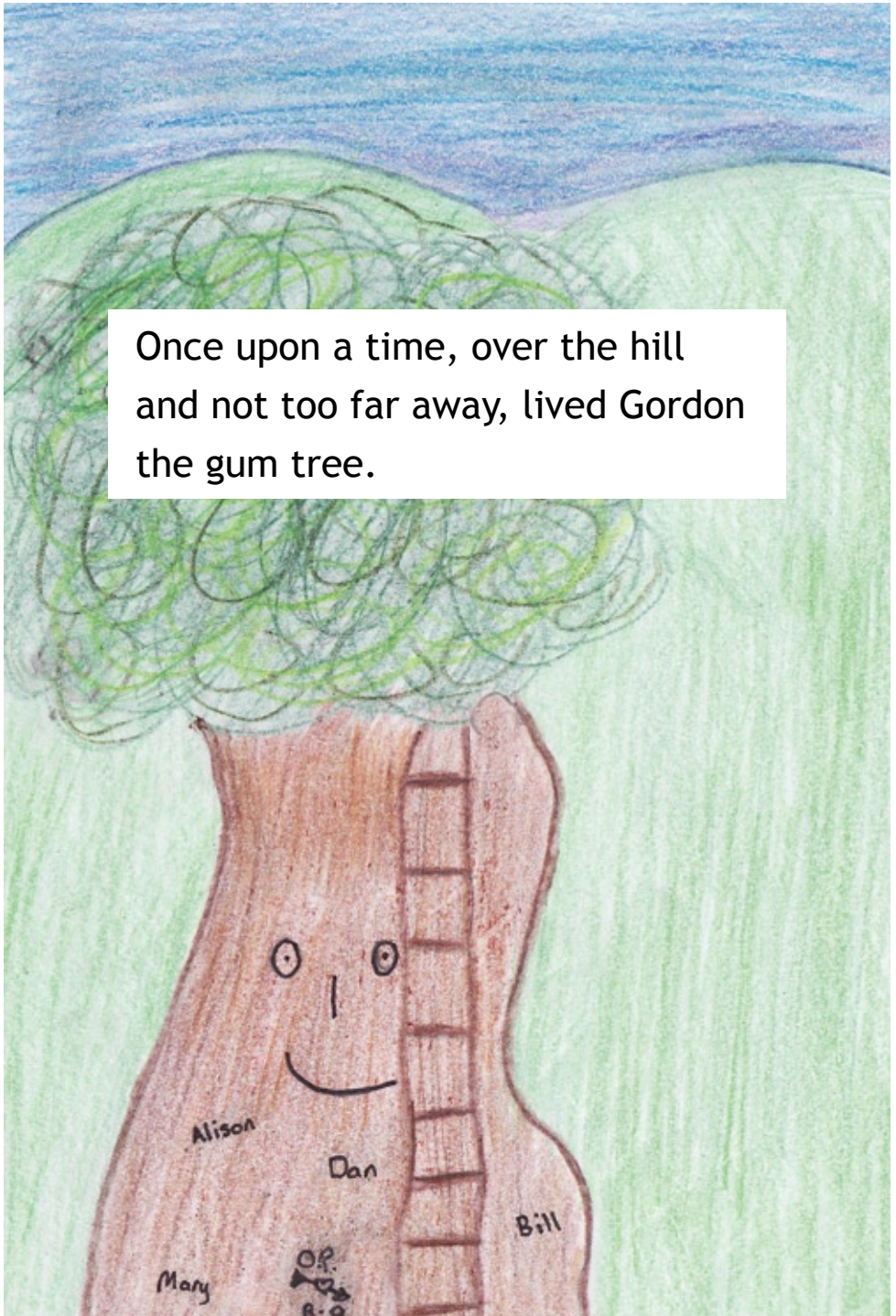
Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns program.

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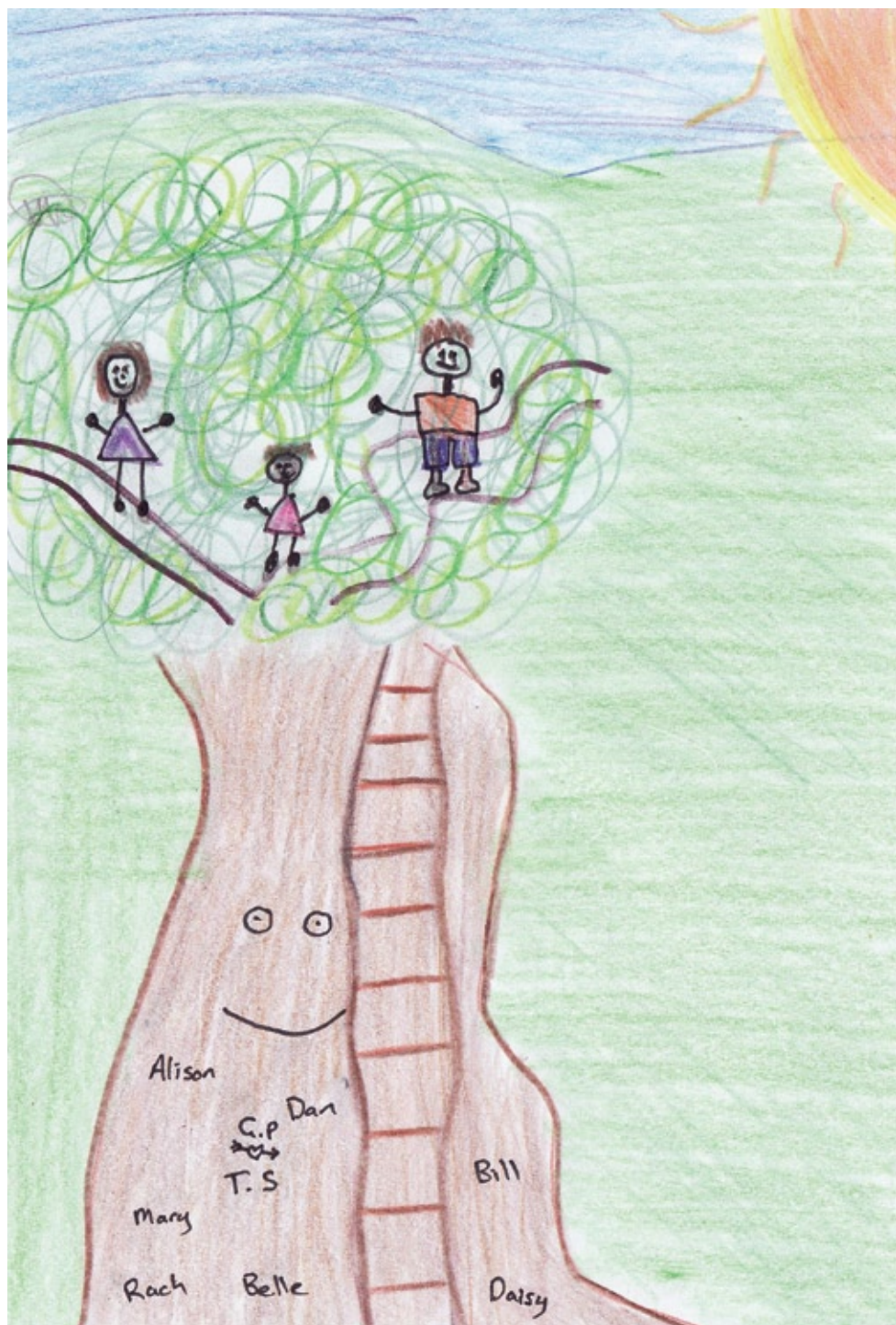
Once upon a time, over the hill
and not too far away, lived Gordon
the gum tree.



Gordon was a great friend to all the kids from the local school. Every day the children would eat morning tea and lunch in the shade of Gordon.

They had created cubbies in his leaves and climbed him every day. They all loved him greatly.





In the heat of the summer, the children would climb right up to the top of Gordon the gum tree, as this was where the cool breeze blew.

In the cool of the winter, they all cuddled together at the bottom of Gordon, his trunk was warm as toast.

One day after school, the children found a big X on Gordon.

“He must be really special to have a cross on him!” yelled one of the younger kids.

“No! That means that the council wants to cut Gordon down!” exclaimed one of the older kids.

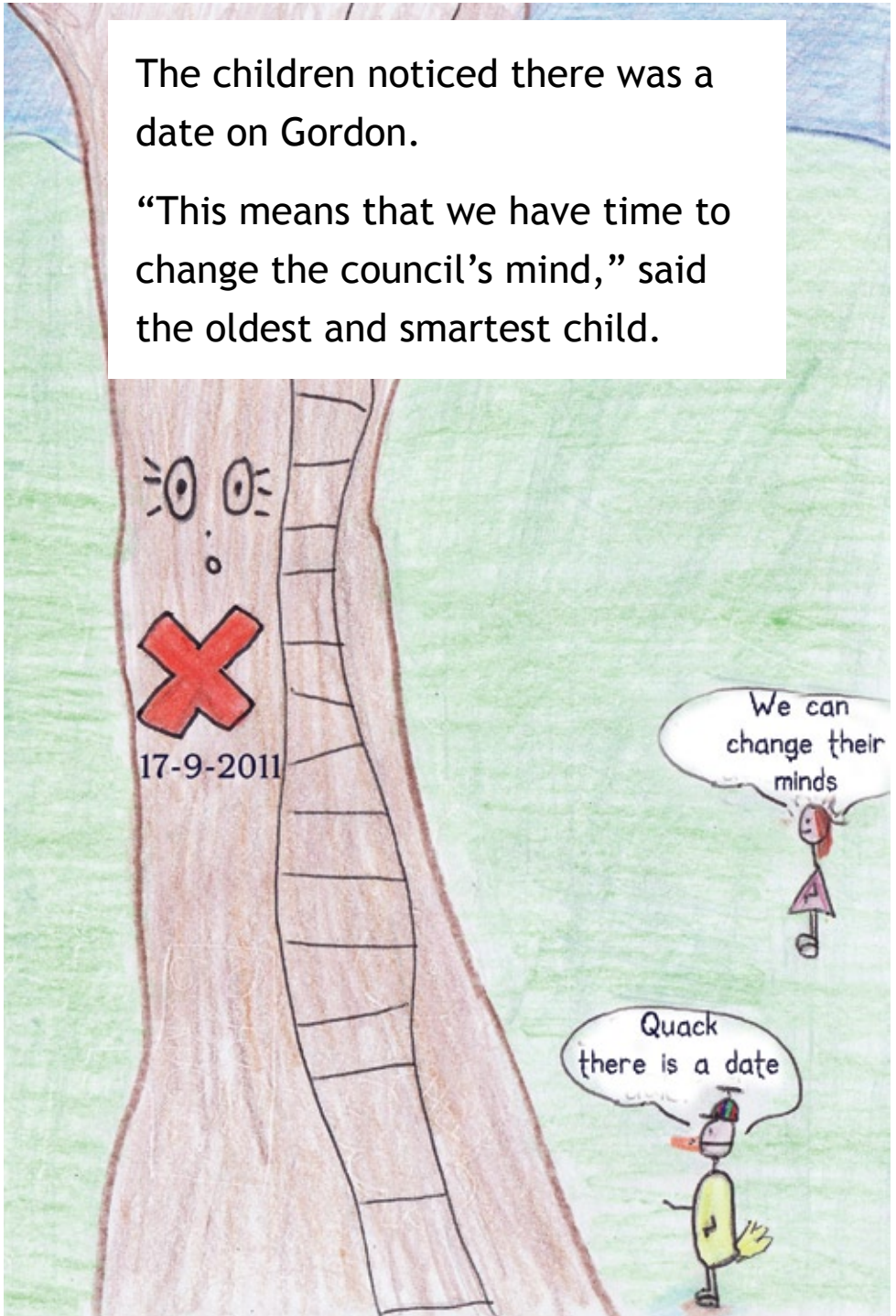
“You mean completely?” screeched the younger child.

An eruption of crying and screaming came from the crowd of children.



The children noticed there was a date on Gordon.

“This means that we have time to change the council’s mind,” said the oldest and smartest child.



At school everyone made signs and chants that they could say in front of the council and the community.



The dreaded day arrived. All the children were scared but held hands around Gordon to protect him.

They all screamed their chants furiously as the bulldozer came trundling down the road. The children would not back away.





The worker from the council counted down slowly.

“20! 19! 18!”

The parents, carers and teachers had to drag the children away kicking and screaming.



“5! 4!”

Hundreds of birds flew out of Gordon, scared from the noise. Gordon closed his eyes tightly.

“Hold it right there!” exclaimed the Mayor of the council.



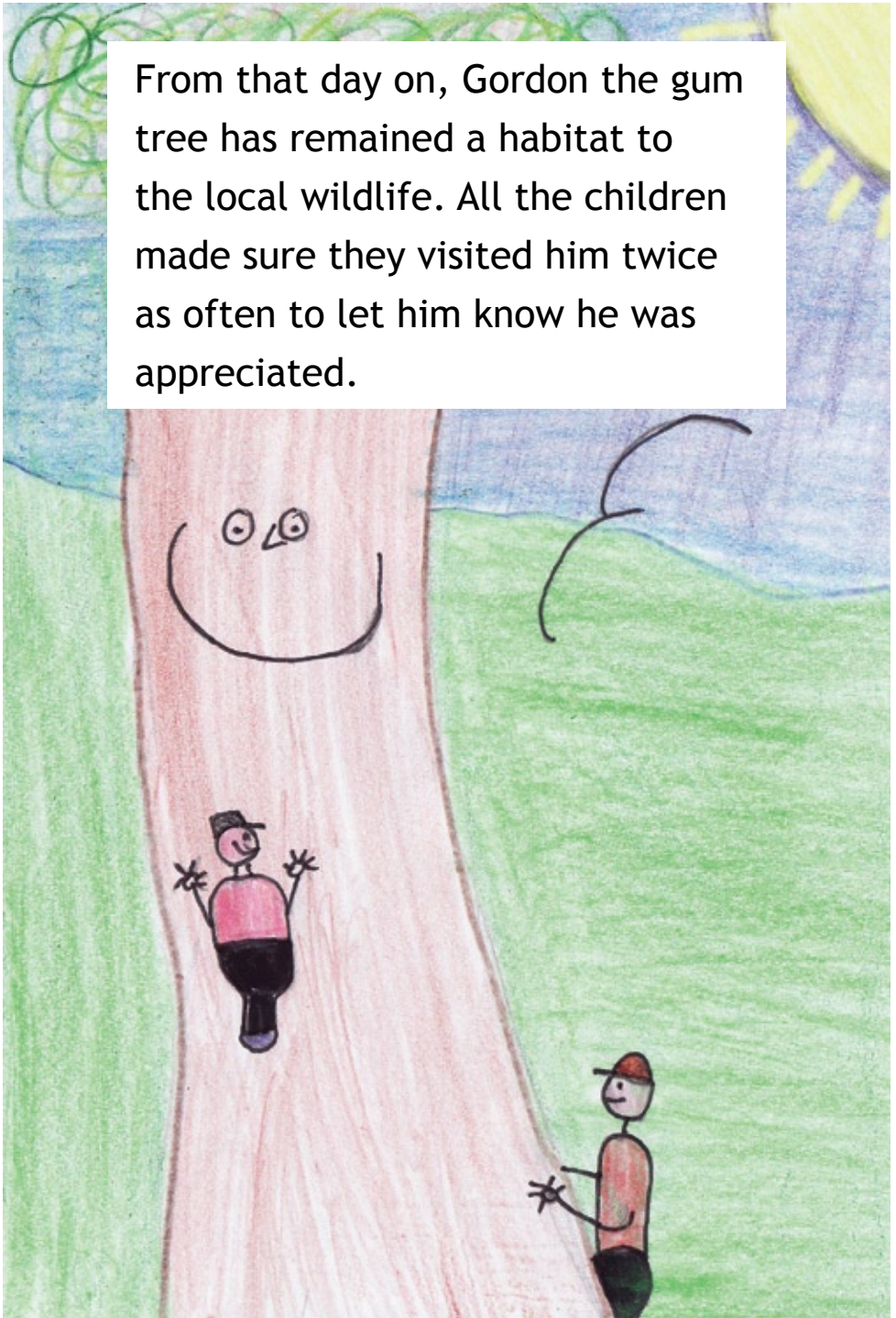


”C’mon, let’s get this over with!”
moaned one of the workers.

“No! We will not knock this tree down. It is home to hundreds of birds that would have to go for kilometres to find suitable homes. Plus look at all these devastated children. This tree would be a huge loss to them.”

The workers stormed away grumpily.

From that day on, Gordon the gum tree has remained a habitat to the local wildlife. All the children made sure they visited him twice as often to let him know he was appreciated.





Alison Green
Coonabarabran Public School, Grade 6
2011



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