

# Out of Control



Author: Julia Taberner, Anna Seymour, Sara Kirkness  
School: Borenore 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cottoncrc.org.au)

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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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One boiling hot day, in the middle of summer, Ellie, the wedge-tailed eagle, was soaring high over the bush. She was proud to be the biggest eagle in Australia.

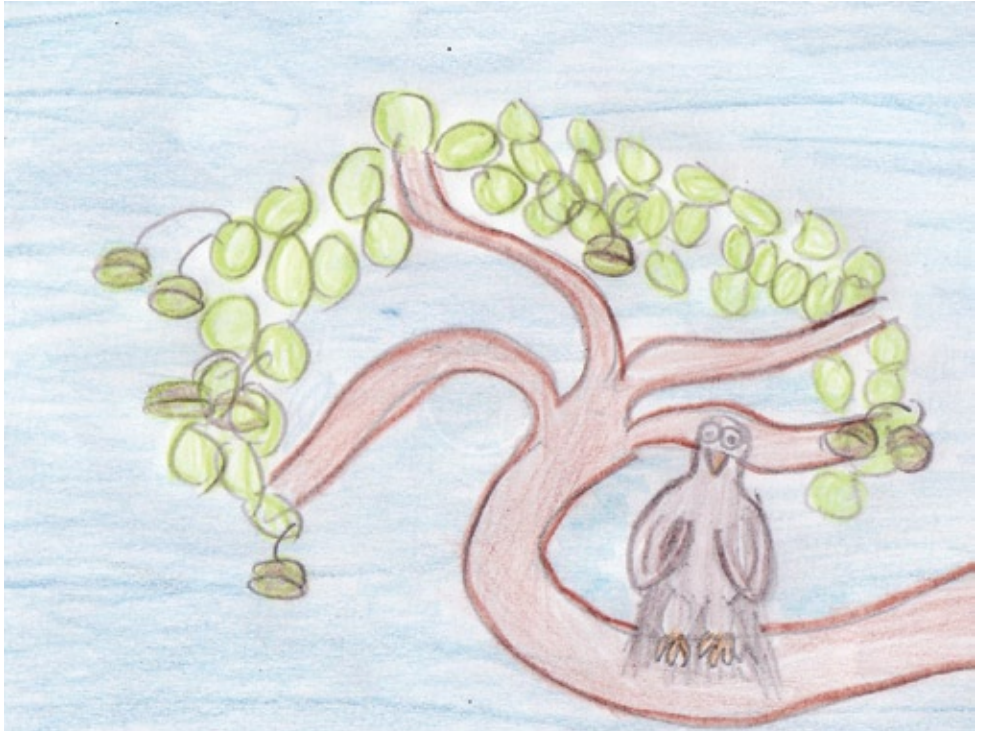
Far down below she glimpsed a small cloud of smoke rising from the trees.



Ellie flew to the wise, old owl and said,  
“Come quick, come quick. The people have  
started a fire, what if it gets out of control?  
What are we going to do?”

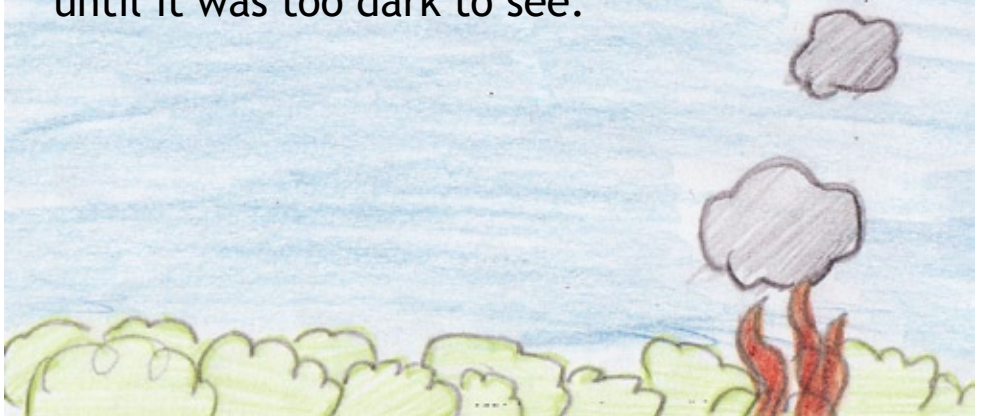
“Don’t worry,” said the owl. “People light  
fires all the time and most of them don’t get  
out of control.”





Ellie was still worried. She could not stand the sight of smoke.

She kept an eye on the smoke all day until it was too dark to see.





“I’d better fly home now,” thought Ellie. So she flew down into her nest and fell fast asleep.

That night Ellie had nightmares that the fire was burning out of control. She hoped that wouldn’t happen for real.



Suddenly she woke hearing a crackle. She saw a red glow coming towards her. Ellie was so shocked, she had to blink and look again.

“Oh feathery thumbs, it’s a BUSHFIRE!”





All of the animals became frantic and started flapping, scampering, running, flying and slithering around.

“Fire, fire, fire!” they yelled.

“Calm down everyone,” said Ellie.

“We have to make a plan to get everyone away from the bushfire.”



Ellie had to think fast. She could pick the animals up in her gigantic claws and fly them to safety.

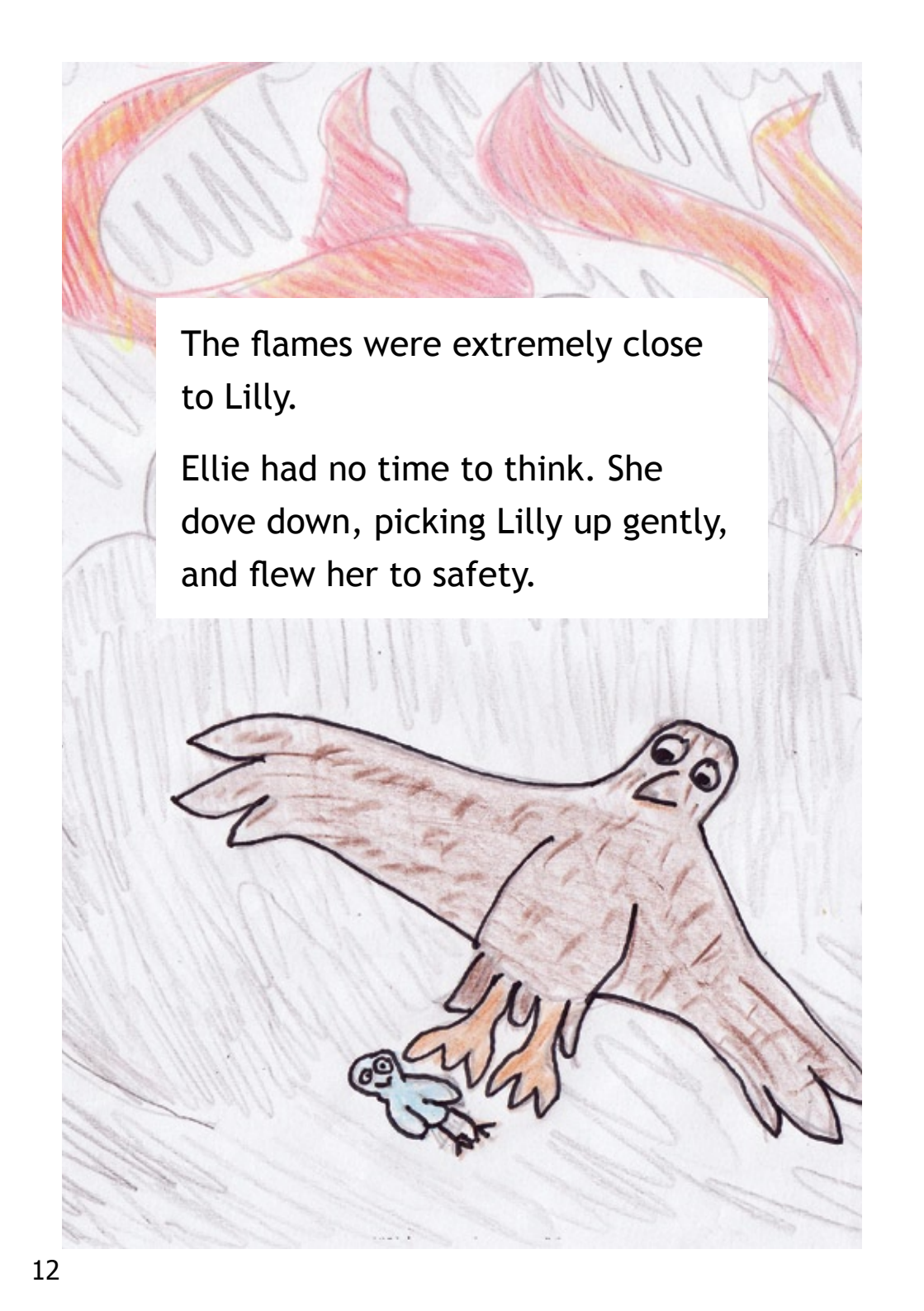
First she helped the possum family, then the echidnas. Slowly, with the help of the other birds, she was able to take all the animals to safety.



Suddenly Ellie heard a sound of alarm.

“Help me, Help me!” screamed Lilly the willie wagtail. She was lying helplessly on the ground. Lilly had injured her wing during the evacuation.





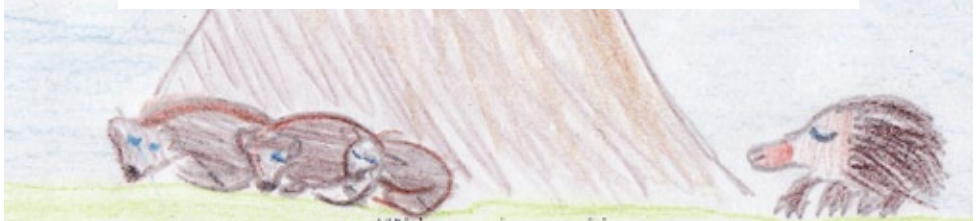
The flames were extremely close to Lilly.

Ellie had no time to think. She dove down, picking Lilly up gently, and flew her to safety.



All the animals gathered under a big tree which was far away from the fire.

Ellie collapsed, exhausted from her efforts and fell to sleep. She slept right through until the following morning.



When she woke up, Ellie was devastated when she saw the black ash covering her home land. She began to sob. Wise owl wiped the tears off her face.

“My home land is gone,” Ellie moaned.

“But Ellie, you saved your friends and that is all that matters,” said the owl.

“You’re a Hero!” all the animals shouted. “Thank you for saving our lives.”

“Besides, the Australian bush will regenerate and grow back. It is just a matter of time,” added the owl.





All of the animals were extremely thankful to Ellie and they decided she should rule over them as Queen of the bush.

You could hear the cheers of “hip, hip hooray” ringing through the bush for miles.







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Borenore Public School, Grade 3-6 2011

