

The Dilemma



Author: Kimberley Weier
School: Moura State 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 Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in partnership 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

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School: Moura State School

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2011 “An Aussie Bush Tale” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- Larry the Kingfisher
- Pilliga Scrubs Dark November
- The Dilemma
- Information on Australian Animals
- The Monster in the Garden
- Noises in the Night
- Pigs in the Dam
- Where am I?
- The Little Village

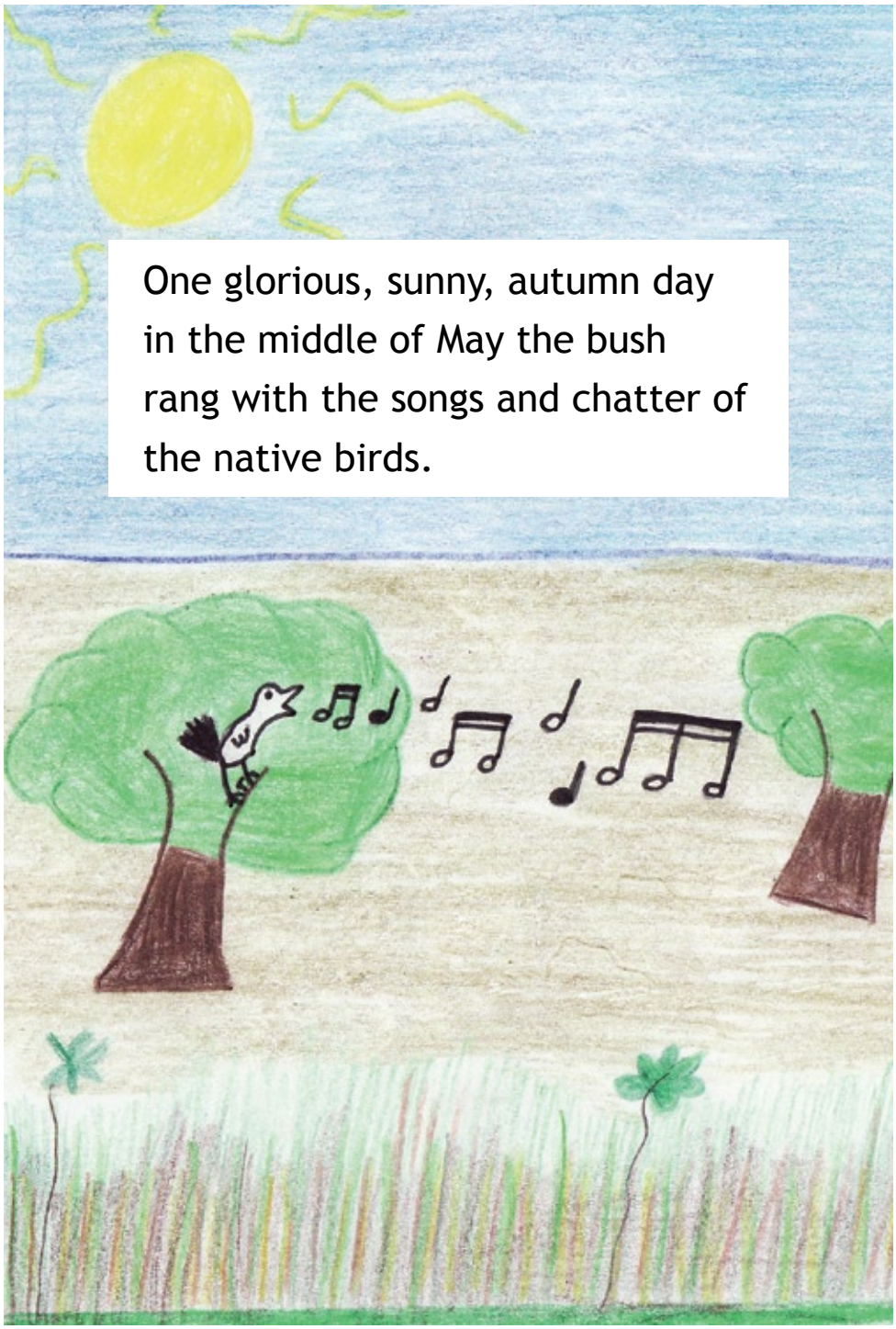
ISBN: 978-0-9870465-3-6

Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns program.

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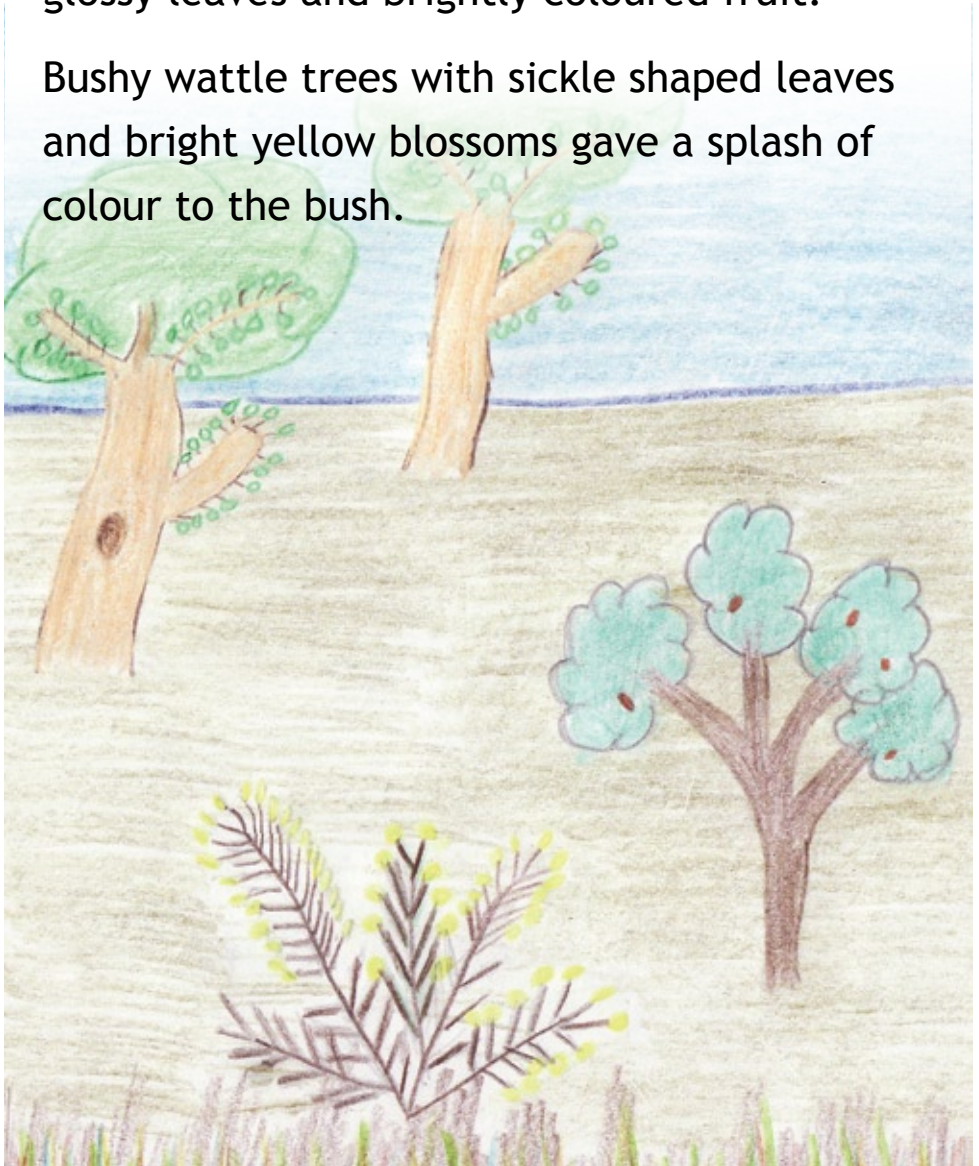


One glorious, sunny, autumn day
in the middle of May the bush
rang with the songs and chatter of
the native birds.

The bush was beautiful!

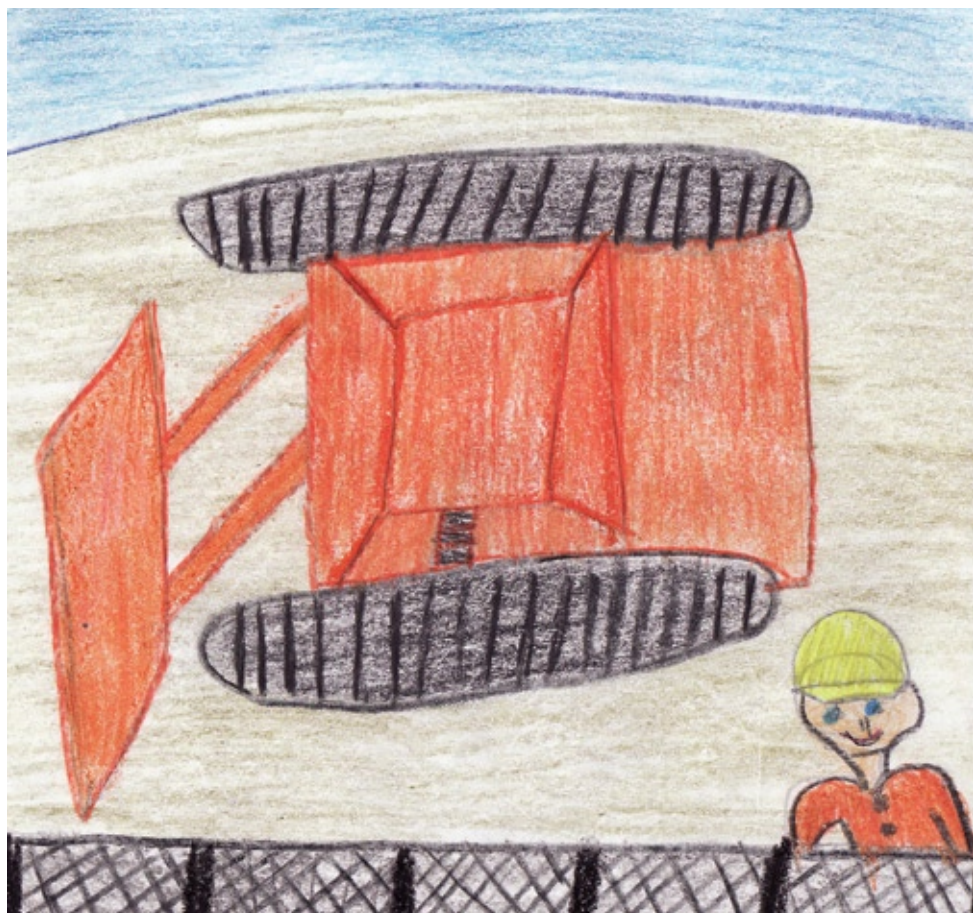
There were a large number of tall creamy eucalyptus trees, lilly pillies with their dark glossy leaves and brightly coloured fruit.

Bushy wattle trees with sickle shaped leaves and bright yellow blossoms gave a splash of colour to the bush.



The most spectacular was the grass tree with a thick trunk, long needle leaves and a long flower spike.





All of a sudden the peace of the bush was broken as large machinery and dozers arrived and a big fence was erected.

Mick and his gang had just begun a new construction project.

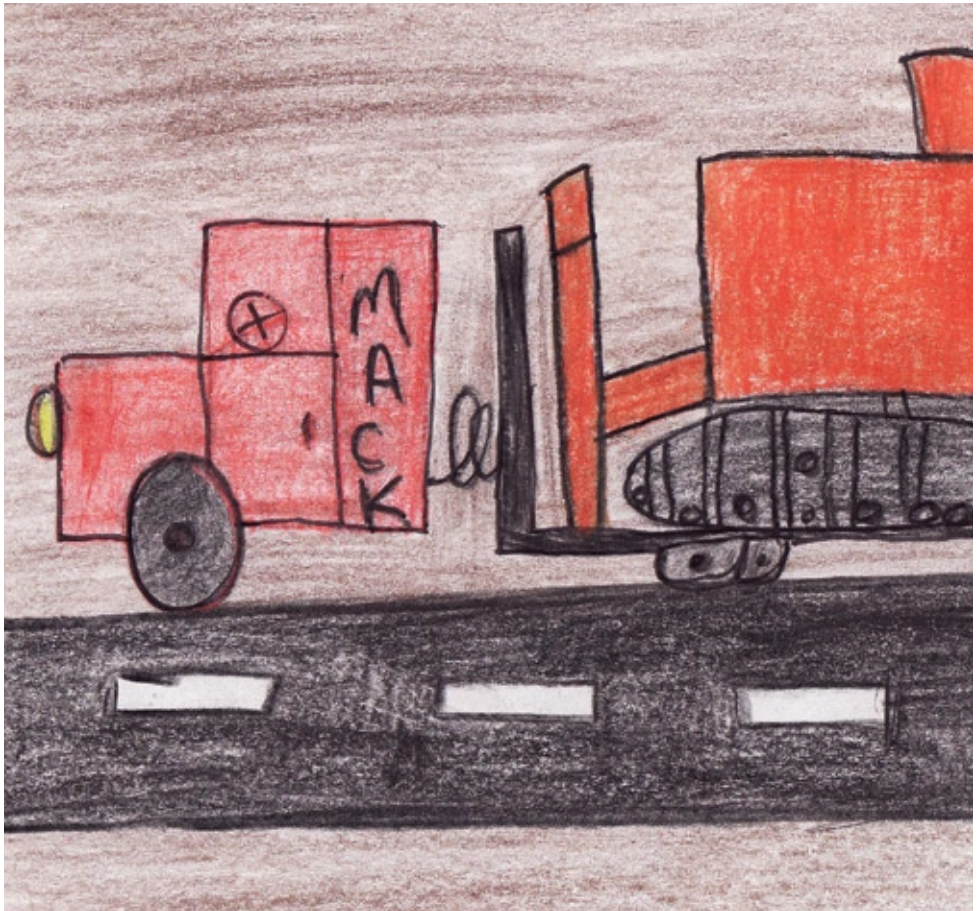
There was so much noise that the chatter of the birds could no longer be heard.



The following day when all the machinery was in place, Mick told the gang to get to work.

The engines roared to life and all the birds and other native animals got a huge fright.

They were not used to this so they flew, ran, jumped, hopped, crawled, slithered and scampered away as fast as they could.



Massive trucks arrived carrying even more large machinery.

The machinery on the enormous trucks had a nasty surprise. Parthenium weed seeds were hidden in the mud left on them from the last place they had worked.

The dozers went to work and started to dig. As they moved along the seeds fell off. This was disastrous!

The parthenium weed grew quickly and killed the indigenous grasses in the area.

Animals like kangaroos, wallabies and wombats that had grazed in this area for many years had no food to eat.





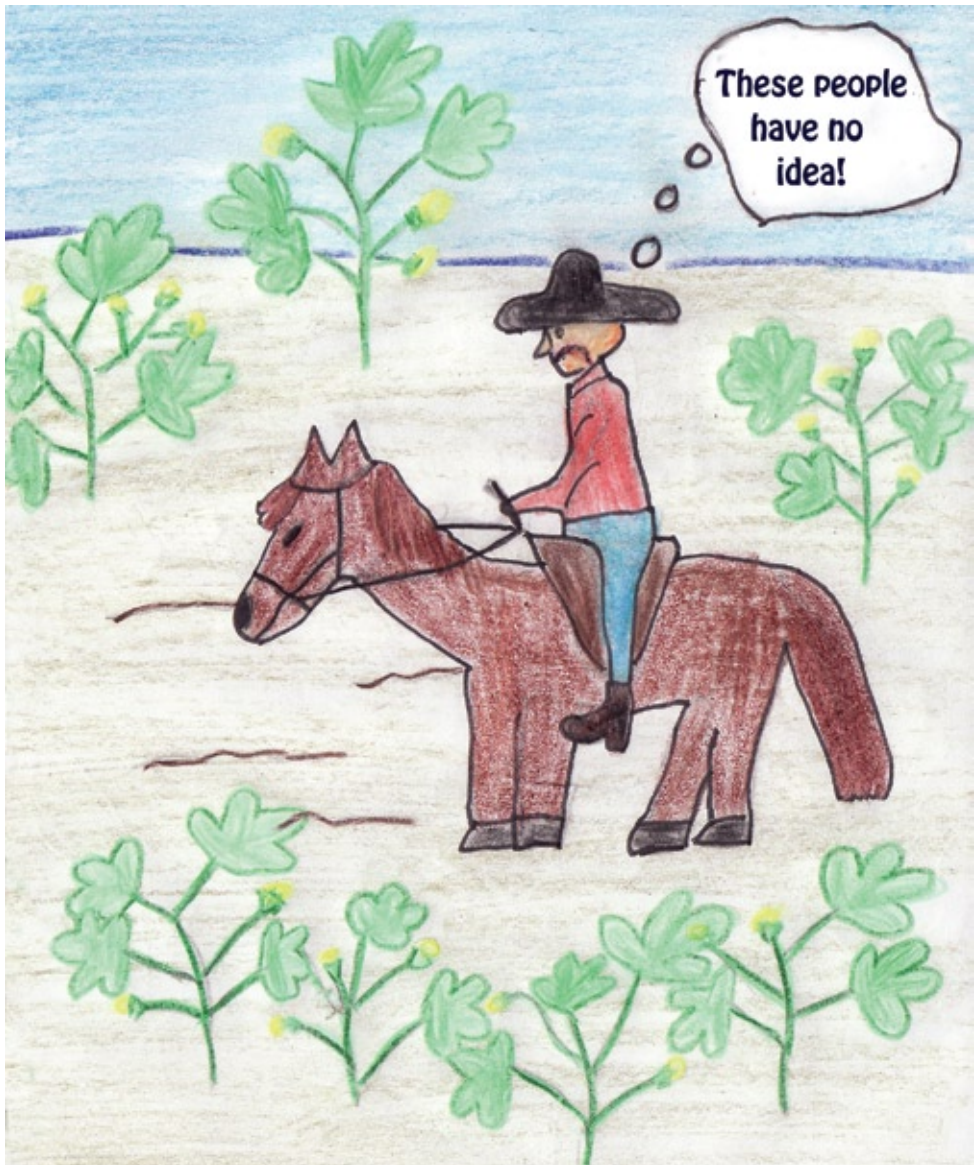
The parthenium weed also caused allergies amongst the local community. People who came into contact with it would get rashes and feel ill.

As days went by, the parthenium got thicker and thicker until nobody could even walk through it.

The large machines continued to dig and move around on the grass. The vegetation was destroyed and the soil was exposed.

Even Mick was sneezing and wheezing due to the nasty parthenium weed when he got out of the dozer.



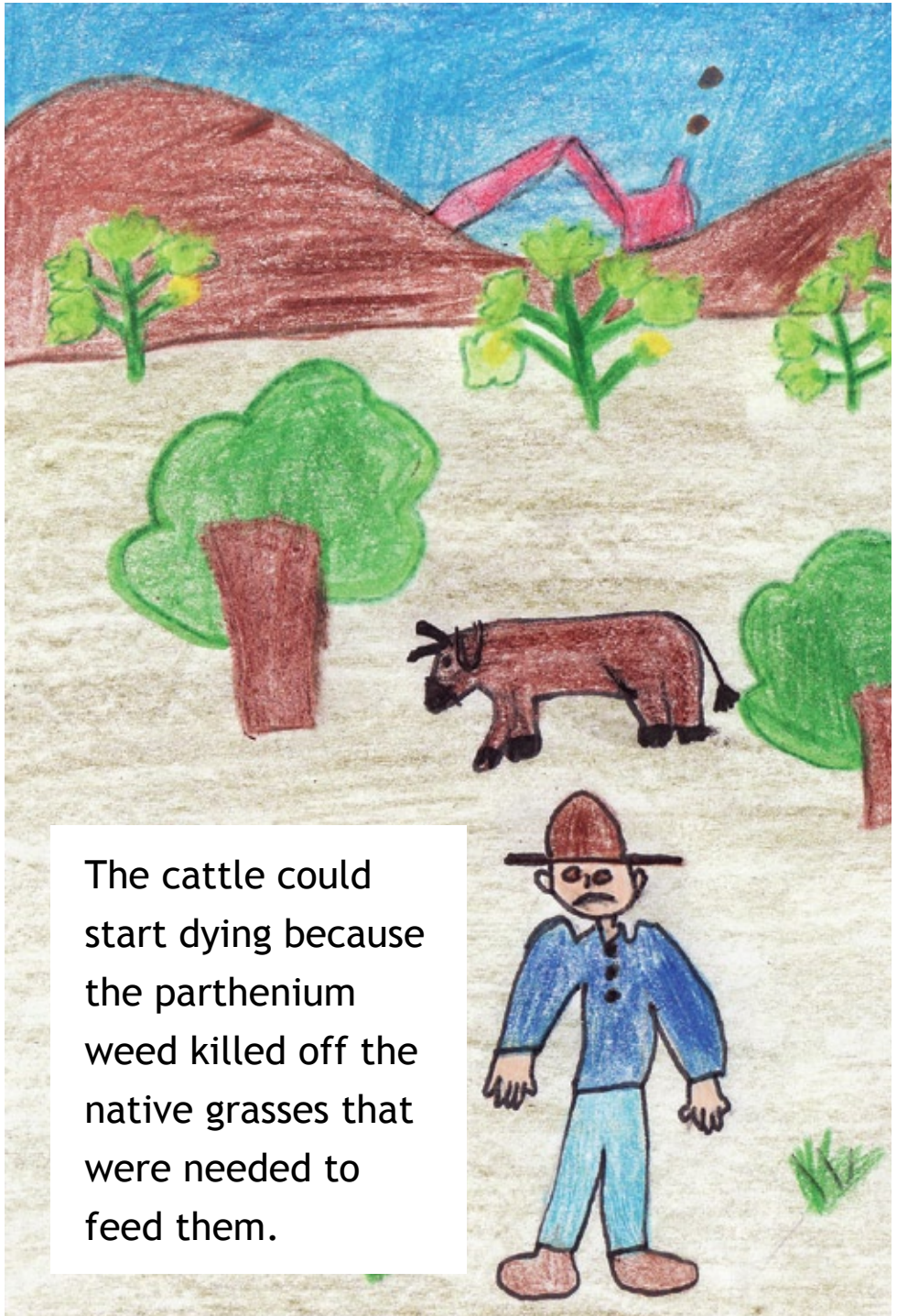


Property owners in the area knew that one should never walk through parthenium weed because it only spreads the seeds and makes you feel sick.



The local farmers were concerned that if the parthenium weed was spreading on the construction site it would also affect their properties and the surrounding bushland.





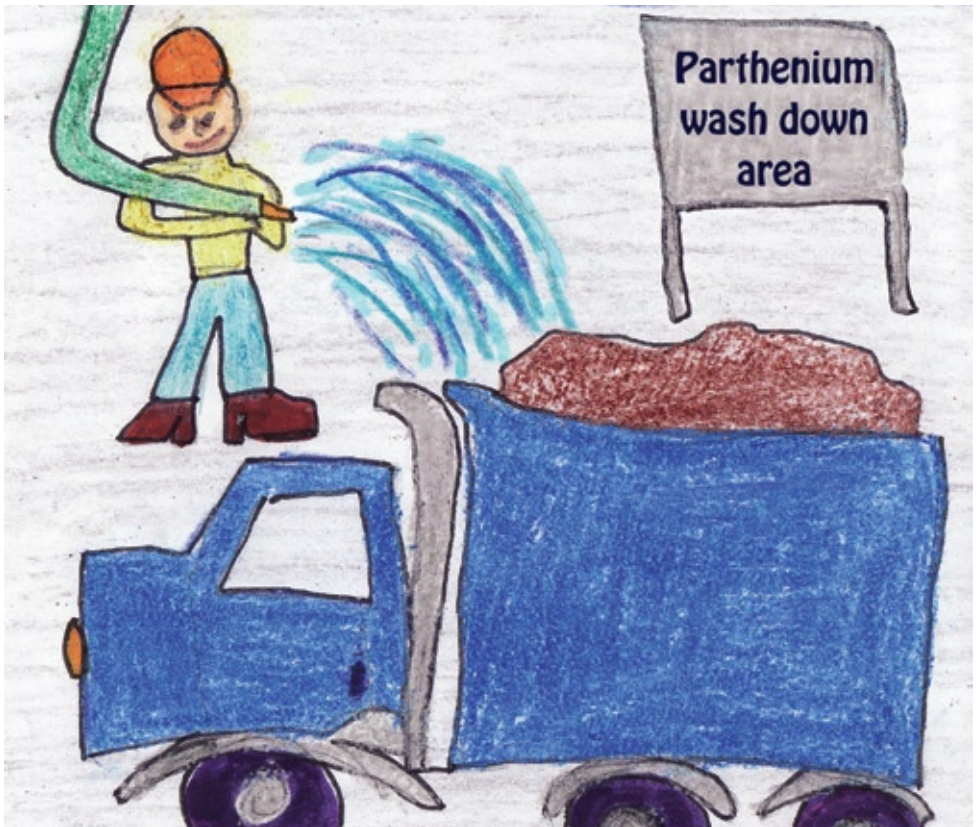
The cattle could start dying because the parthenium weed killed off the native grasses that were needed to feed them.

The farmers felt it was time to have a meeting with Mick and his workers. They had to do something about the spread of parthenium weed.



They met and decided that they would get rid of the weed by setting it on fire. The fire brigade was called in to make sure it did not spread and destroy the adjacent bushland. The weeds were set on fire and the farmers were relieved that they were getting rid of them.





A message was sent out to all the workers. From now on, they had to make sure that machines were washed down before going to a new area. It was important to do their job, but they also had to make sure to take care of the local environment.

Eventually they finished their construction work and the birds and animals returned to the once again peaceful Aussie bush!



Kimberley Weier
Moura State School, Grade 3 2011



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



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