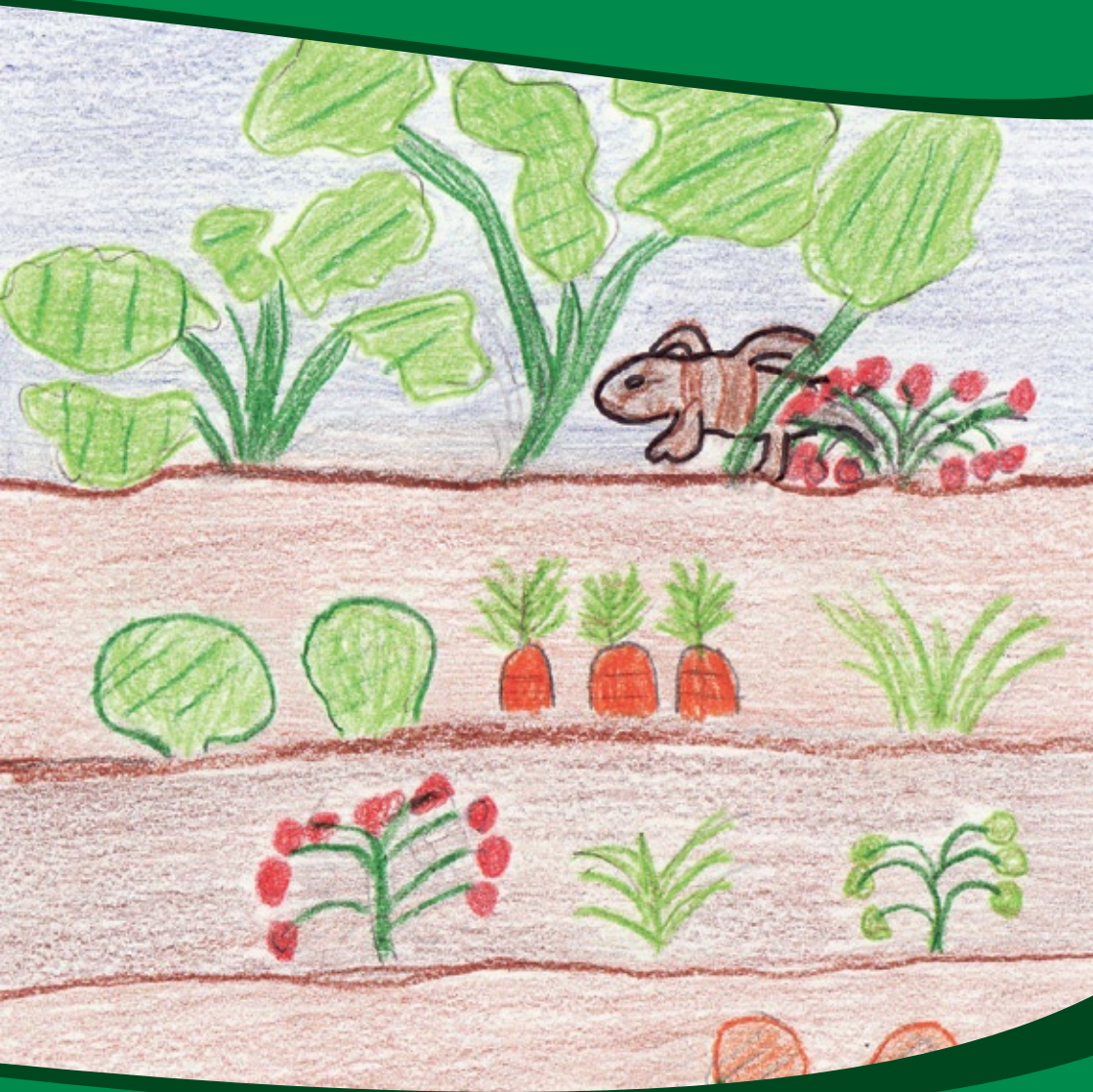


# The Monster in the Garden



Author: Year 5 & 6 Class  
School: Narrabri 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 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](http://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](http://www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au)

# The Monster in the Garden

Author: Year 5 & 6 Class  
Teacher: Jill Jollow  
School: Narrabri Public 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: 978-0-9870465-5-0

Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns program.

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Once upon a time a little kindergarten girl named Rebecca came screaming into our classroom.

“There’s a monster in our garden!” she cried.

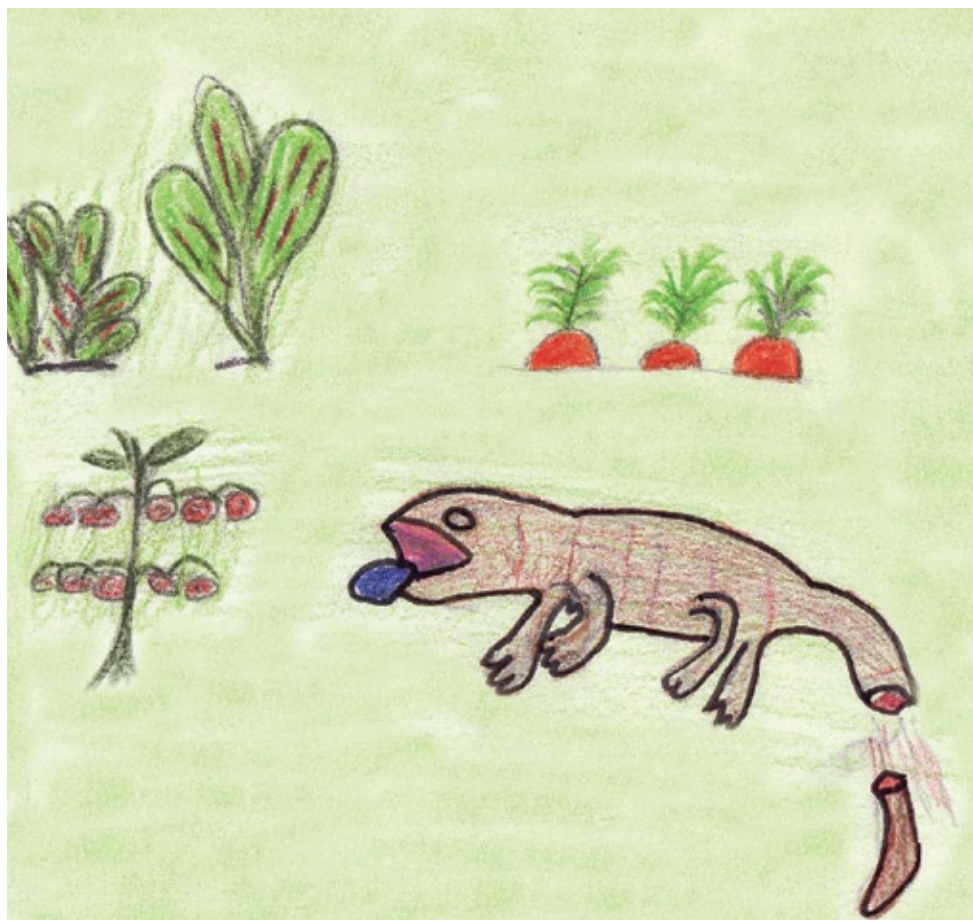
We asked her what it looked like.

“It has a big blue tongue and a bright pink mouth,” she sobbed. “It’s in the vegetable garden and it’s scary!”



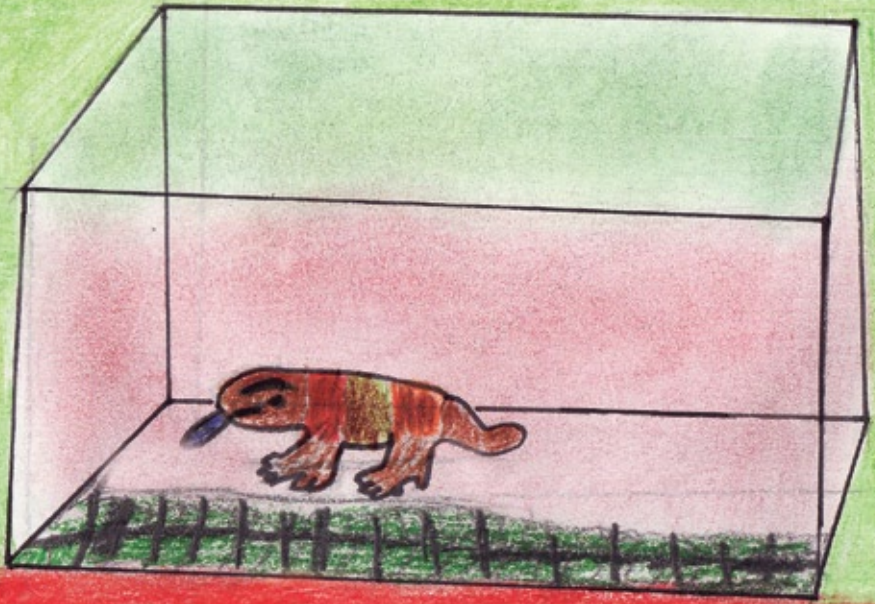


Our teacher took us outside to have a look.  
We went to the vegetable garden and peered  
under the spinach leaves. We saw the big  
monster.

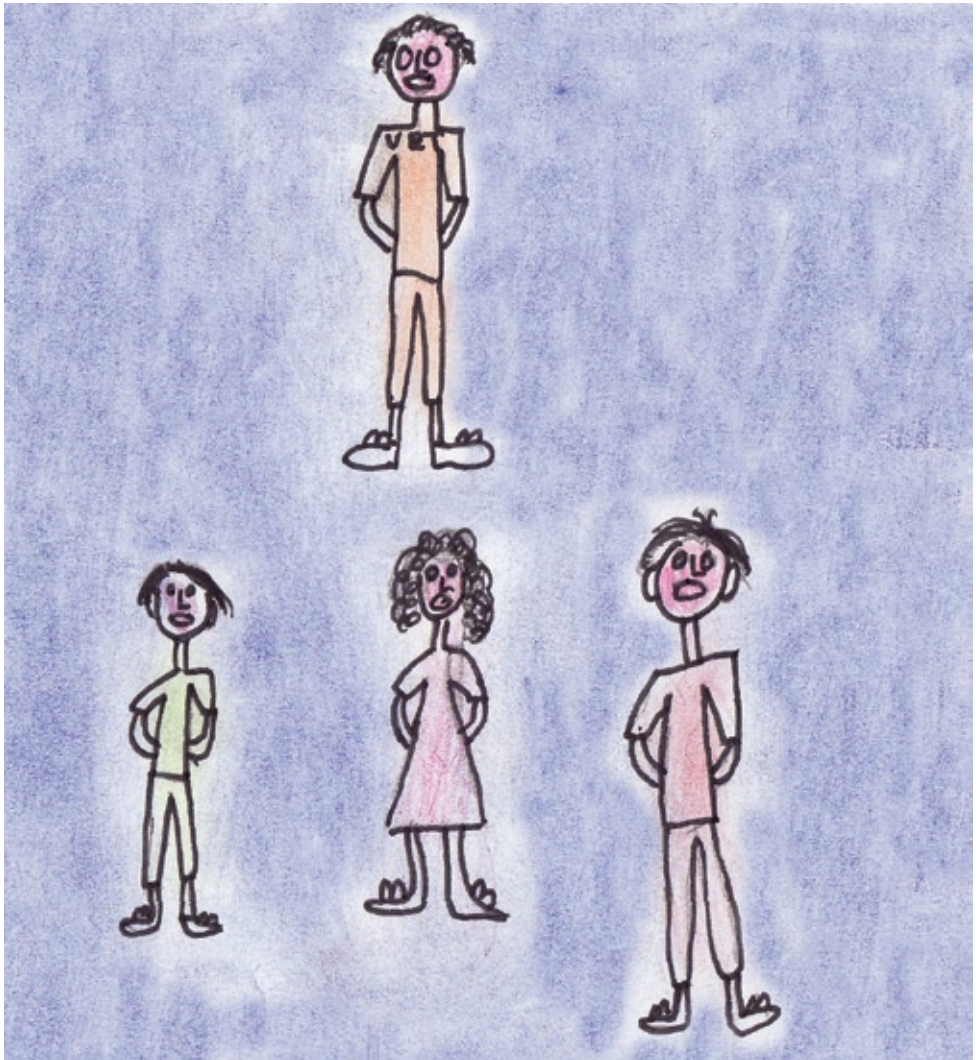


It was a blue tongue lizard. It had lost its tail and it was bleeding along its back.

It hissed at us in fright. We saw the big blue tongue and the bright pink mouth that had frightened Rebecca.



It was badly injured so we used a floppy hat to carefully pick it up. We took it back to the classroom and put it gently into the old fish tank in our wet area. We made it comfortable by putting some leaves and small branches and bark in with it.



A vet came to visit our class and he told us that lizards use their blue tongue and pink mouths to defend themselves. They want to frighten their predators into running away.

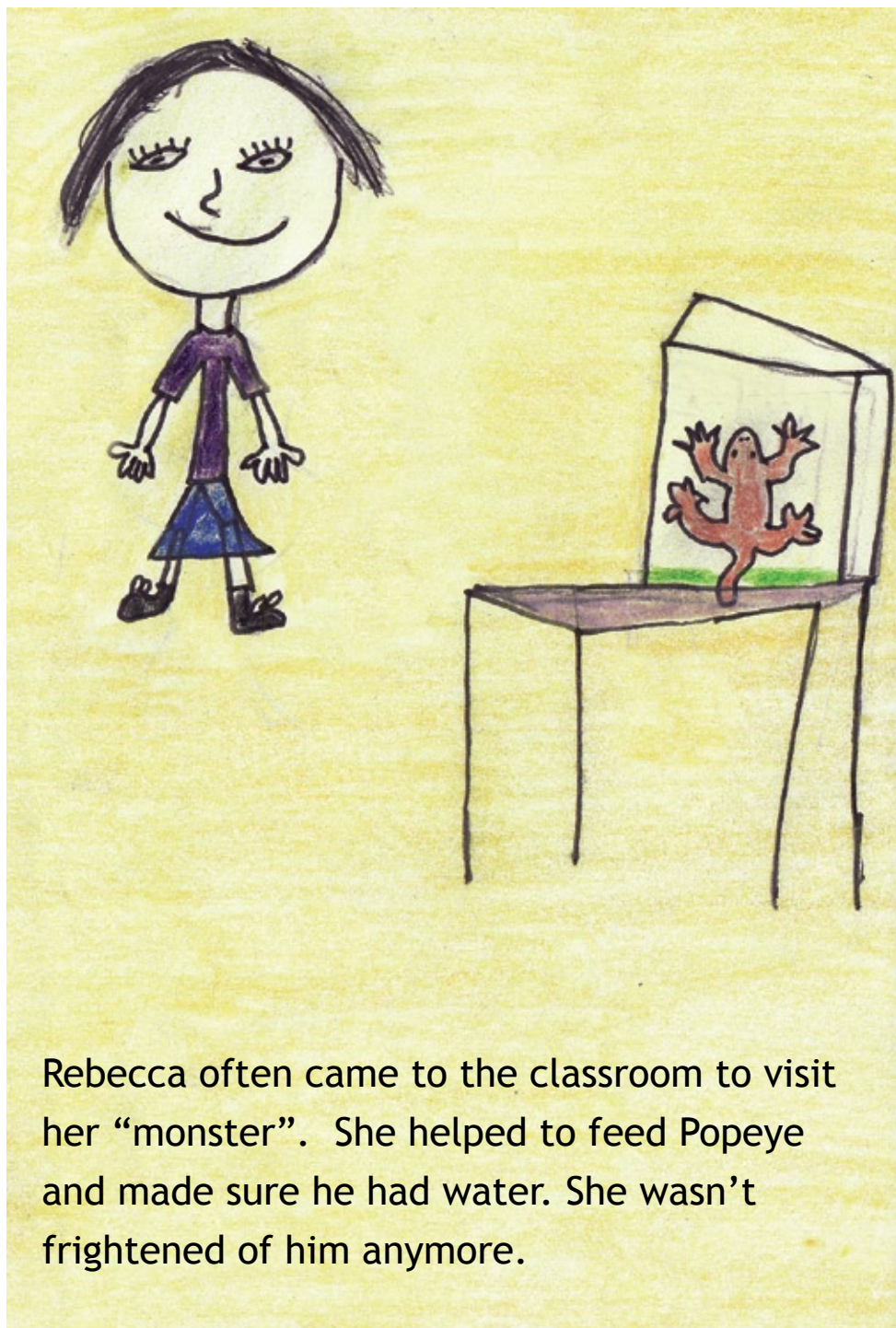
We called him Popeye because we found him in the spinach patch.



Our class took turns in feeding Popeye. He seemed to like strawberries and bananas the best.

We moved the fish tank so that he had enough sunlight to warm up each day.





Rebecca often came to the classroom to visit her “monster”. She helped to feed Popeye and made sure he had water. She wasn’t frightened of him anymore.



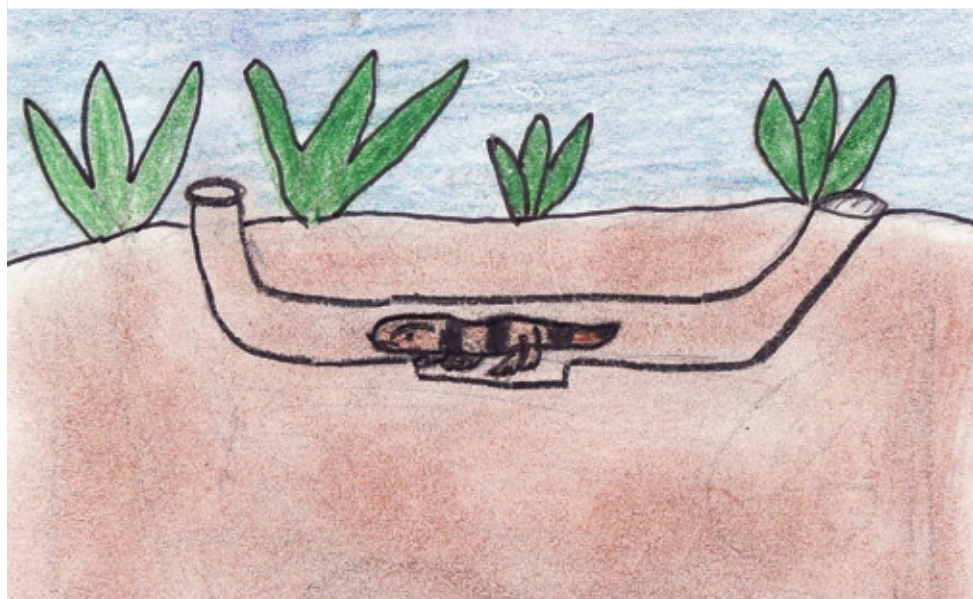
After three weeks Popeye's cuts had healed and his tail started to re-grow. He began to move around more and we knew he was healthy again.



The vet came back to see Popeye and he told us that we could release him back into the garden.



We asked the gardener for some old clay pipe and buried most of it in the ground to make a safe burrow. Popeye could hibernate in the winter and stay safe inside.



Our class took him outside and released him into the garden.



Everyone at school kept giving him scraps to eat and he became a large and friendly school pet.





We hope that Popeye will meet a female blue tongue lizard and our school will have a family of lizards!





Year 5 & 6 Class  
Narrabri Public School, 2011

