

# Where am I?



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# 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)

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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

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Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns program.

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Molly the Mala sat up slowly as the full moon shone on a delicious looking bunch of spinifex grass.

She stood up quickly and ducked down in her home which was called a scrape. Molly made sure no animals were out that would attack her.

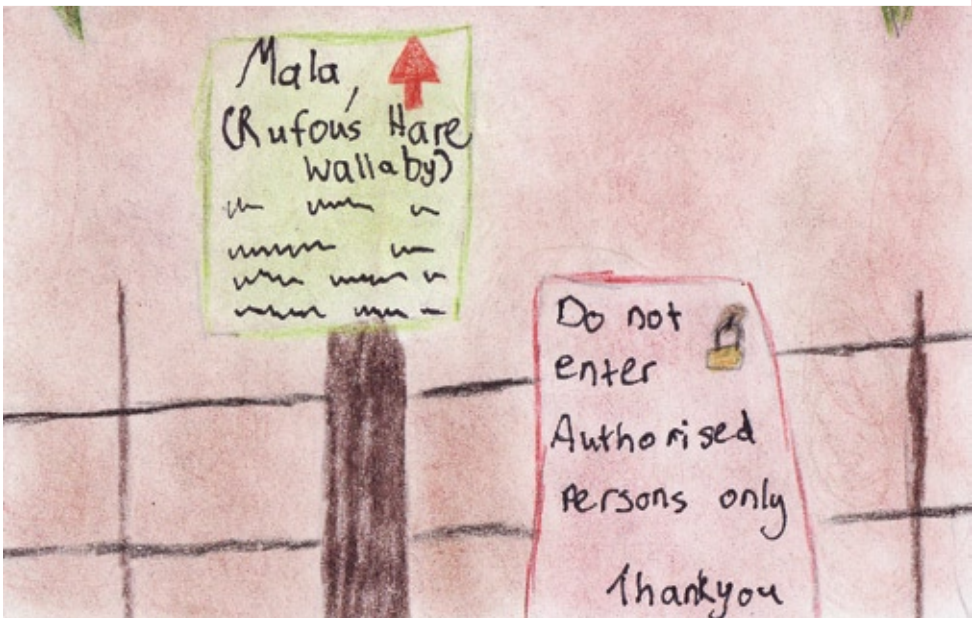
The coast was clear so she tip toed out of her scrape and snacked fast on the lovely spinifex grass. Once she finished nibbling she tip toed back to her scrape.



Molly lived on an island off Western Australia called the Trimouille Island.

She always waited longingly for the big boat that carried all the people to arrive.

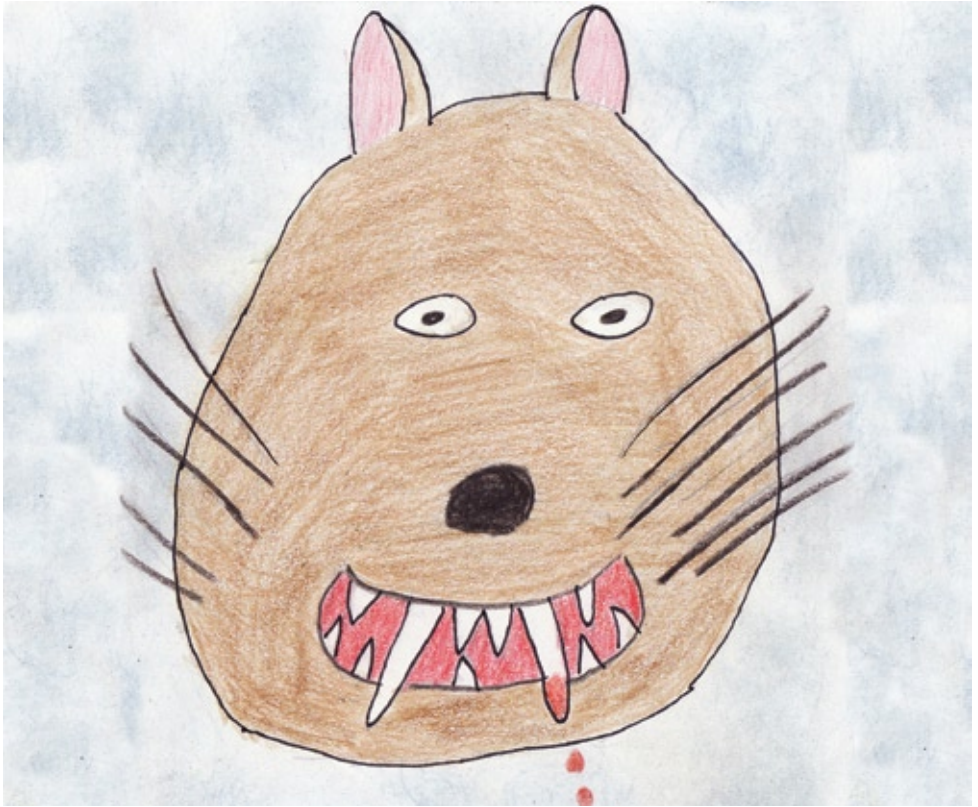
The people would take photos of her in her natural habitat.





Molly was usually very tired when the big boat came because she is a nocturnal animal. Nocturnal animals are awake during the night trying to find food and sleep during the day.





One day, when the tourists were boarding a boat that was travelling to Trimouille Island, an unexpected visitor was brought aboard.

A little boy had found a cat that he thought was very friendly. What he didn't know was that it was really a feral cat. He got on the boat with his feral cat friend.

Feral cats and foxes are very dangerous to Malas like Molly.



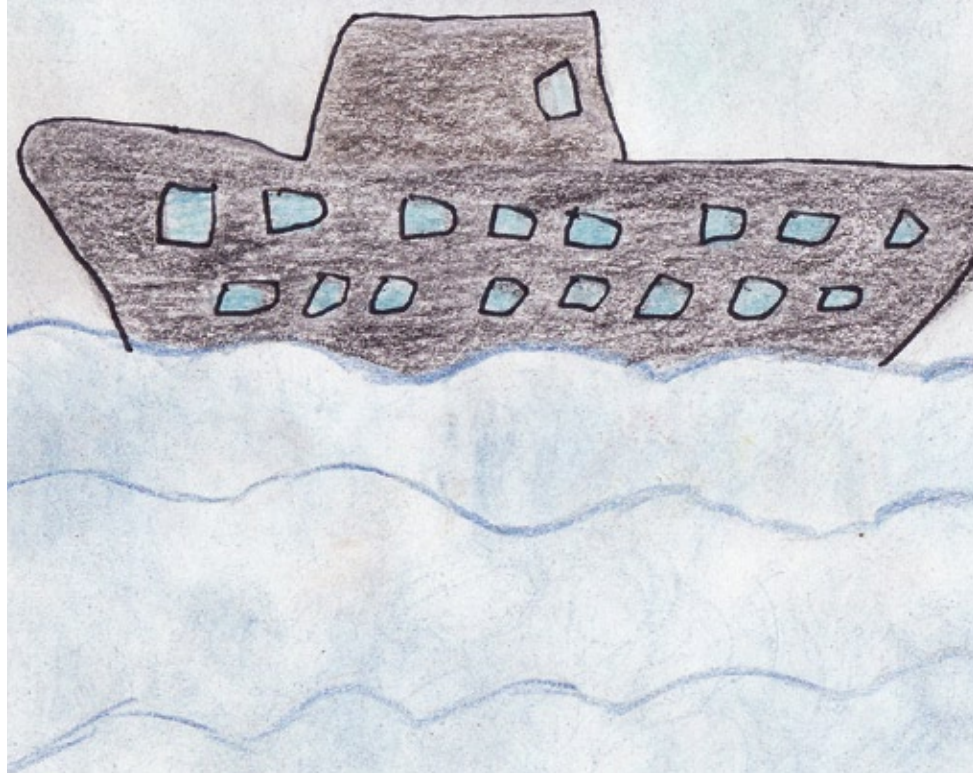
Molly saw the big boat arrive so she sat up in her freshly made scrape, smiled and made herself look cute.

She didn't know that there was a feral cat on board. Her arch enemy!



All the people began to get out of the boat with their cameras. Molly was so happy. She was fluffing up her fur and making her scrape look nice and neat as the people started to arrive.

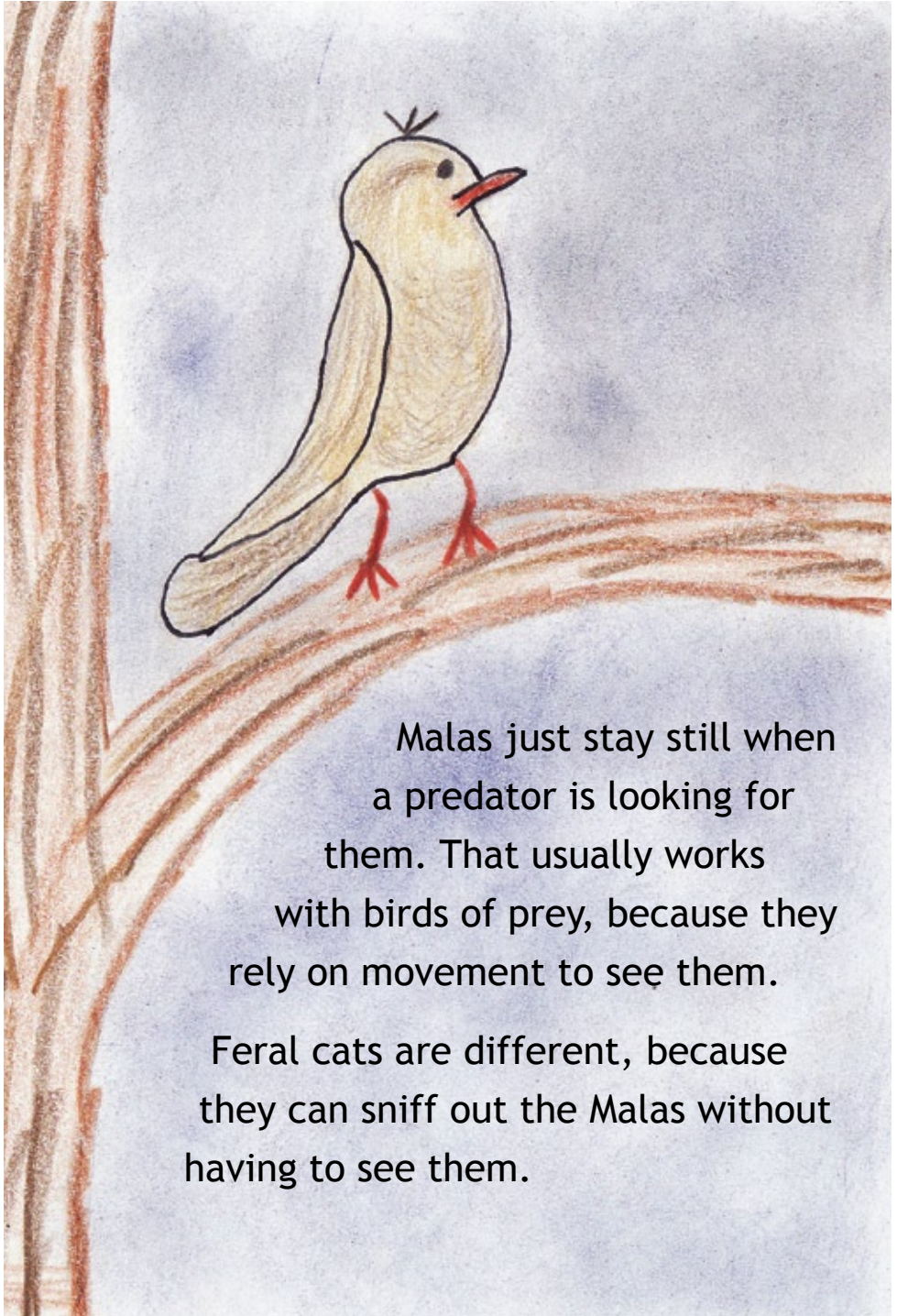
They took photos, pointed, laughed and made weird baby noises at her. She loved this attention!



Molly was very concerned when she saw the little boy who was holding a cat. Molly was really scared of cats.

Suddenly, as the boy was walking over to look at Molly he tripped on a rock and dropped the feral cat. Hissing, it ran at Molly, watching her closely and ready to pounce.





Malas just stay still when a predator is looking for them. That usually works with birds of prey, because they rely on movement to see them.

Feral cats are different, because they can sniff out the Malas without having to see them.

The feral cat pounced onto poor Molly and tried to bite her.

Luckily a ranger was watching and managed to shoot the feral cat with a tranquillizer gun. The cat immediately hit the ground.



She was fine, but the ranger decided to send her off to a protected area where a Mala breeding program had been started, because Malas are a protected species.

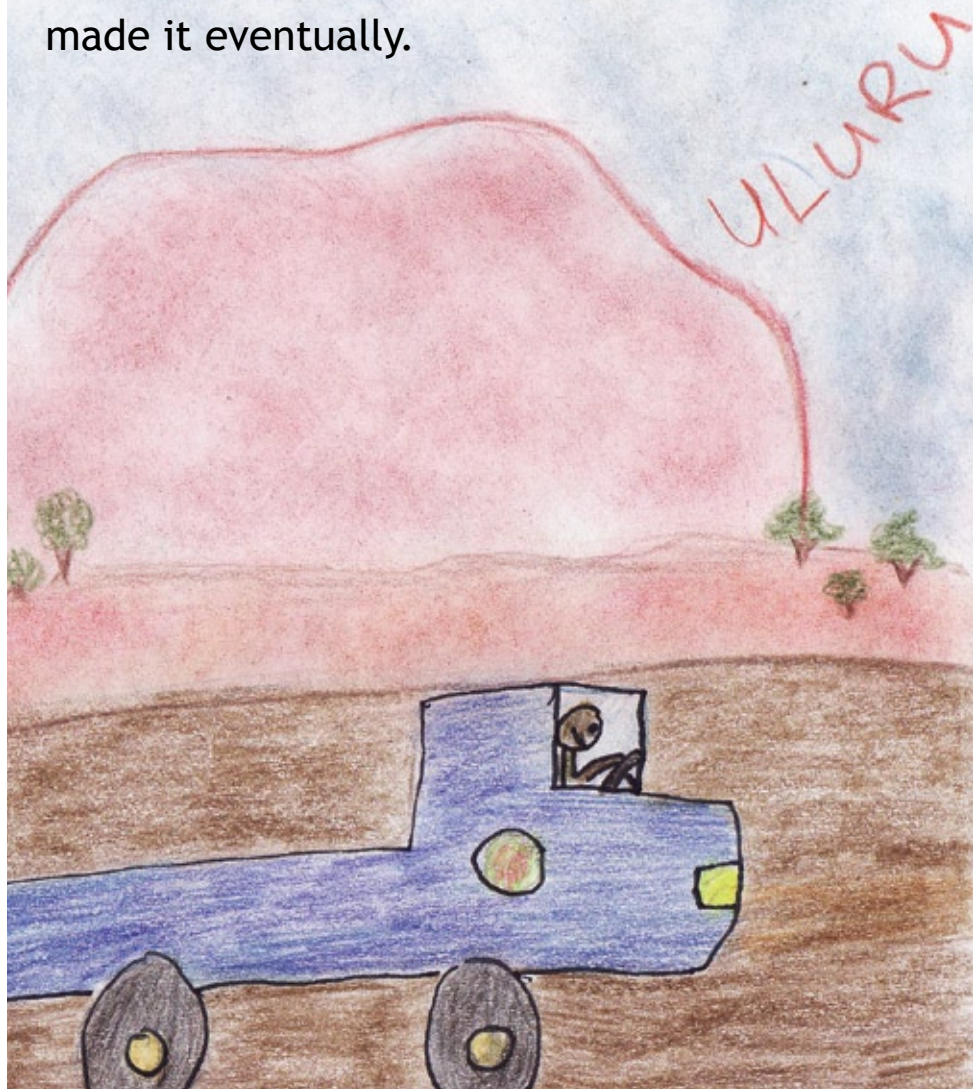
He was sending her off to a protected area where a Mala breeding program had been started.

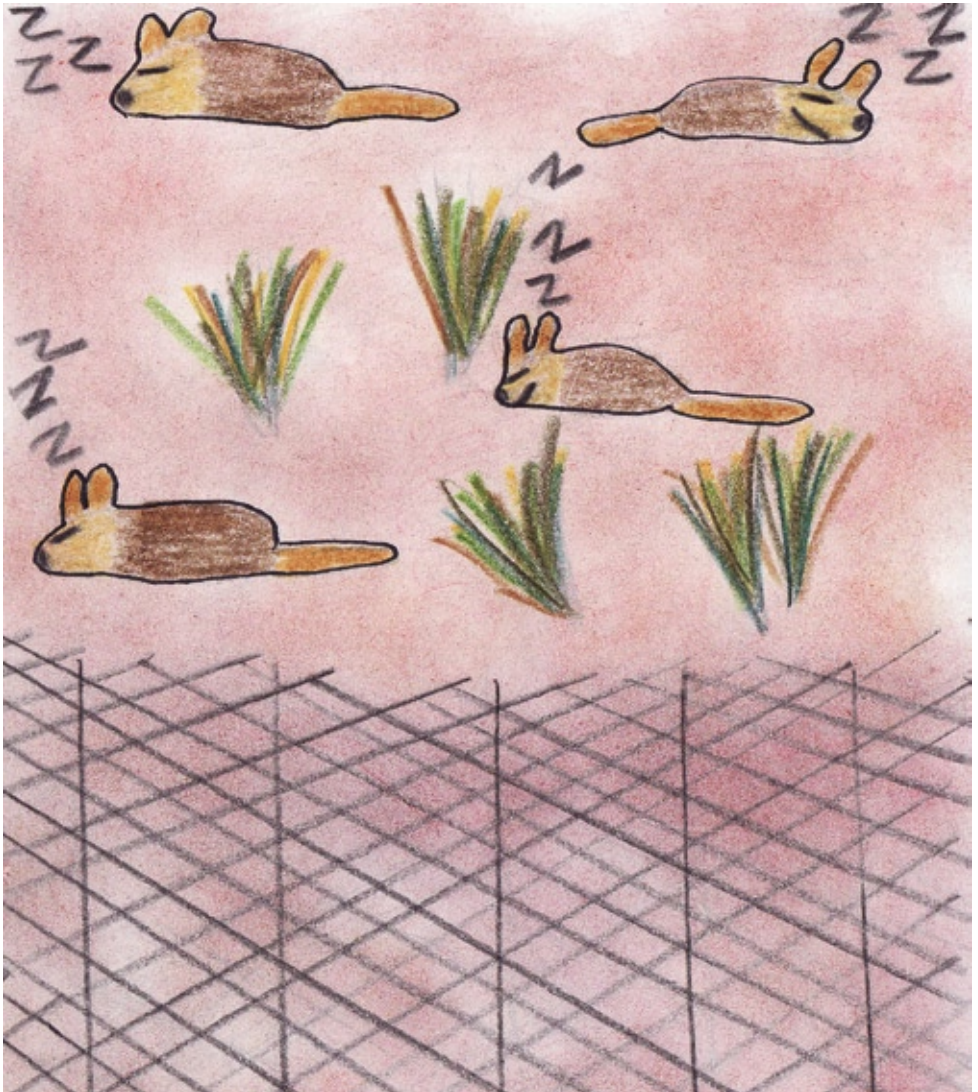
Molly was scared. She didn't know where she was or where she was going. She was in a bag on the big boat and had rugs all around her.



Molly didn't know that the ranger was taking her to a special place at Watarrka National Park. She didn't want to leave her scrape. She had lots of scary thoughts racing through her mind.

As the boat came to a stop, Molly was very carefully lifted up. The ranger put her softly down in his car. They were heading for the Northern Territory where the Mala breeding park was. It was a long bumpy ride but, they made it eventually.





The ranger gently picked up Molly and placed her in the protected breeding area.

She ran off to look around her surroundings and to find somewhere for a new scrape.



As Molly looked around she found other Malas in their own scrapes. They were sound asleep. She made her new scrape close enough to the other Malas, but far enough away to have her own domain. Molly quickly lay down to get some shut eye.





When Molly woke up most of the other Malas were already awake. They quickly made friends with her and made her feel quite welcome.

They all had their meals together and then played, ran, jumped and talked all night.

Molly was very glad she had a lovely group of friends, a great new scrape and a very good home. She also loved it because she and her friends were all safe from feral cats and foxes.



Molly helped the rangers in their breeding program and over time she increased the Mala population numbers in the wild.





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Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2011

