

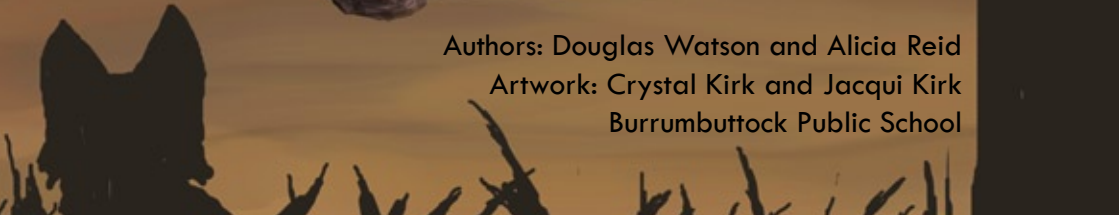
Sammy the Squirrel Glider to the Rescue



Authors: Douglas Watson and Alicia Reid

Artwork: Crystal Kirk and Jacqui Kirk

Burrumbuttock Public School





Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been 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 Murray Darling Association, Murray Catchment Management Authority and Burrumbuttock Public School provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative program.

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The Murray Darling Association, Murray Catchment Management Authority and Burrumbuttock Public School sponsored the Enviro-Stories Education Program in 2011. "An Aussie Bush Tale" was run out of Burrumbuttock, Rand and Walbundrie Public Schools focusing on threatened species for years 3-6.



CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

A healthy Murray catchment

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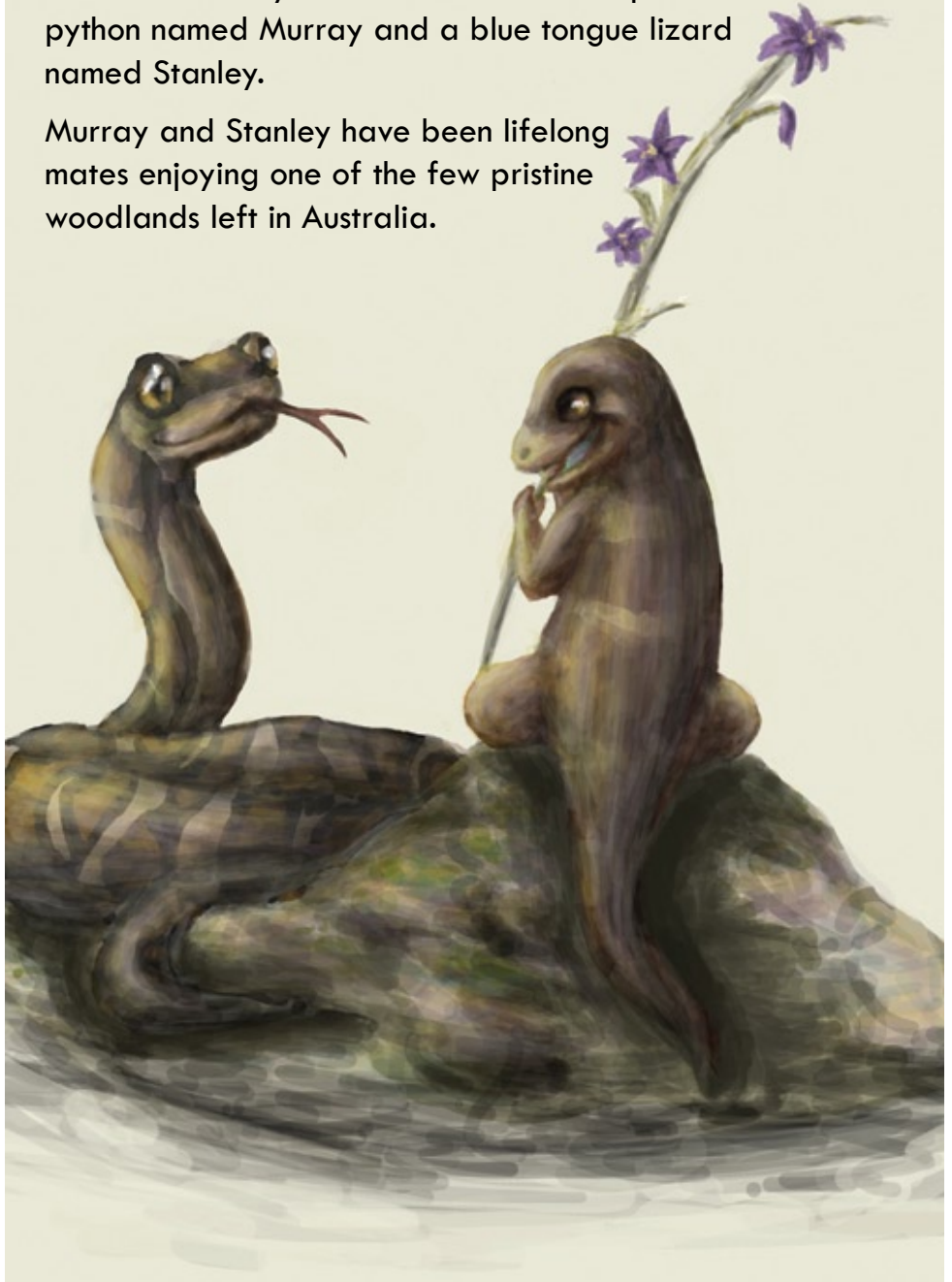
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High up on a rocky outcrop in the middle of a Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands lived a carpet python named Murray and a blue tongue lizard named Stanley.

Murray and Stanley have been lifelong mates enjoying one of the few pristine woodlands left in Australia.



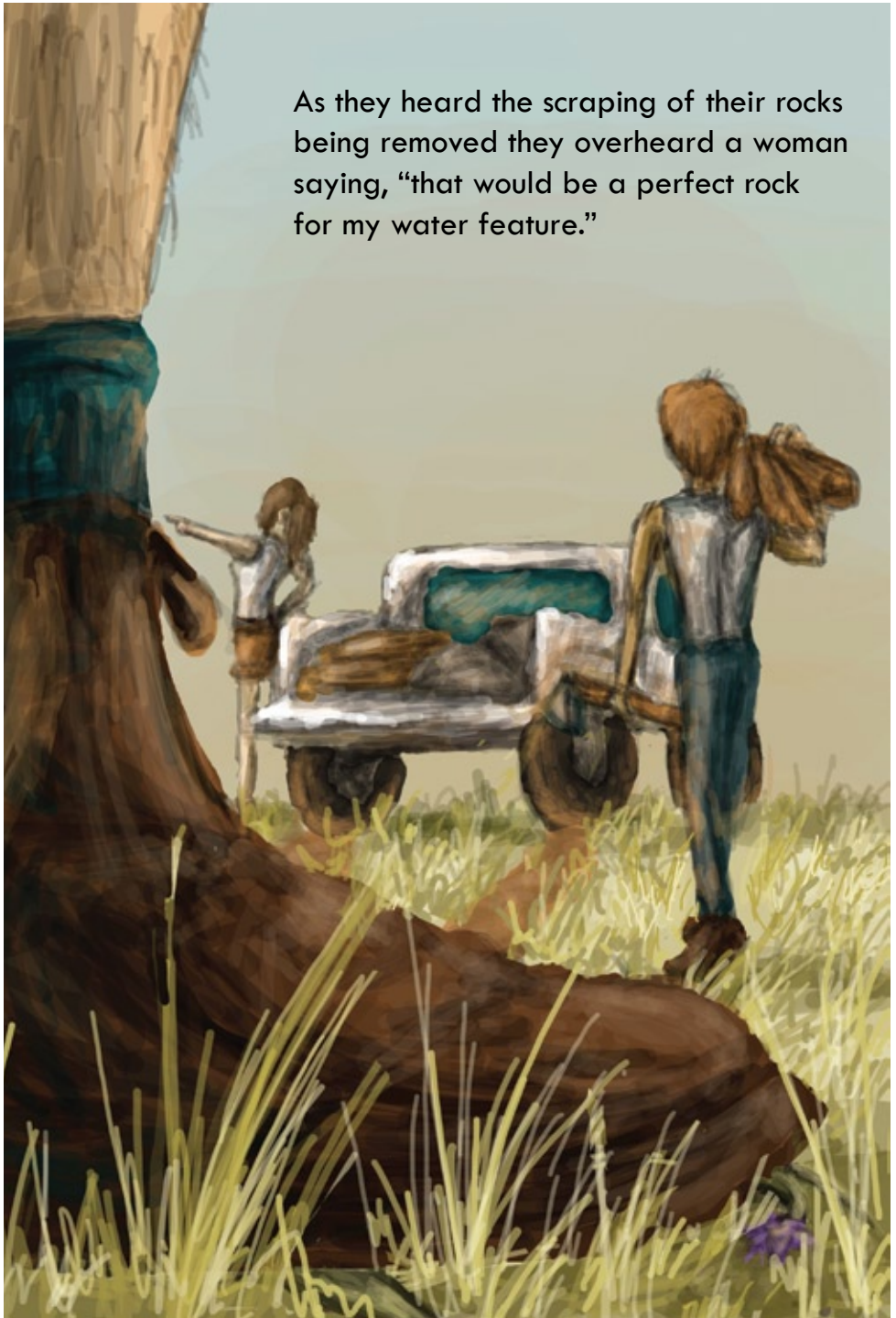
One warm morning Stanley and Murray were sun baking on their rocks when a sudden movement scared them.



They scrambled into their crevice and said
“Phew that was close.”



As they heard the scraping of their rocks being removed they overheard a woman saying, “that would be a perfect rock for my water feature.”





Once they could hear the silence of the woodlands they peered from their crevice and gasped at what the family had done to their home. They could also see the stumps of trees that had been cut down by other families for firewood.





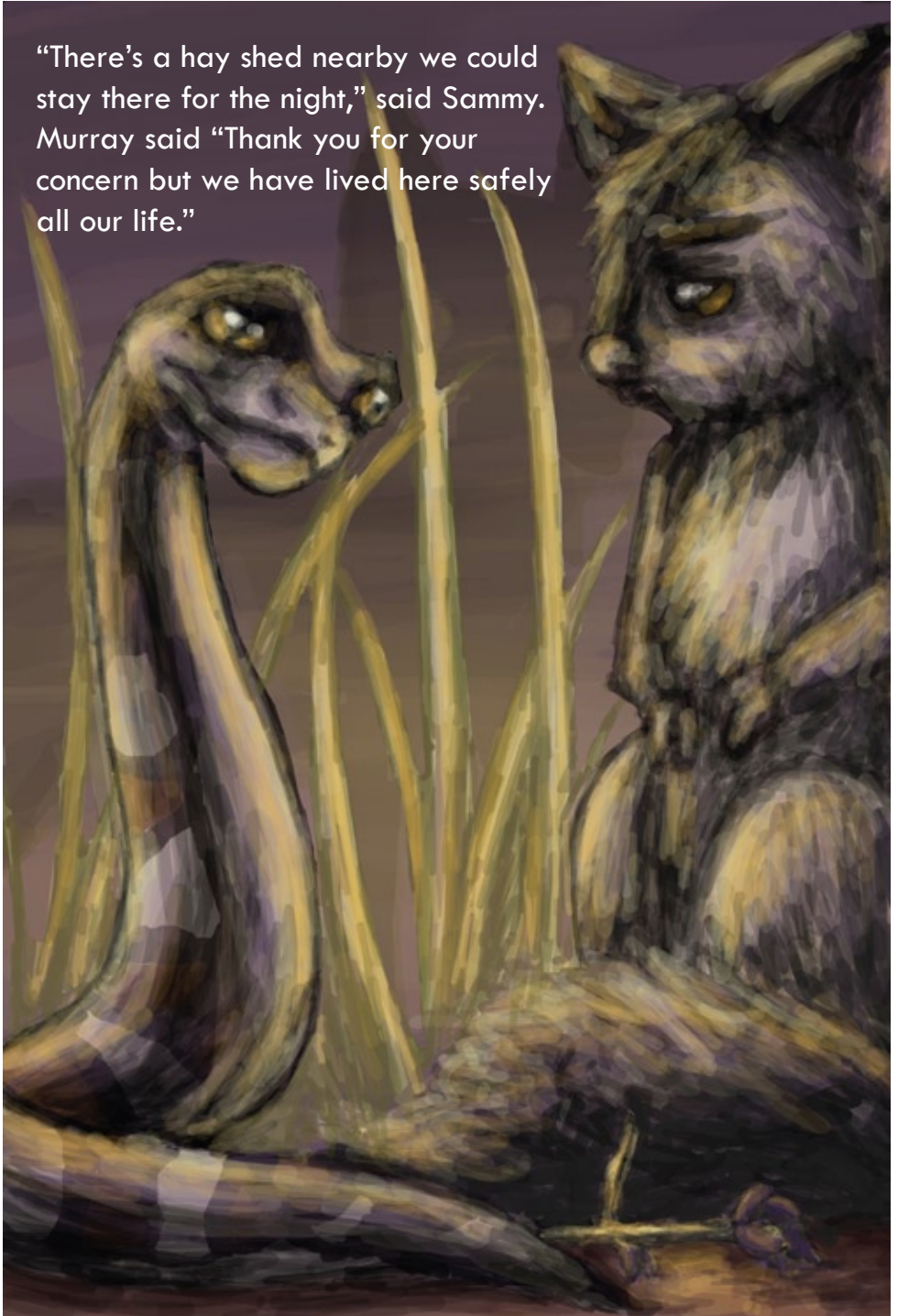
A strange shadow appeared in front of the sunset. Before they could focus on it the fox had disappeared.



Gliding from a hollow in a gum tree Sammy the squirrel glider warns Murray and Stanley of the fox lurking close by. "Look at your home! It has nearly disappeared you should move to a new place."



“There’s a hay shed nearby we could stay there for the night,” said Sammy. Murray said “Thank you for your concern but we have lived here safely all our life.”

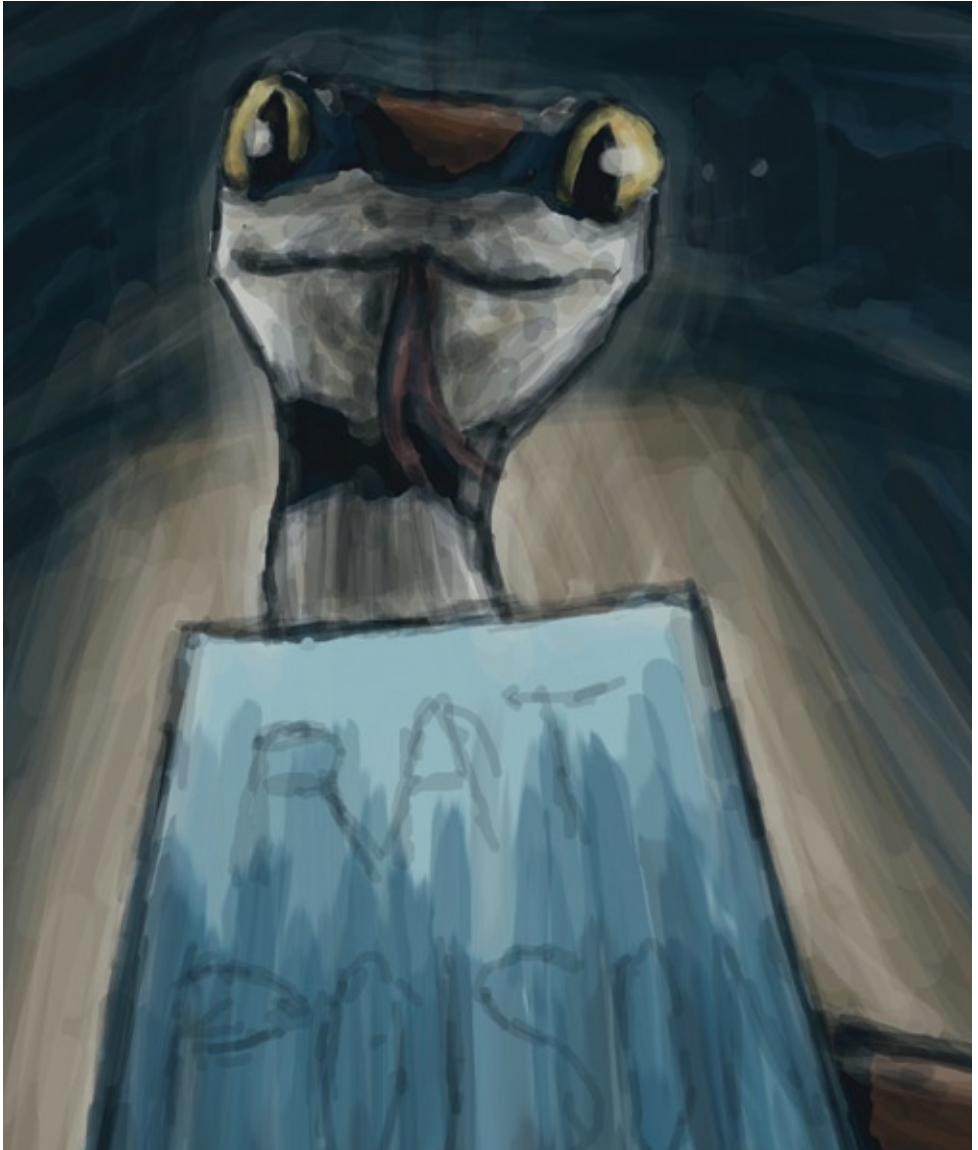




The hungry fox returns creeping towards them.

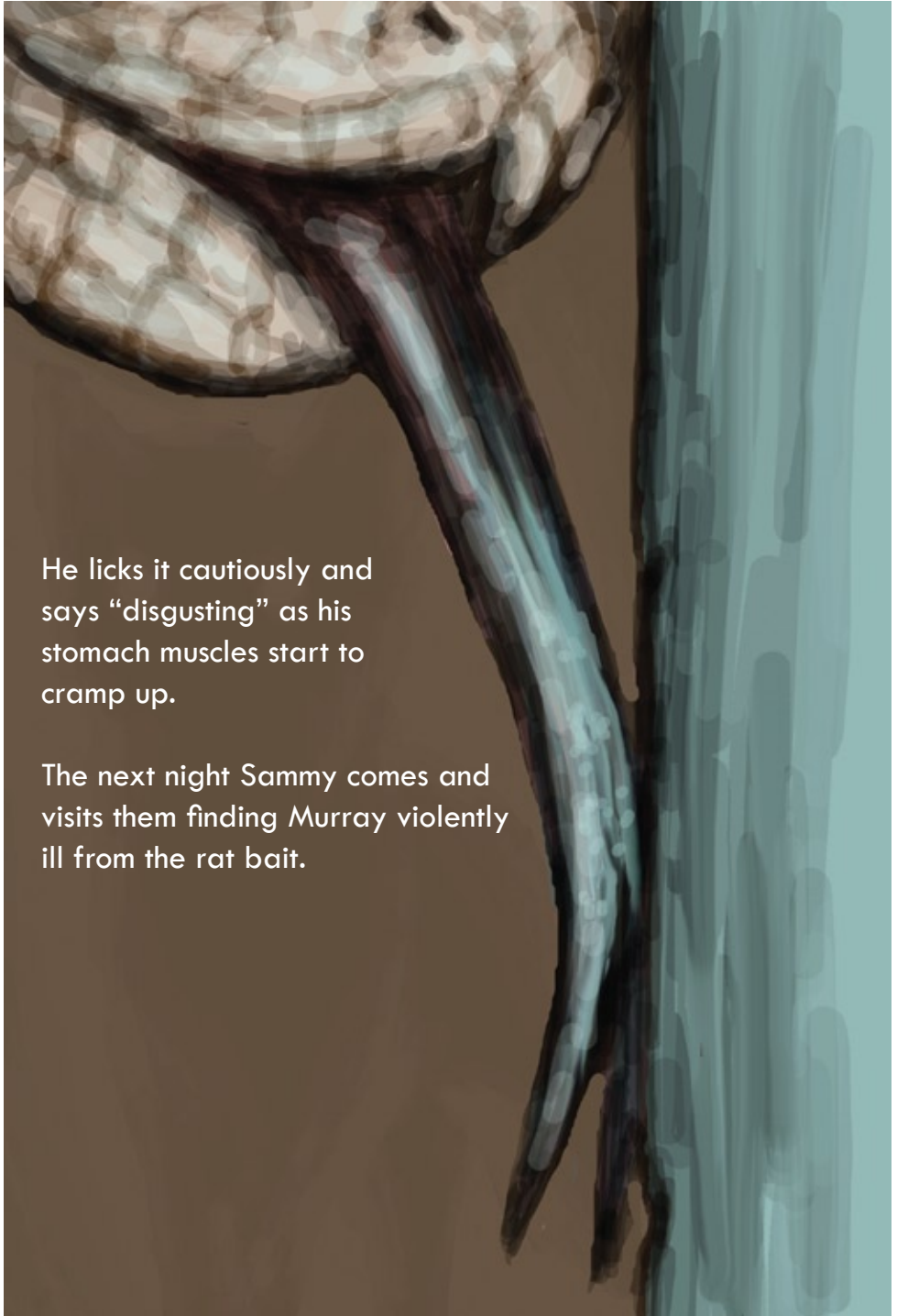
“Look out he’s behind you!” hissed Sammy as he soared over them distracting the fox while Murray and Stanley quickly scurried to the nearby hayshed.





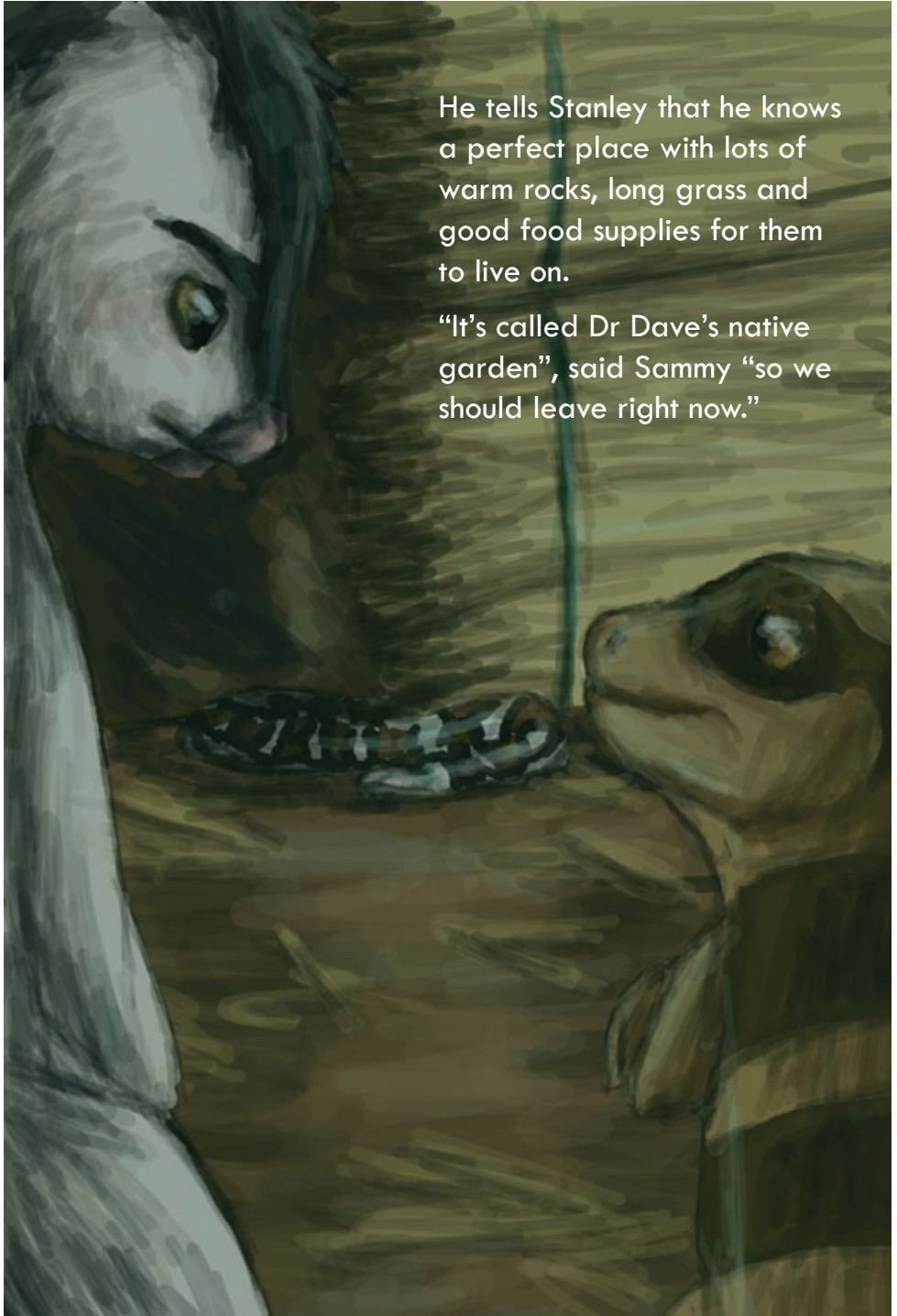
The smell of rats made Murray hungry as he slithers towards a curious looking blue cube that he sees in the corner of the hayshed.






He licks it cautiously and says “disgusting” as his stomach muscles start to cramp up.

The next night Sammy comes and visits them finding Murray violently ill from the rat bait.



He tells Stanley that he knows a perfect place with lots of warm rocks, long grass and good food supplies for them to live on.

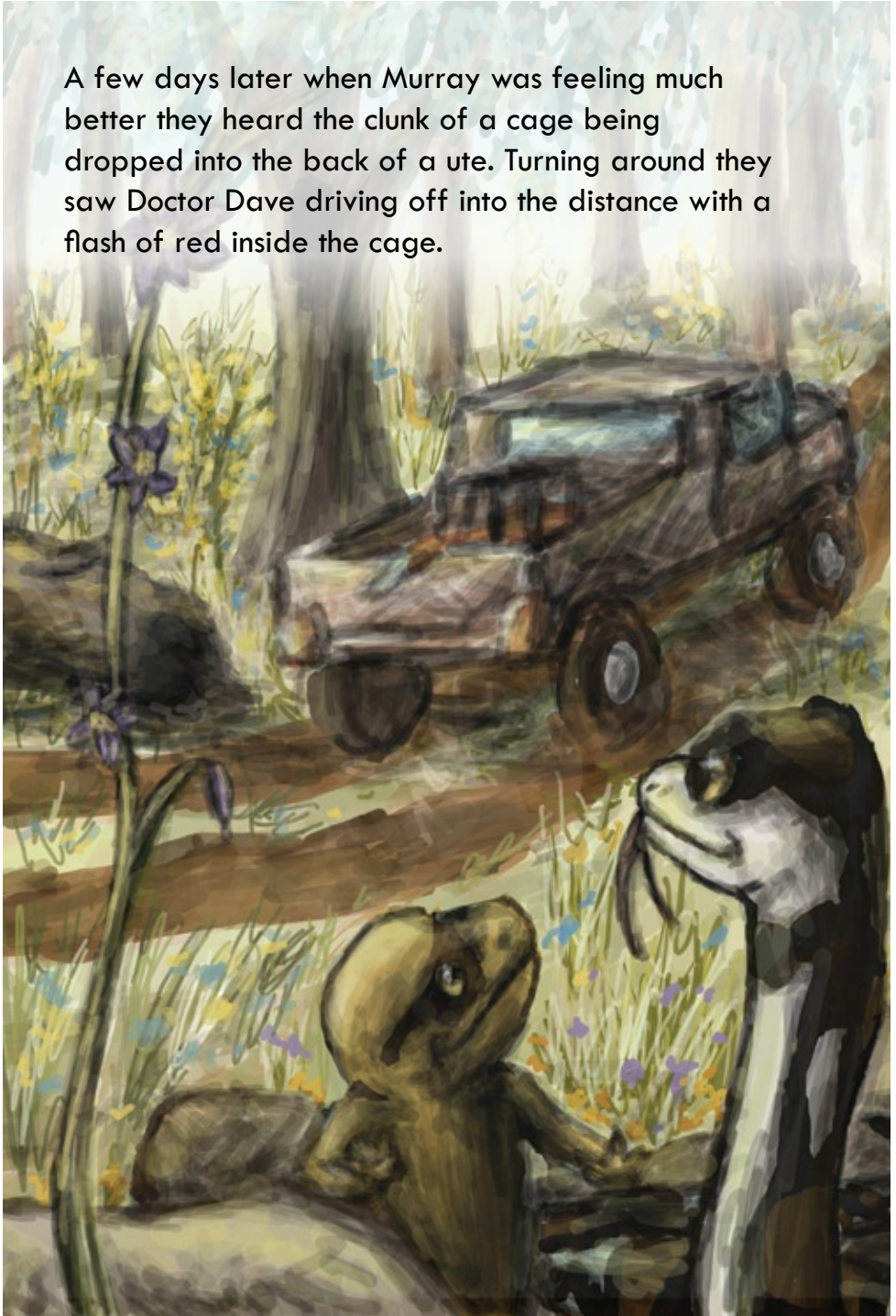
“It’s called Dr Dave’s native garden”, said Sammy “so we should leave right now.”



Slowly but surely
they make it to
Dr Dave's garden
with Murray
trailing behind.

"This is a beautiful
untouched habitat
perfect for our
new home," said
Stanley.

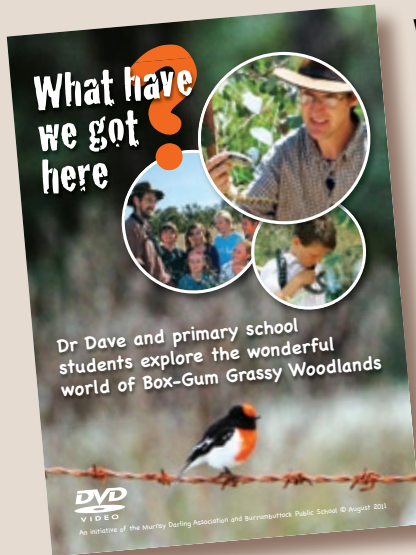
A few days later when Murray was feeling much better they heard the clunk of a cage being dropped into the back of a ute. Turning around they saw Doctor Dave driving off into the distance with a flash of red inside the cage.



Some Facts

- Carpet pythons can grow to 2.4 to 2.7 metres long.
- Murray-Darling Carpet Pythons are rare animals.
- Main threats to the carpet python are foxes and the removal of rocks causing loss of habitat.
- Squirrel Gliders can glide up to 50 metres in one single leap.
- Squirrel Gliders eat insects, sap, nectar, pollen and seeds.
- Main threat to the squirrel glider is loss of habitat.
- Blue-tongued lizards can grow up to 65cms in length.
- Blue-tongued lizards eat snails and soft fruits.
- Blue-tongued lizards can live up to 30 years in the wild.
- There are only 5% of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands left.





What have we got here?

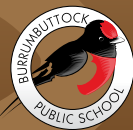
In this DVD, students from Culcairn, Yerong Creek, Pleasant Hills and Henty Public Schools as well as Dr David Watson from Charles Sturt University, explain why Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are so special.

The DVD covers the importance of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands, Aboriginal issues, why the woodlands are so fragile and threatened, some inhabitants and how students can appreciate and protect these special landscapes.

Check out DVDs about Dr Dave, Murray, Sammy and Stanley at: www.ourriverourfuture.org

Crystal Kirk, Alicia Reid, Jacqui Kirk and Douglas Watson

Burrumbuttock Public School



Murray
CMA
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