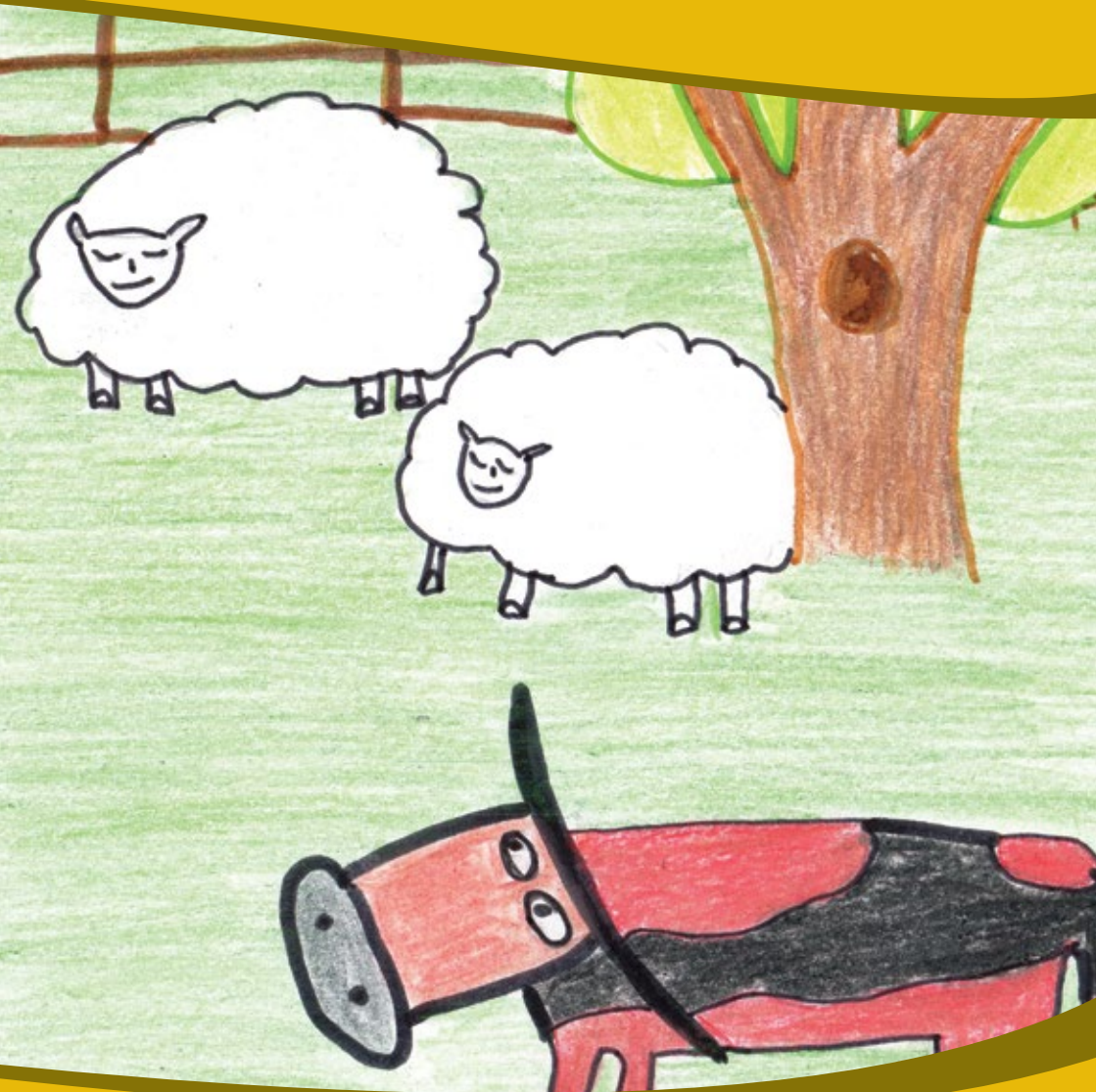


A Weekend on our Farm



Jessica Clayton
Euchareena 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

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2012, the “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about life on the farm. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Australian Government’s Caring for our Country, Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authorities and Cotton Australia.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Australian Government’s Caring for our Country

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

www.nrm.gov.au

Central West CMA

The Central West CMA 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.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA strives for balanced production and conservation within resilient landscapes. The catchment is located in northern New South Wales, just west of the Great Diving Range.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in New South Wales and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

A Weekend on our Farm

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School: Euchareena Public School

The “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and Caring for our Country

- Fluffy’s Getting Shorn
- A Great Turnaround
- The New Farm
- The Farmer Changes His Ways
- I Own it All
- Drought and Flooding Rains

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- My Life on a Sheep Farm
- A Weekend on our Farm
- Farm Animals
- Life on the Farm

Sponsored by both the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and the Central West CMA

- Euchareena School Gardening

Sponsored by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

- Hoot the Owl Saves the Day
- Our Farms are Our Future
- Life as a Sheep
- What we have on Farms

Sponsored by Cotton Australia

- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

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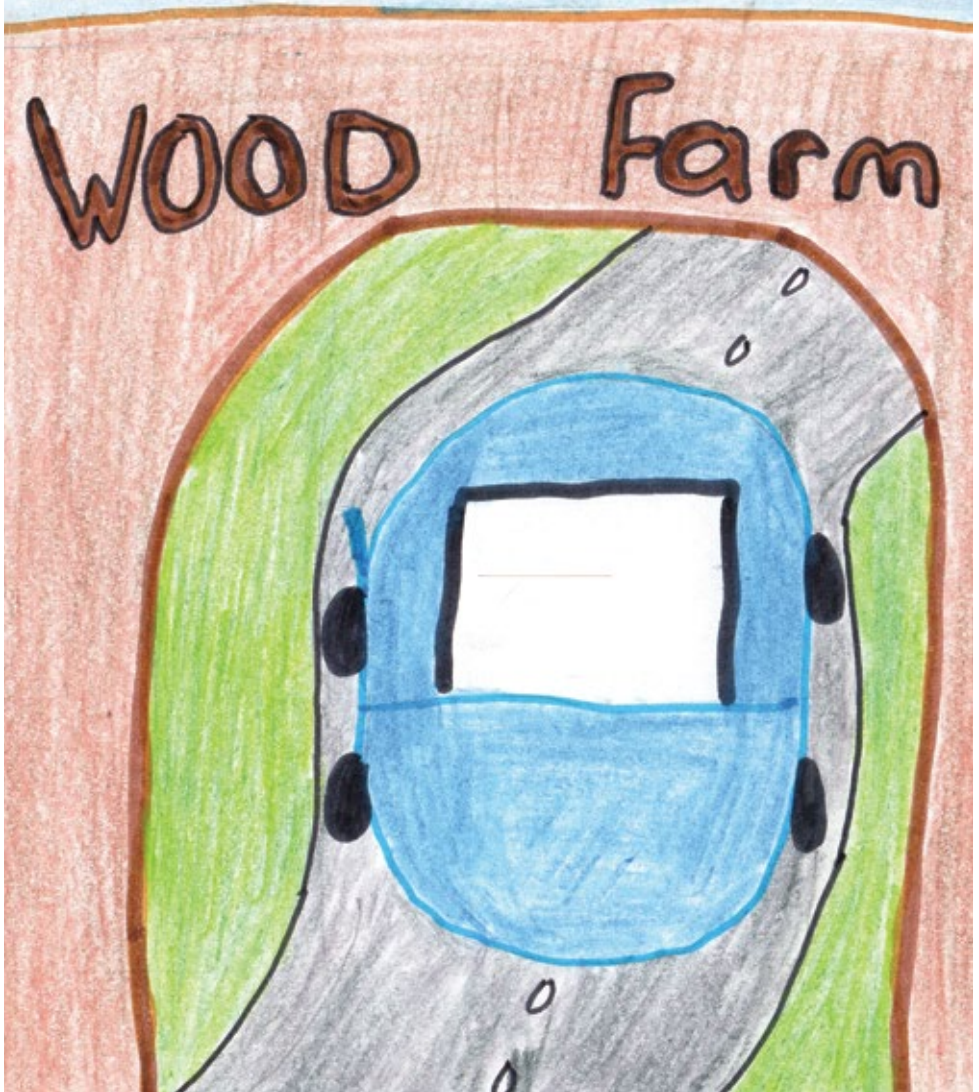
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My best friend Lisa decided to visit our farm one weekend. Lisa hadn't been to a farm before, so it was going to be a whole new experience for her.

I spoke to Lisa at school about her trip to our farm and asked her, "Do you know where your food comes from?"

The weekend came and it was time for Lisa to arrive. I was a bit nervous as she hadn't met my family before.

I saw her parents' car coming down the road. It was very exciting!



Lisa clambered out of her car. I was so excited. I had a huge grin upon my face. Dad greeted her and then took her bags inside.

Walking towards our big old house, Lisa noticed the rows of plants in our big garden.

“Wow,” said Lisa. “What are they?”

“That is our veggie garden,” I replied. “You might just get them from the supermarket but veggies come from a garden like this one.”





It was late afternoon so Lisa and I played in the gardens around the house. Lisa was amazed with the sounds of the farm. The birds were chattering while digging in the leaves and the wind was howling like a wolf.

It began to get dark and Mum called for us, “Time for dinner girls.”

After a lovely fresh farm meal and some chatting with my family, Mum told us it was time for bed.

We lay under the covers and I explained to Lisa all about the things she would see on our farm. I told her about our big bulls, the crazy sheep and our dog Billy. I also told her that we had the funniest chooks in the world.

Lisa went to sleep and dreamt about the fun and adventures she was going to have the following day.

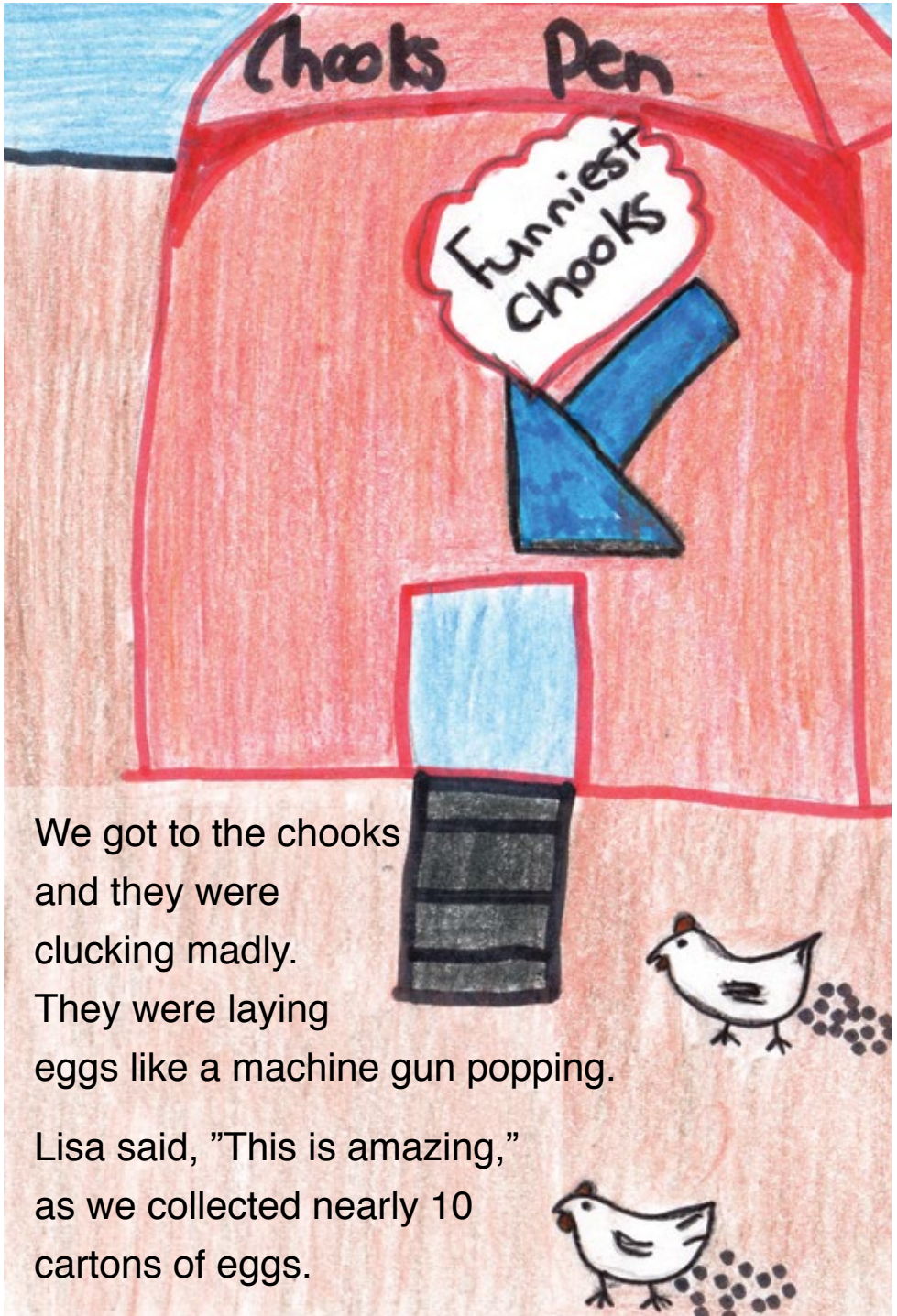


The morning came and our rooster woke us up with a loud, “Cock-a-doodle-doo”.

We all had a piece of toast for breakfast with home made butter and jam.

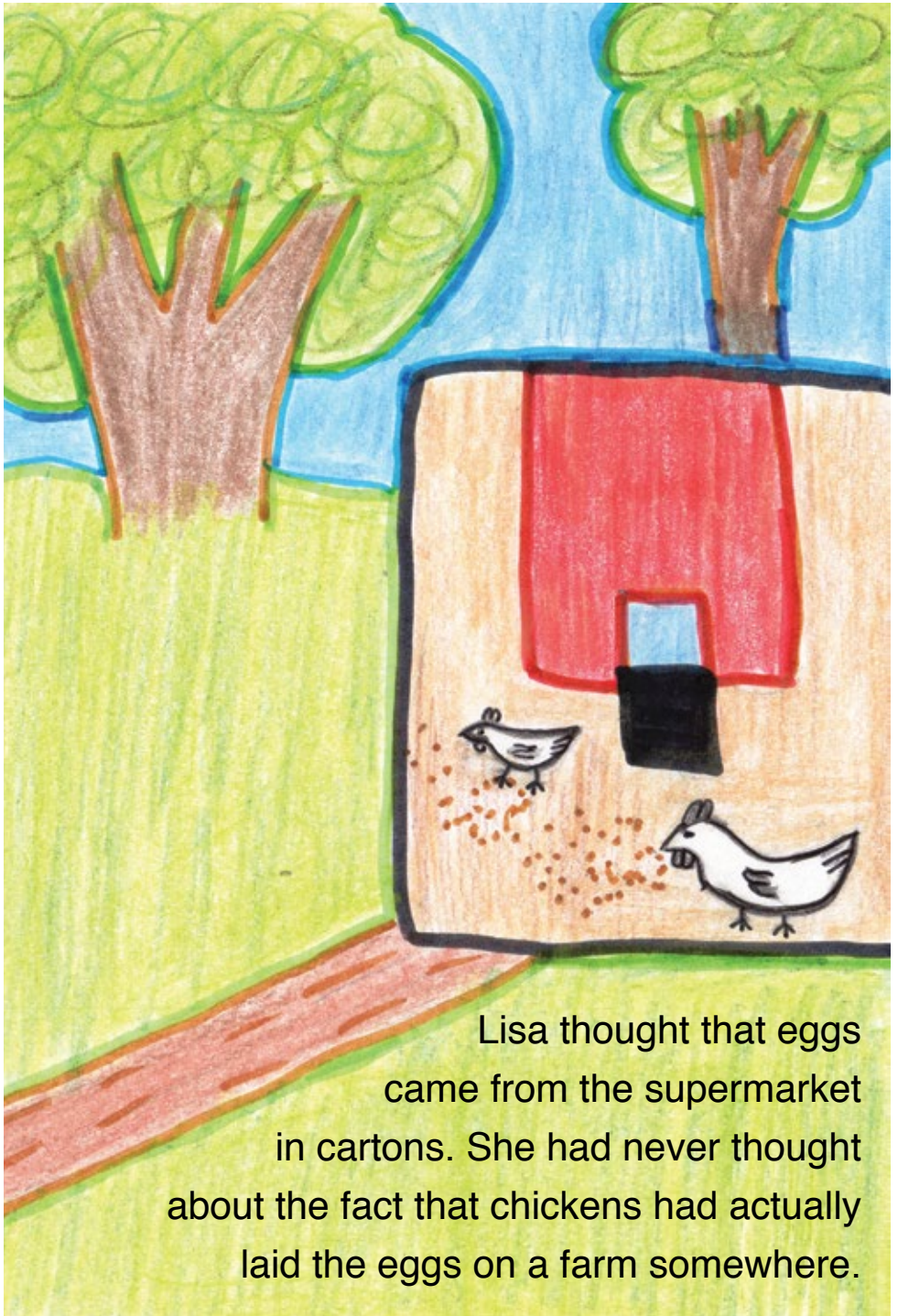
Lisa and I got dressed in our dirty old farm clothes and set off to the chook pen.





We got to the chooks and they were clucking madly. They were laying eggs like a machine gun popping.

Lisa said, "This is amazing," as we collected nearly 10 cartons of eggs.



Lisa thought that eggs came from the supermarket in cartons. She had never thought about the fact that chickens had actually laid the eggs on a farm somewhere.

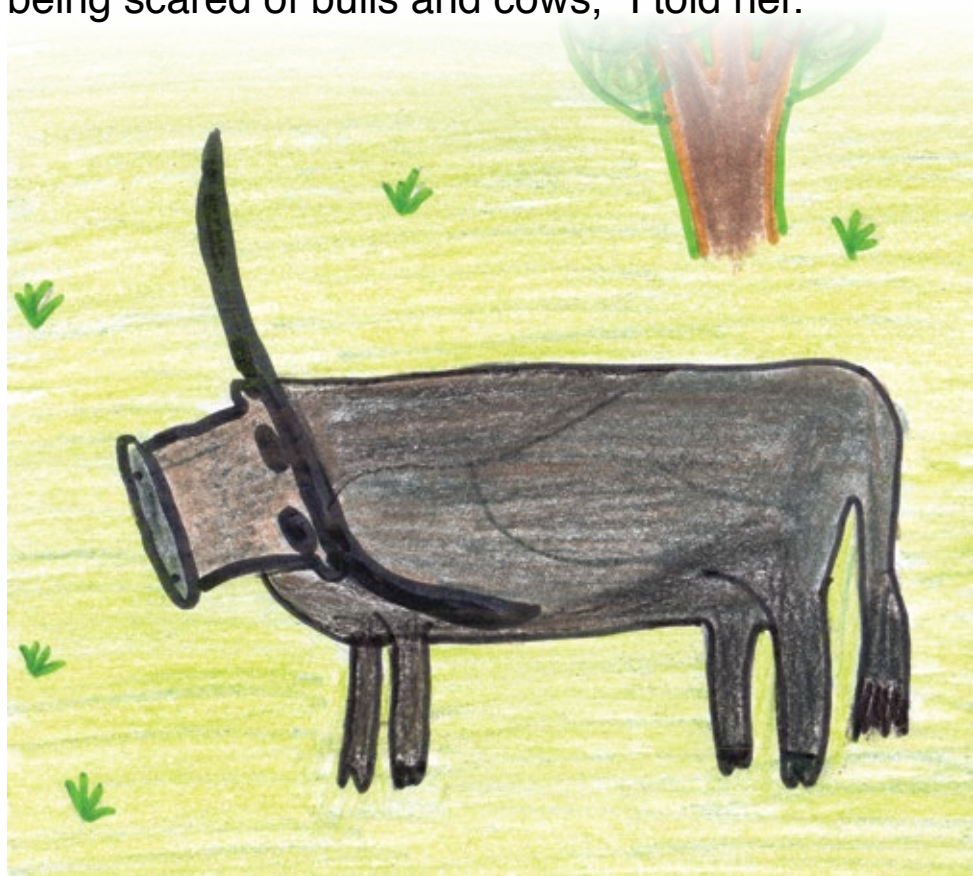
We walked as slowly as snails to the cows. There were both cows and bulls in the paddock.

With a worried look on her face Lisa said, “I’m scared of bulls.”

I laughed like I had fleas in my pants.

Lisa said angrily, “It’s not funny”

“Sorry Lisa. It’s all right, I’m just not used to people being scared of bulls and cows,” I told her.



Lisa always bought her milk from the supermarket. I told her it all came from cows and was collected in a dairy. I also explained that beef cows were used for meat.

It went quiet for a moment, and then she said happily, “That’s great. Now I understand how and what cows are used for.”





Hungrily Lisa asked, “Can we have lamb chops for lunch?”

I replied, “Do you know where lamb chops come from?”

“No,” said Lisa very quietly.

We skipped all the way to the next paddock.

“Lamb chops come from sheep that are bred and raised for meat like these ones right here. Some sheep are also shorn to give us wool to make our clothes.”

“Sheep are very useful!” she exclaimed.



We ran through the paddocks like a rabbit being chased by a fox.

We saw a funny little wooden house and Lisa asked what it was. I told her that this was our friendly dog Billy's kennel. Billy was so pleased to see us. He was jumping up and down like he was on a mini trampoline.

Lisa asked, "What are dogs used for?"



I told her, "They are used to help my dad round up all of our sheep and cattle. If they are really good, they can be used for dog trials as well."

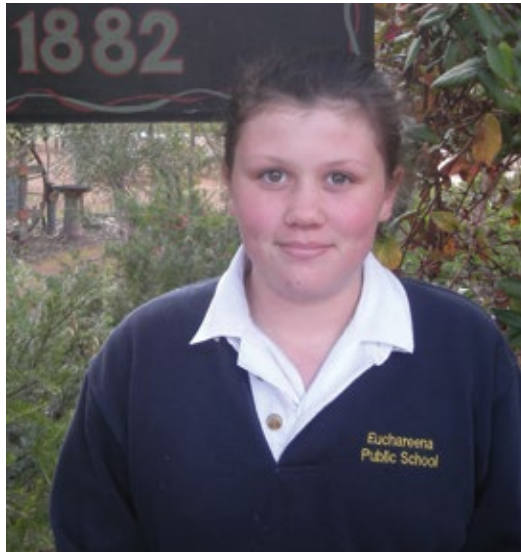
"There are lots of things that dogs are used for on a farm but I just like to play with Billy," I added.

Lisa liked patting and playing with Billy.



At the end of the day Lisa exclaimed, “Now that was a fun day!”

That afternoon Lisa’s dad came to pick her up. We said goodbye and she went home thinking of all the wonderful things she had seen on our farm.



Jessica Clayton
Euchareena Public School, Grade 5 2012



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Catchment Management
Authority
Central West



Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir



National
Year of
Reading
2012