

Hoot the Owl Saves the Day



Amber Gordon
Gilgai 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

Hoot the Owl Saves the Day

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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

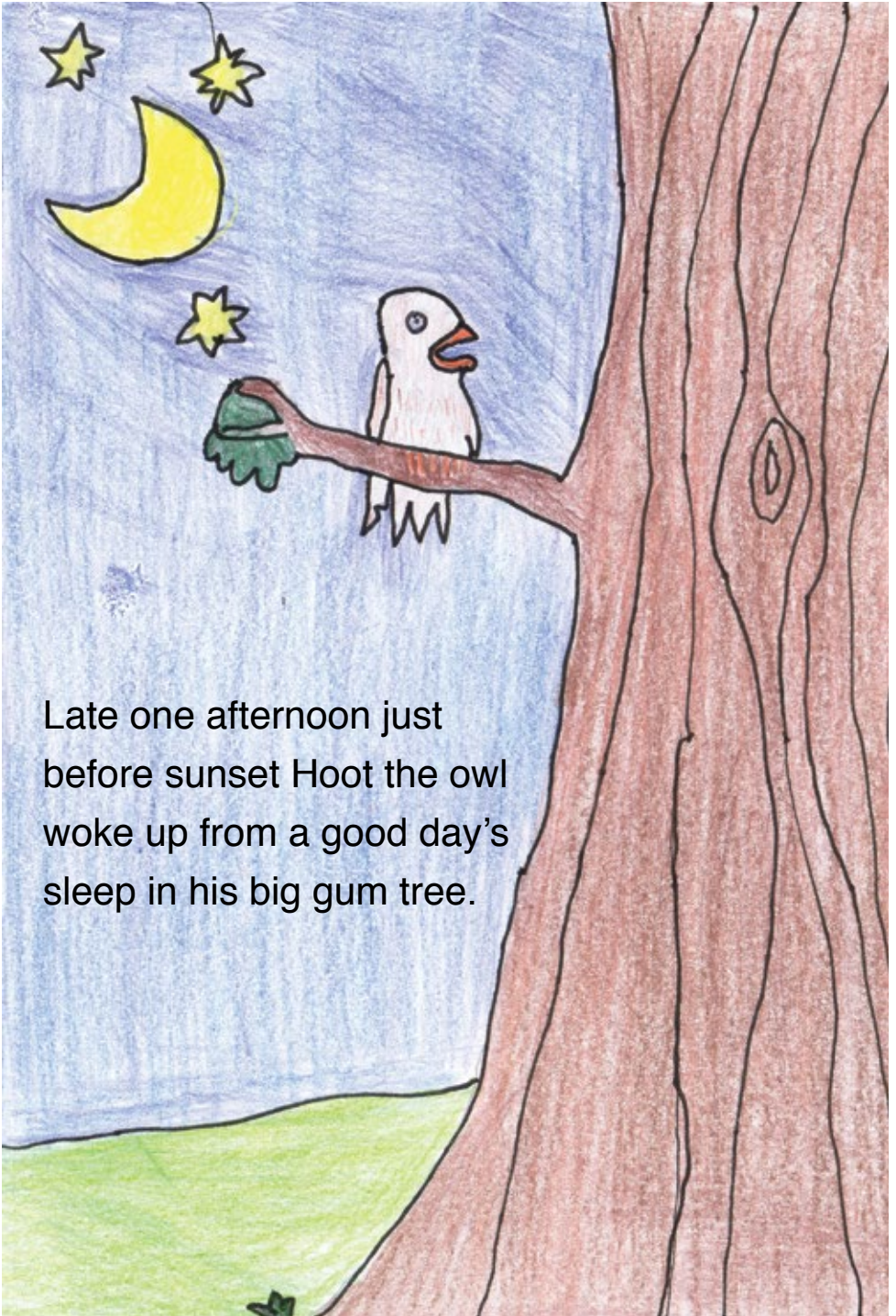
- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

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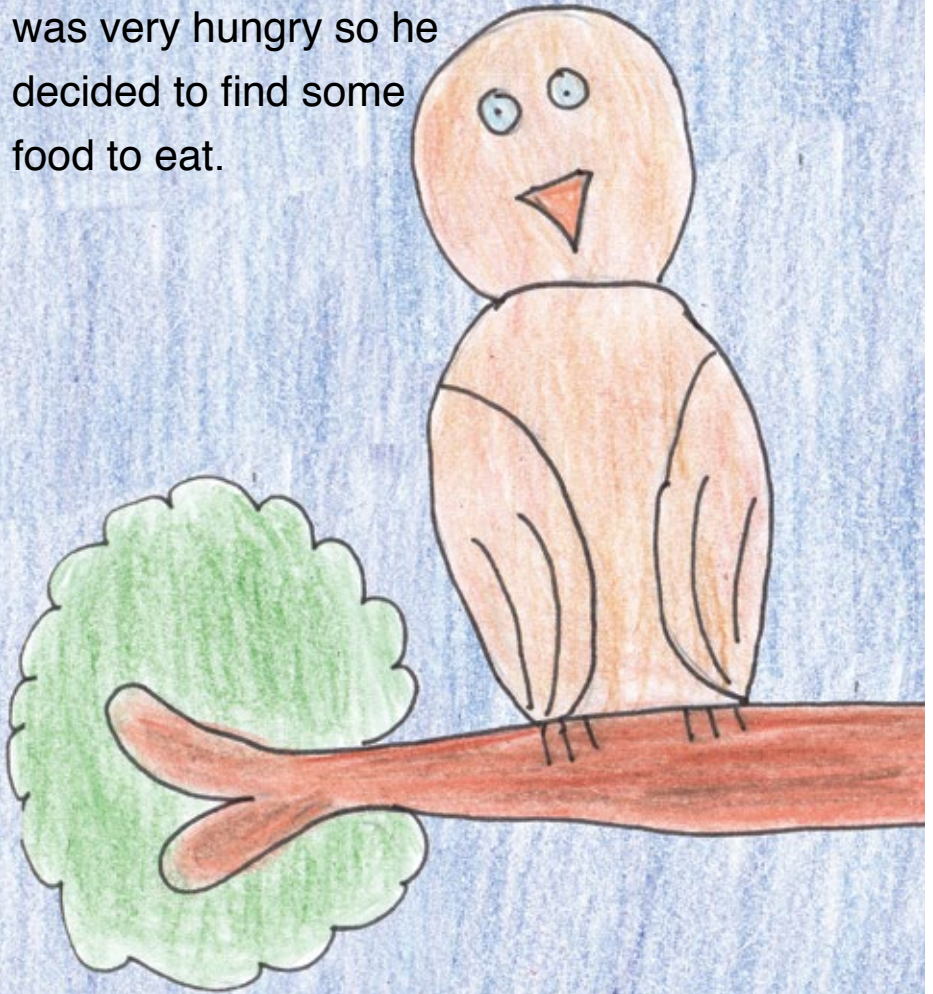
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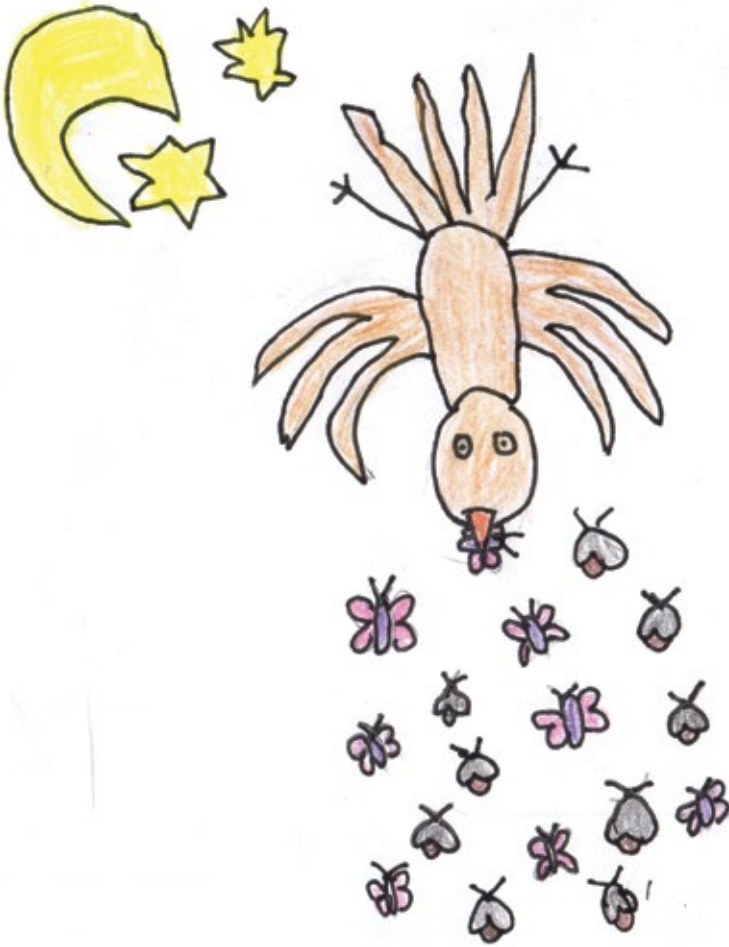
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Late one afternoon just before sunset Hoot the owl woke up from a good day's sleep in his big gum tree.

When Hoot woke he heard a huge growl from his tummy. He was very hungry so he decided to find some food to eat.





He hunted some bugs and moths. This wasn't very satisfying and Hoot still felt hungry.

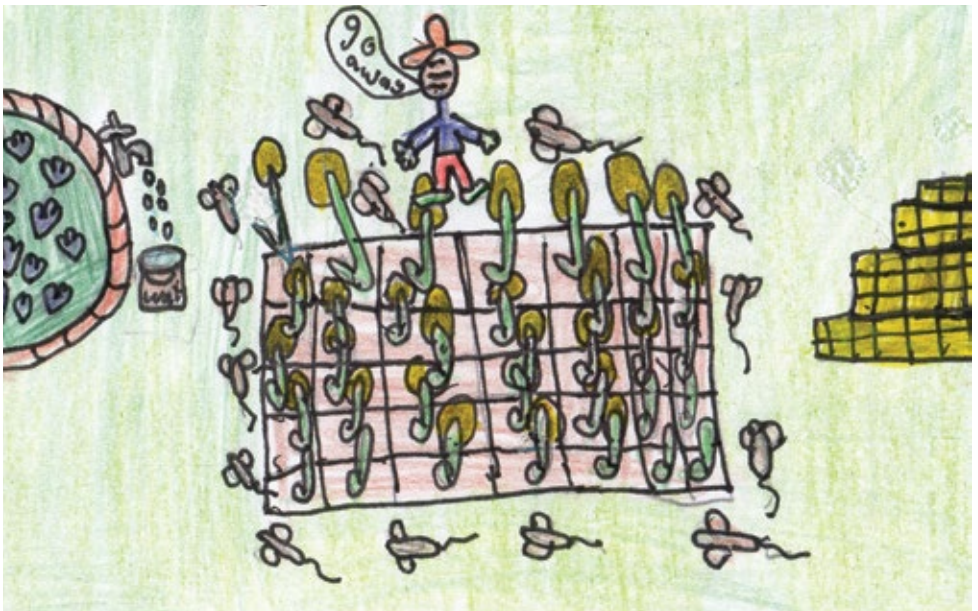
He flew through the night air looking for some mice. Mice were his favourite food.



As Hoot scanned the ground for mice he noticed a nice patch of native vegetation on a nearby farm. He flew down to check it out.

Hoot saw a farmer having trouble trying to chase mice out of his crops.

The mice looked mighty tasty. So he flew down to the nearest branch.

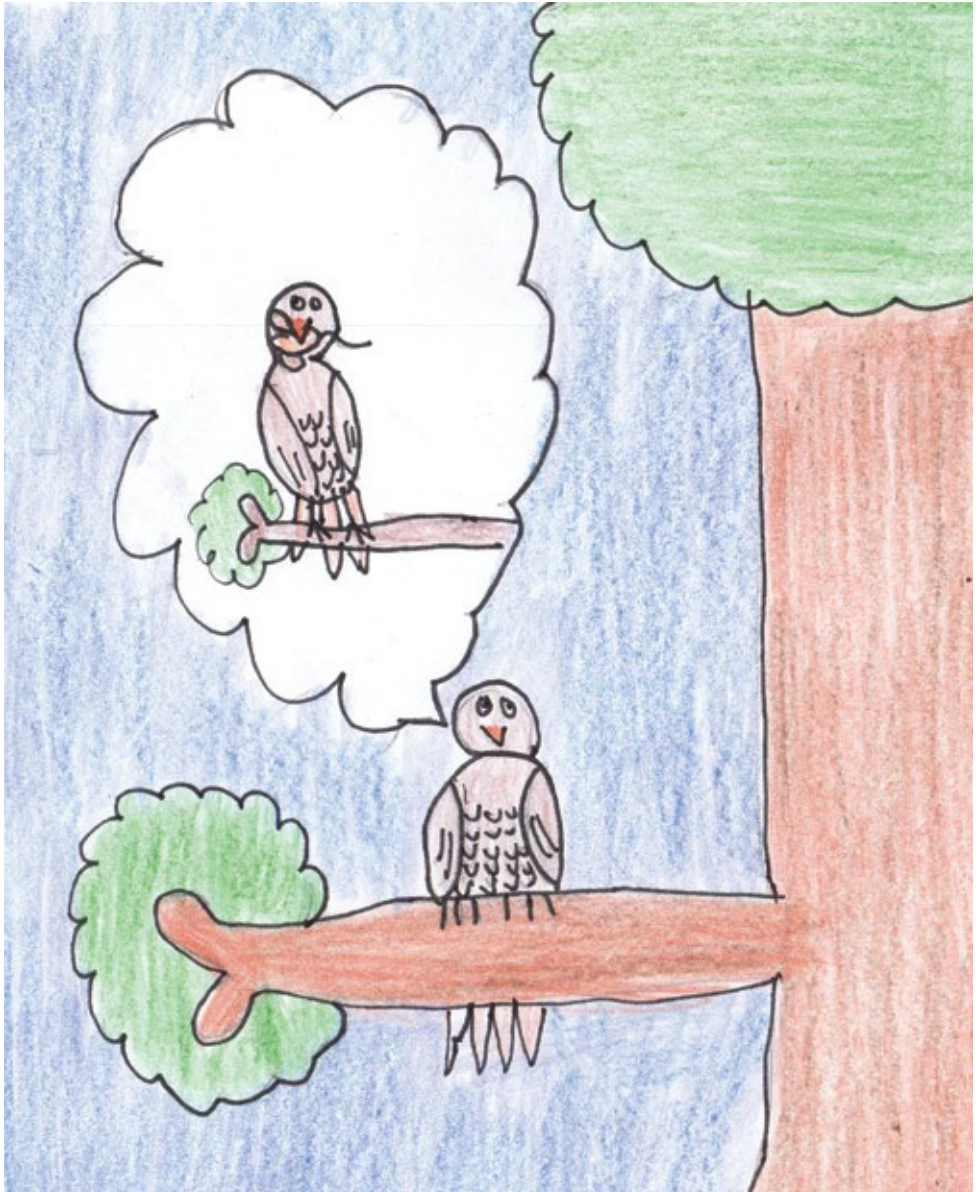


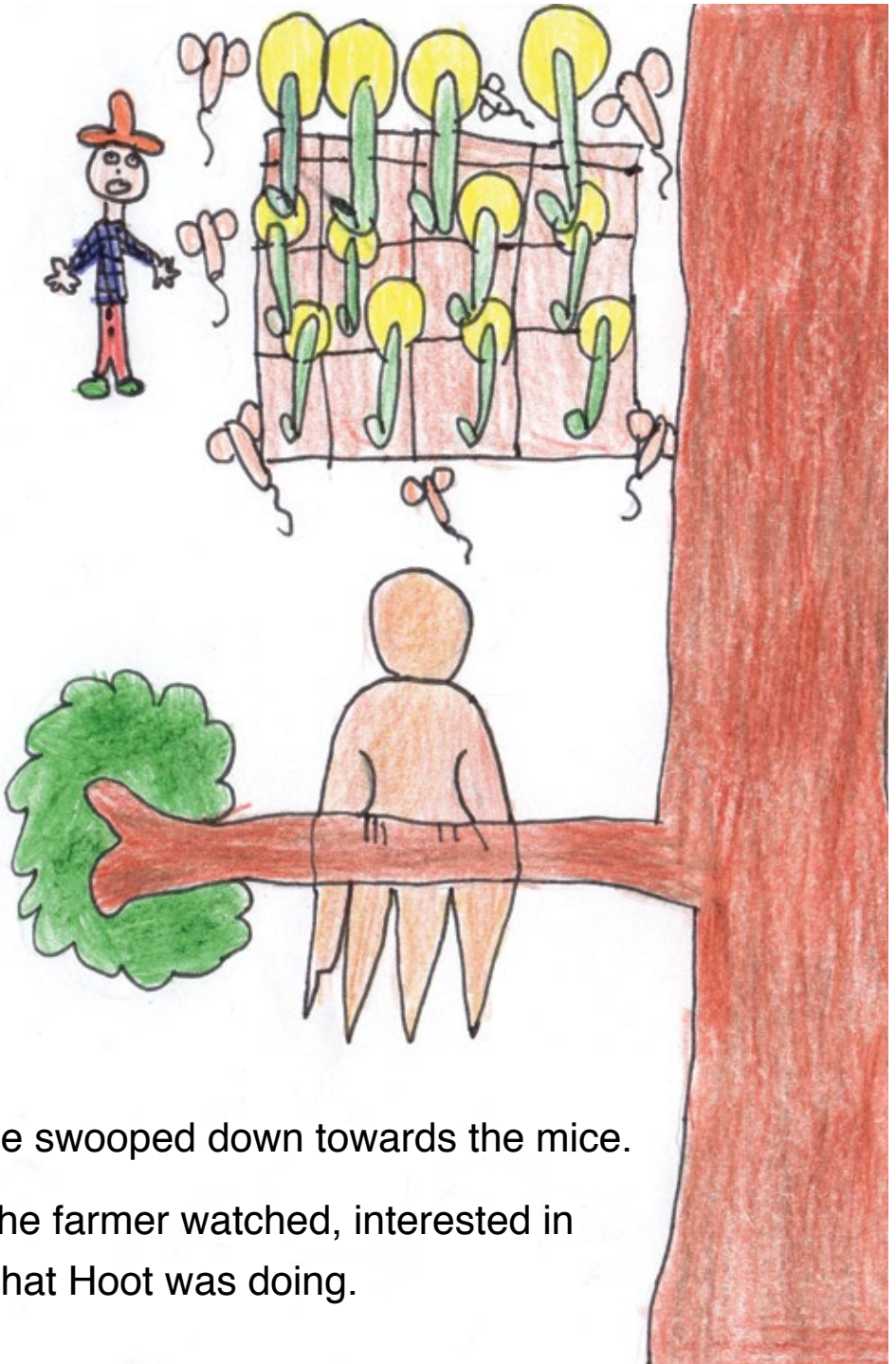
Hoot watched the farmer struggling, trying to get rid of all the mice out of his crops.

Suddenly he had a good idea!



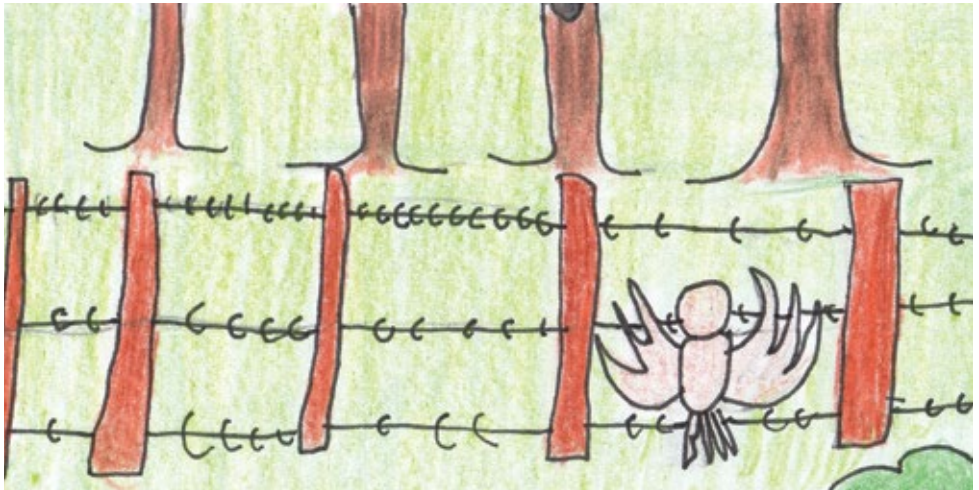
Hoot would help the farmer by eating the mice.
This meant the farmer wouldn't have mice in his
crops and Hoot would have a lovely dinner.





He swooped down towards the mice.

The farmer watched, interested in what Hoot was doing.



Hoot grabbed a mouse and flew up to the large native trees and ate it. He dived down to grab another mouse, but he got stuck in the fence.



The farmer ran to the stuck owl as fast as he could. He knew that Hoot was doing a great job controlling pests on his farm.

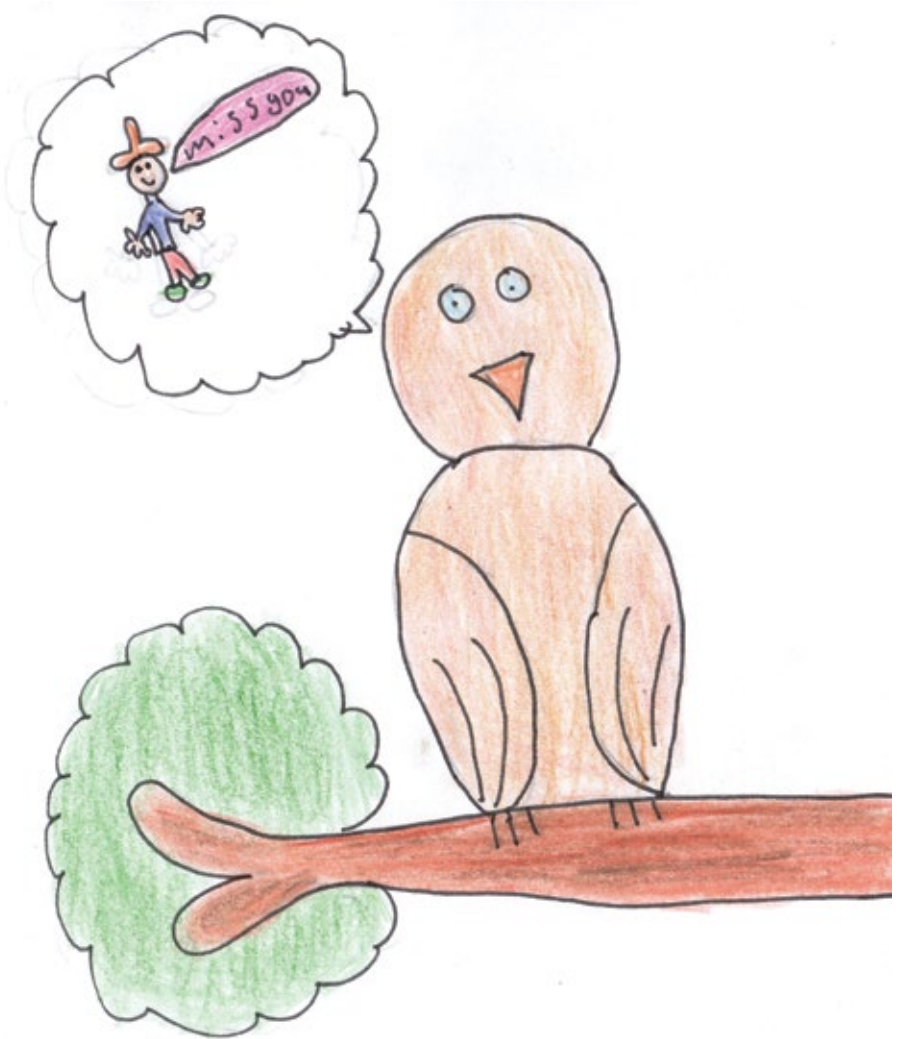
The farmer gently pulled Hoot out of the fence, being very careful not to hurt Hoot's wing.

He sat Hoot on the ground. Hoot flapped his wings. He could fly again!





Hoot realised that he didn't have to be scared of the farmer. So he picked up the mouse and started eating it again.



Suddenly Hoot hooted, “I have finished eating for now.” He’d had a very satisfying dinner.

Hoot thought to himself, “I have to tell all my friends about this farm. There is so much food for everyone and the farmer is really nice.”



The farmer was extremely happy with how Hoot had helped him control pests on his farm. He decided to plant more native vegetation to attract other native animals to his farm.

Hoot came back to the farm with Mindy the micro-bat who ate flying bugs and Gerry the Blue-tongue lizard who ate crawling bugs.

All his animal friends know of the friendly farmer who welcomes native animals to help rid his farm of pests.



Owls have:

- Large forward-facing eyes and ear-holes
- A hawk-like beak
- A flat face

Having wildlife corridors and patches of native vegetation is beneficial to farms. They enable native animals and insects to move across the landscape. Native animals and insects can also help with natural pest control and pollination.



Amber Gordon
Gilgai Public School, Grade 6 2012



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Catchment Management
Authority
Central West



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National
Year of
Reading
2012