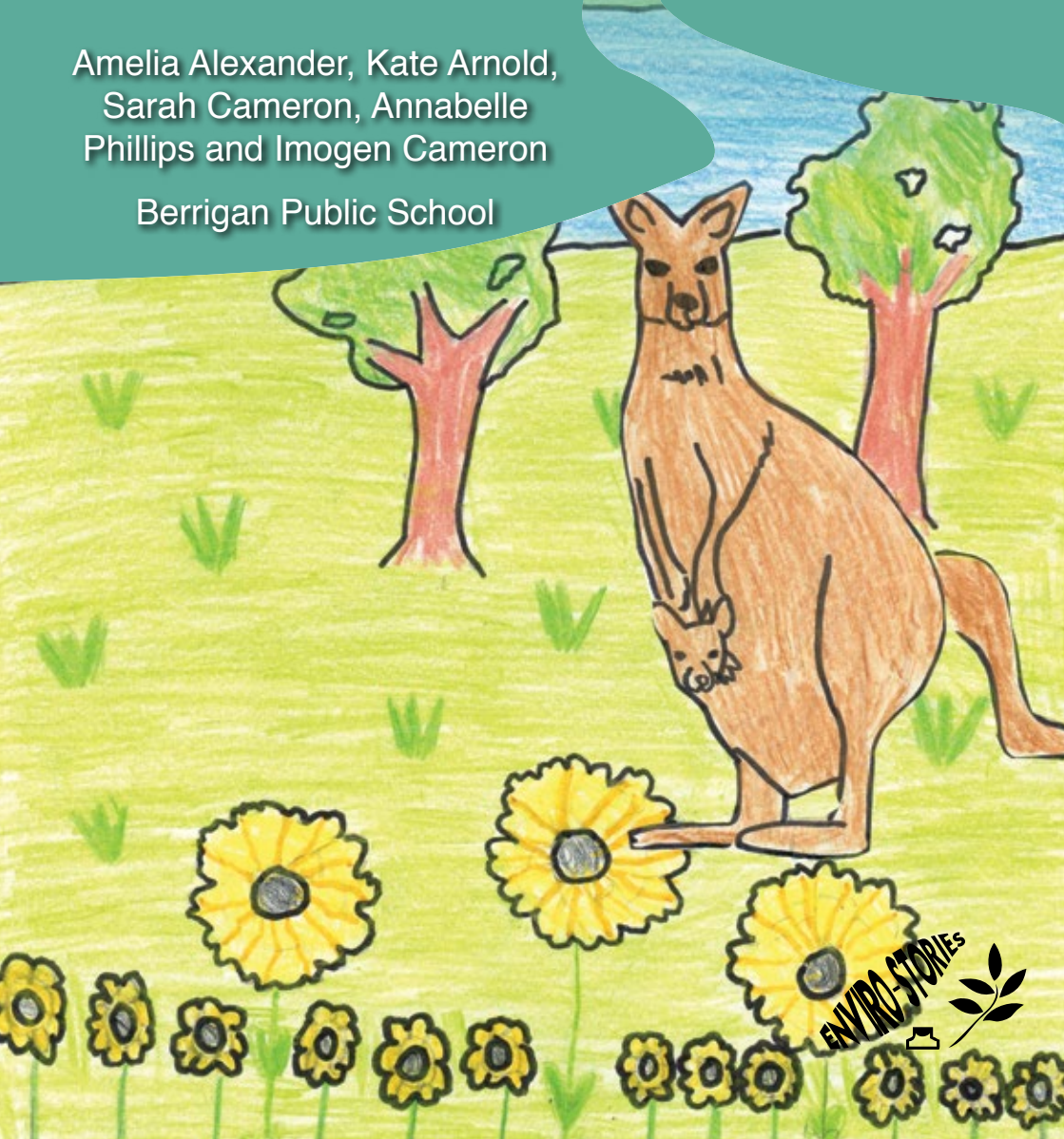


Chloe the Joey and Helen

Amelia Alexander, Kate Arnold,
Sarah Cameron, Annabelle
Phillips and Imogen Cameron

Berrigan Public School



ENVIRO-STORIES





Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been 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.

Chloe the Joey and Helen

Authors: Amelia Alexander, Kate Arnold, Sarah Cameron,
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Teacher: Simone Fox

School: Berrigan Public School

“Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program

In 2012, the Creative Catchment Kids program delivered the “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School. It was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Teys Australia, Wagga. Additional support came from the Wirraminna and Riverina Environmental Education Centres.



Catchment Management
Authority
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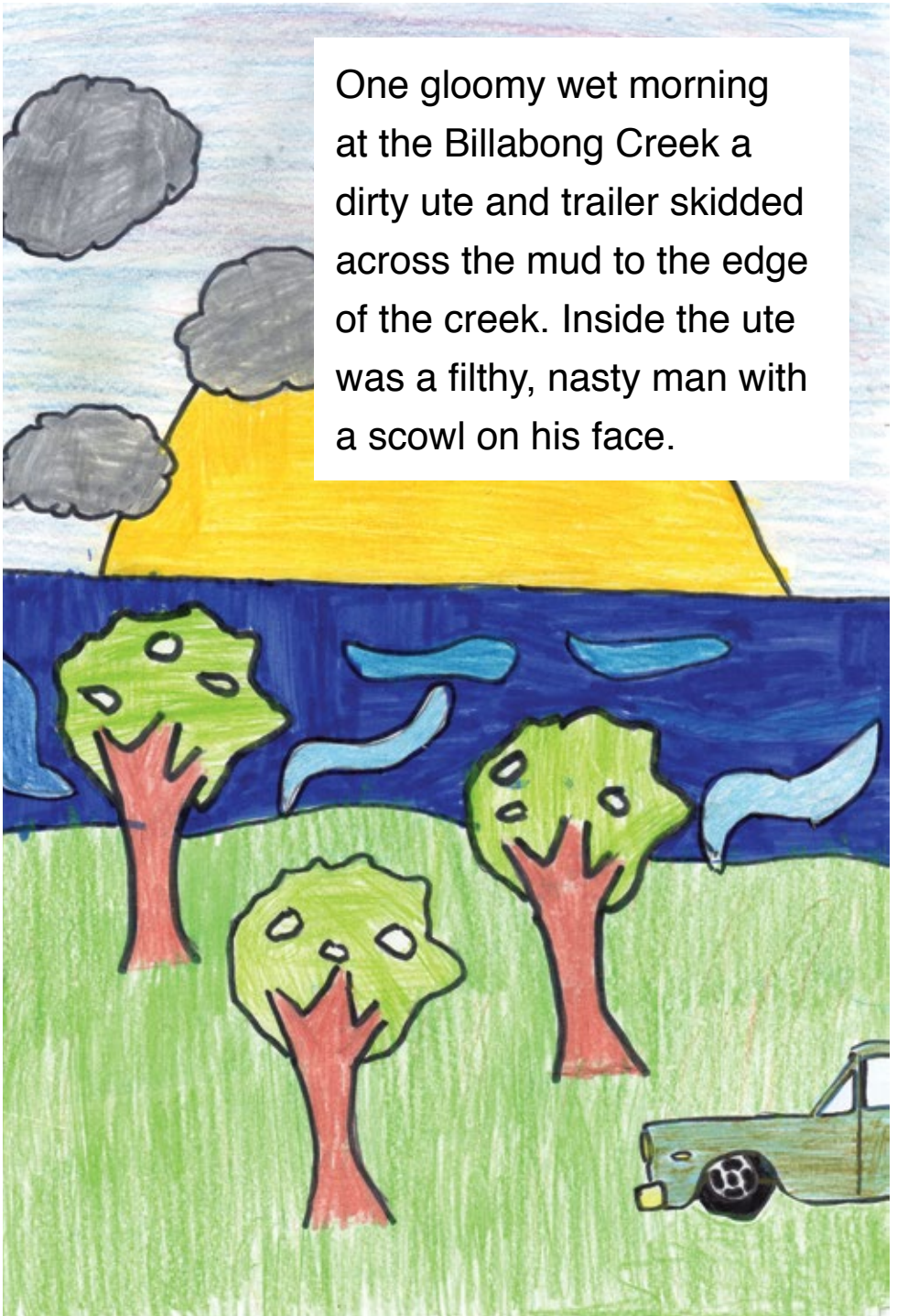
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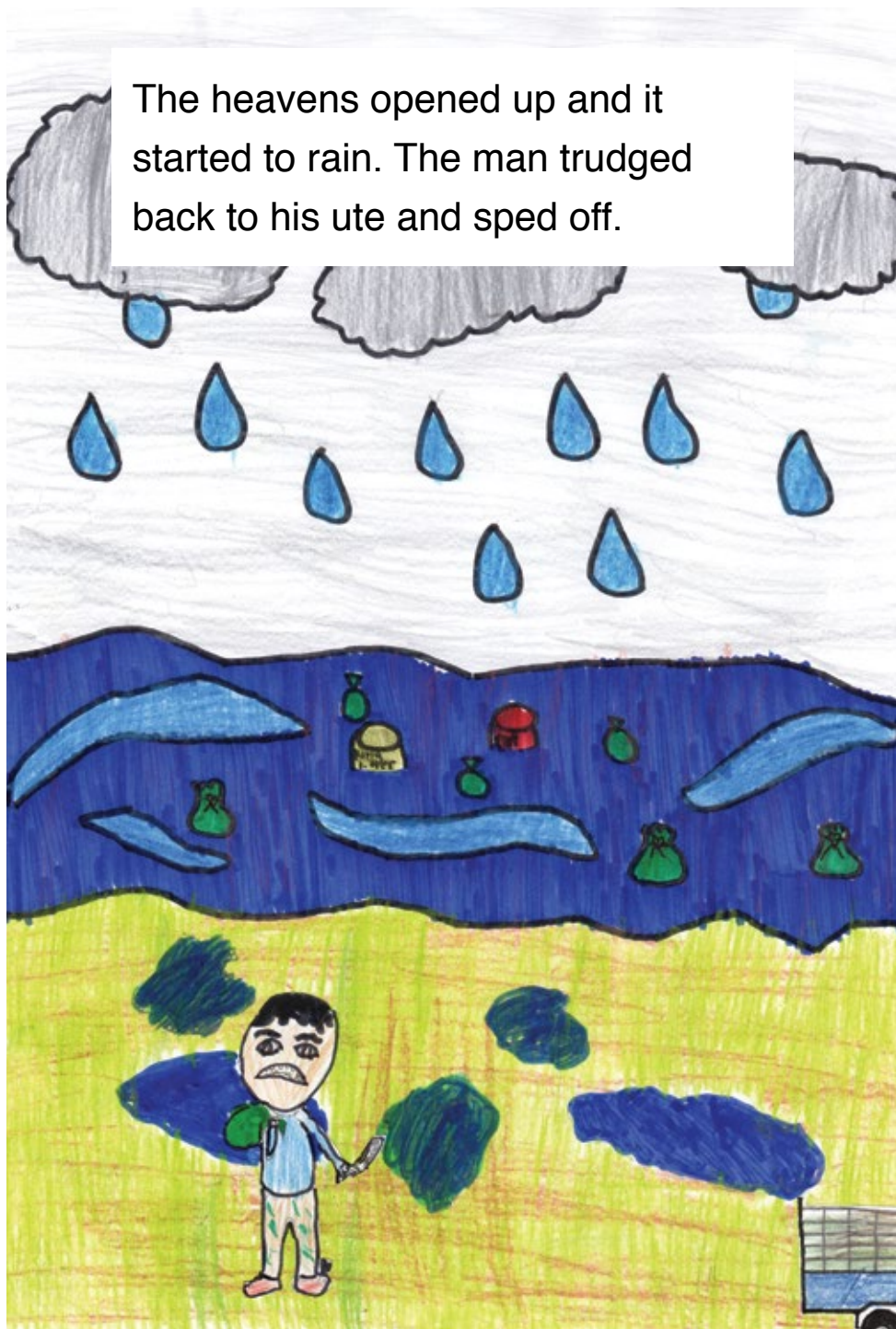
One gloomy wet morning at the Billabong Creek a dirty ute and trailer skidded across the mud to the edge of the creek. Inside the ute was a filthy, nasty man with a scowl on his face.



The trailer was piled with an old rusty car body, empty rat poison packets and lots of old newspapers. The man slithered like a shadow out of his ute and suspiciously glared around to make sure no one was watching. He started recklessly throwing all the rubbish from his trailer onto the muddy creek bank.

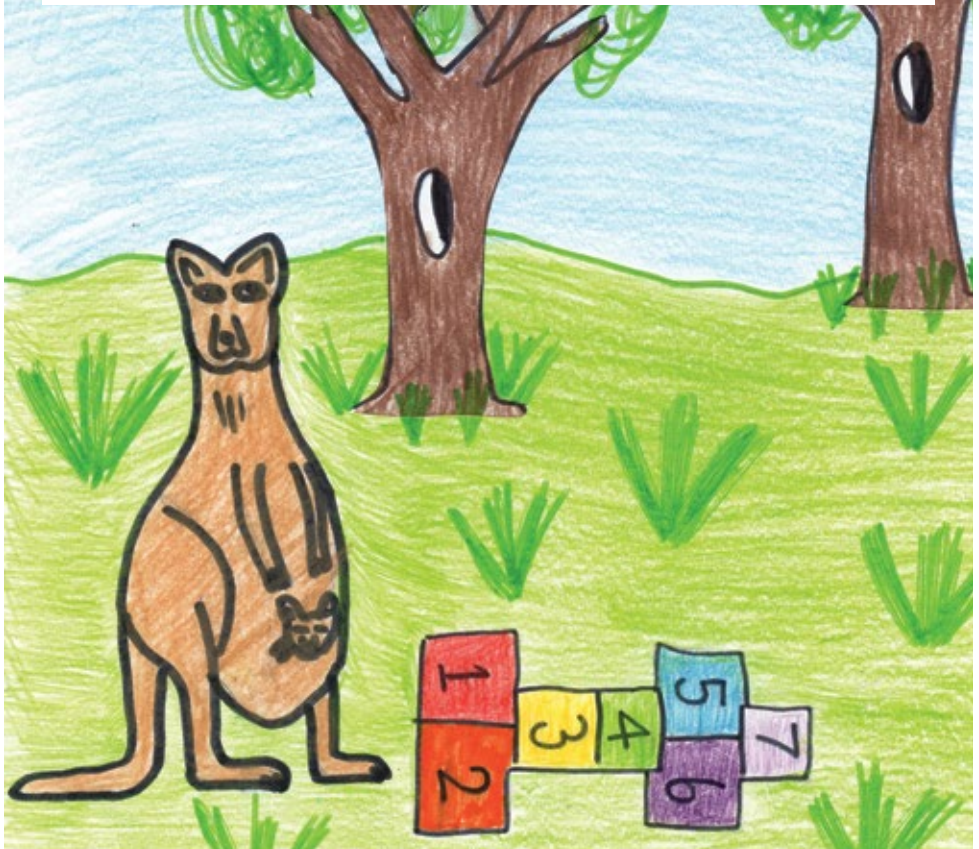


The heavens opened up and it started to rain. The man trudged back to his ute and sped off.



Sheltering in the forest a mother kangaroo named Sue and her joey were playing hopscotch and munching the lush, moist grass.

Suddenly, Sue was alerted by a roaring noise. She froze and searched for the scary sound. Then she quickly scooped her joey into her pouch and bounded into the safety of a cave.



Night fell. The rain grew heavier, lightning flashed across the dark sky and thunder boomed. The creek waters began to rise.



As dawn broke, Sue and her joey hopped through the glistening forest to the creek. She noticed the creek had risen a lot overnight. Sue smiled at the thought that there would be plenty of freshwater for them.

She started drinking and gulping the cool water while her joey lay in her mother's pouch slurping her mummy's lovely warm milk. Turning from the creek, Sue headed to the centre of the forest where the freshest, healthiest new grass shoots and colourful wild daisies grew.



As she and her joey nibbled the yellow daisies, Sue was startled by stabs of pain in her stomach. The forest began to whirl strangely. Slowly they made their way back to their cave where Sue collapsed.

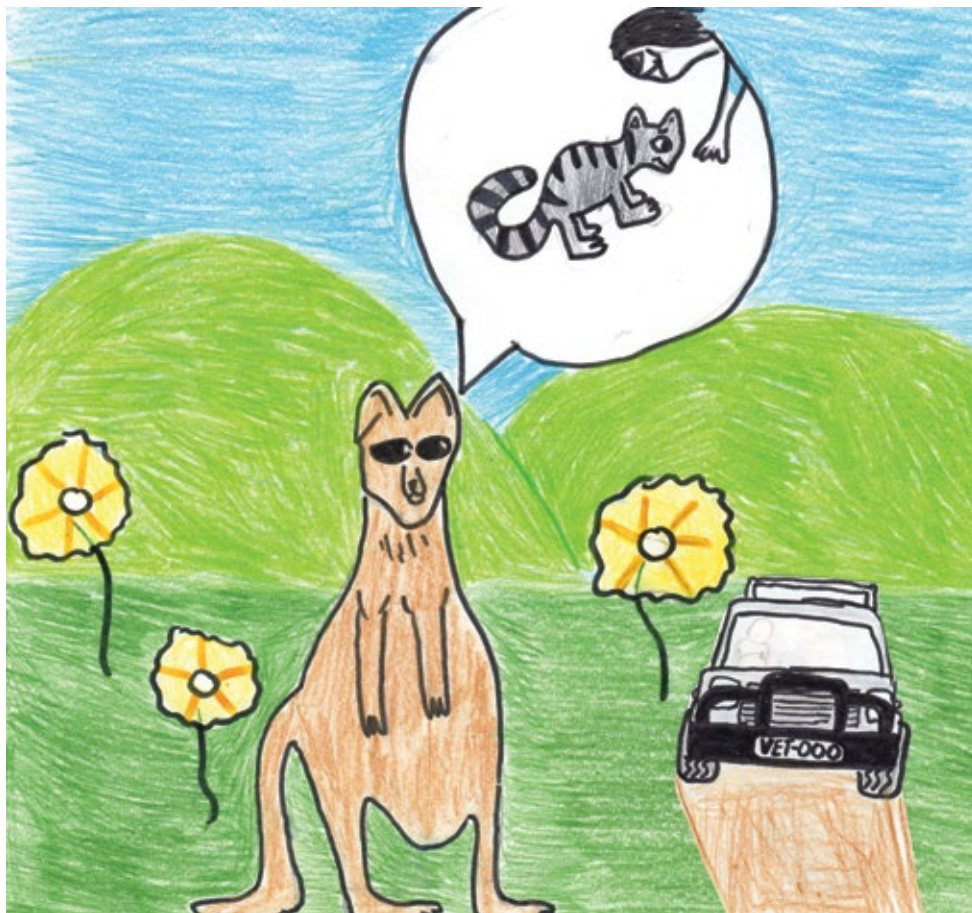


The joey woke late the next morning and was surprised to find her mother was still asleep and was cross she hadn't been woken up for breakfast. She decided to try and wake her mother by gently shaking her and calling her name, but nothing happened. She tried and tried but her mother didn't move.



She was so miserable and afraid because now she was all alone. Poor little joey.

The joey was very thirsty and needed a drink since she could no longer drink her mother's milk. She made her way to the creek where she saw a shiny clean 4WD cruising down the dirt track. The joey recognised the driver as the lady who had helped Polly the Possum get out of a possum trap.



Helen the vet had come to the Billabong Creek to go fishing. She often fished there and helped injured animals at the creek. After an hour or two Helen had no luck, so she went to fetch her tea in her thermos. Soon she smelt a repulsive smell in the moist air. She went to investigate the area where the smell was coming from.



“Where could this smell be coming from?”
Helen asked herself.

While searching, Helen noticed the joey following her and wondered where the joey’s mother was.

Helen found the foul rubbish pile and was horrified that someone would dump their rubbish near the river.





Helen followed the joey to her cave where they found Sue. Helen could tell by the way Sue lay there that she had been poisoned and thought that the rubbish would be the cause.

“Poor little joey. I think I’ll call you Chloe. I’m going to take you home and feed and care for you until you are old enough, and strong enough, to survive on your own,” said Helen.

Helen got home and made a phone call to the local Shire and the Murray Catchment Management Authority. She told them about all the disgusting rubbish dumped at the creek and how the kangaroo had died from the pollution.



Together they organised a clean-up day and took all the rubbish to the local tip. The CMA asked the Creative Catchment Kids to make signs to be placed along the creek. The signs read “No Dumping Rubbish”.



Sometime later Helen took Chloe back to the Billabong Creek to set her free. Not far away was a group of kangaroos. Chloe watched the kangaroos cautiously and slowly hopped over to them. They all greeted her happily and bounced off together.

Helen was so happy that tears of joy ran down her cheeks.

Chloe sometimes will bounce past Helen as she goes fishing in the beautiful, clean Billabong Creek.





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2012 Year 6, Berrigan Public School

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