

# Emily the Echidna



Authors: Corbin Reid and Olivia Sadowsky

Illustrators: Olivia Sadowsky, Harris Riddell and  
Tiarna Whybrow

Albury West Public School





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



**[www.envirostories.com.au](http://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.

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Illustrators: Olivia Sadowsky, Harris Riddell and Tiarna Whybrow

Teacher: Sharon Julien

School: Albury West 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  
Murray



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Murrumbidgee



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“G’day! I am Emily the echidna. I am not like other echidnas. I am shy. I live by the Murray River in West Albury. I am lonely and bored. There used to be a lot more echidnas for me to play with, but people built houses where I used to live.”

Suddenly, she heard a sound.

“Oh no!” said Emily.

She climbed down into her burrow, with only her snout and her eyes poking out, and waited...and waited. It was...

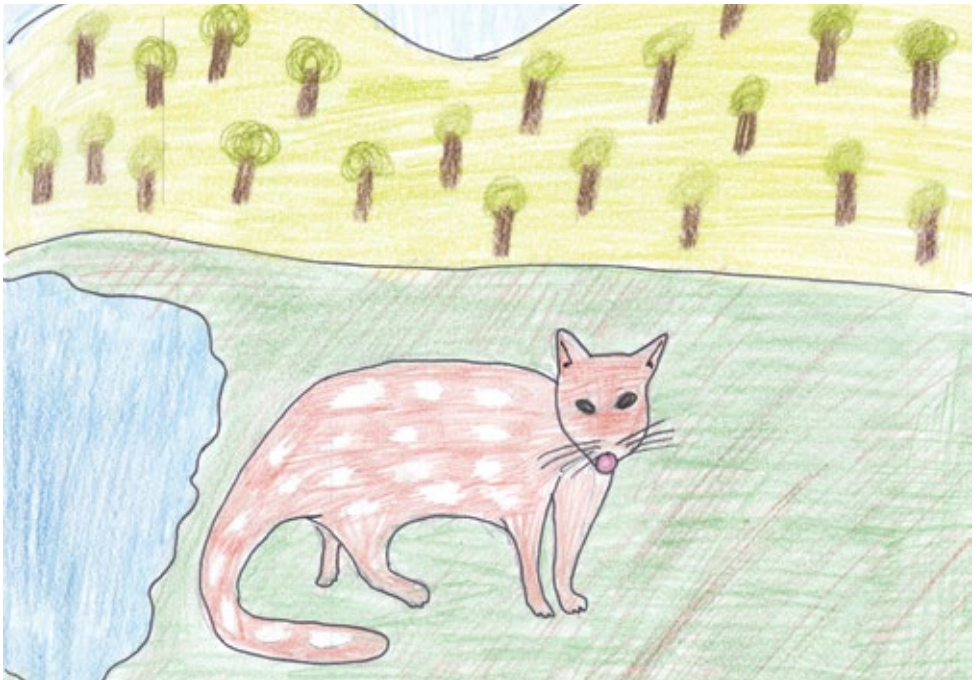


“Hello! My name is Olivia. I am a quoll.”

“Nice to meet you. I’m Emily.”

Emily had a great idea, “Hey, could you take me on an adventure?”

“An adventure? Sure! That sounds great! Where would you like to go? Do you want to go look at Wonga Wetlands and other Australian bushland?” said Olivia.



“Something Australian would be nice,” Emily answered timidly.

So off they went on their adventure.

Olivia told Emily that she was going to let her meet her friends. She took Emily to a small lake.

Emily was shaking all over. She was scared, because she had never left home before.

“Harris! Come here! I’ve got a friend who wants to meet you!” Olivia yelled.

It was...Harris the Banjo frog!

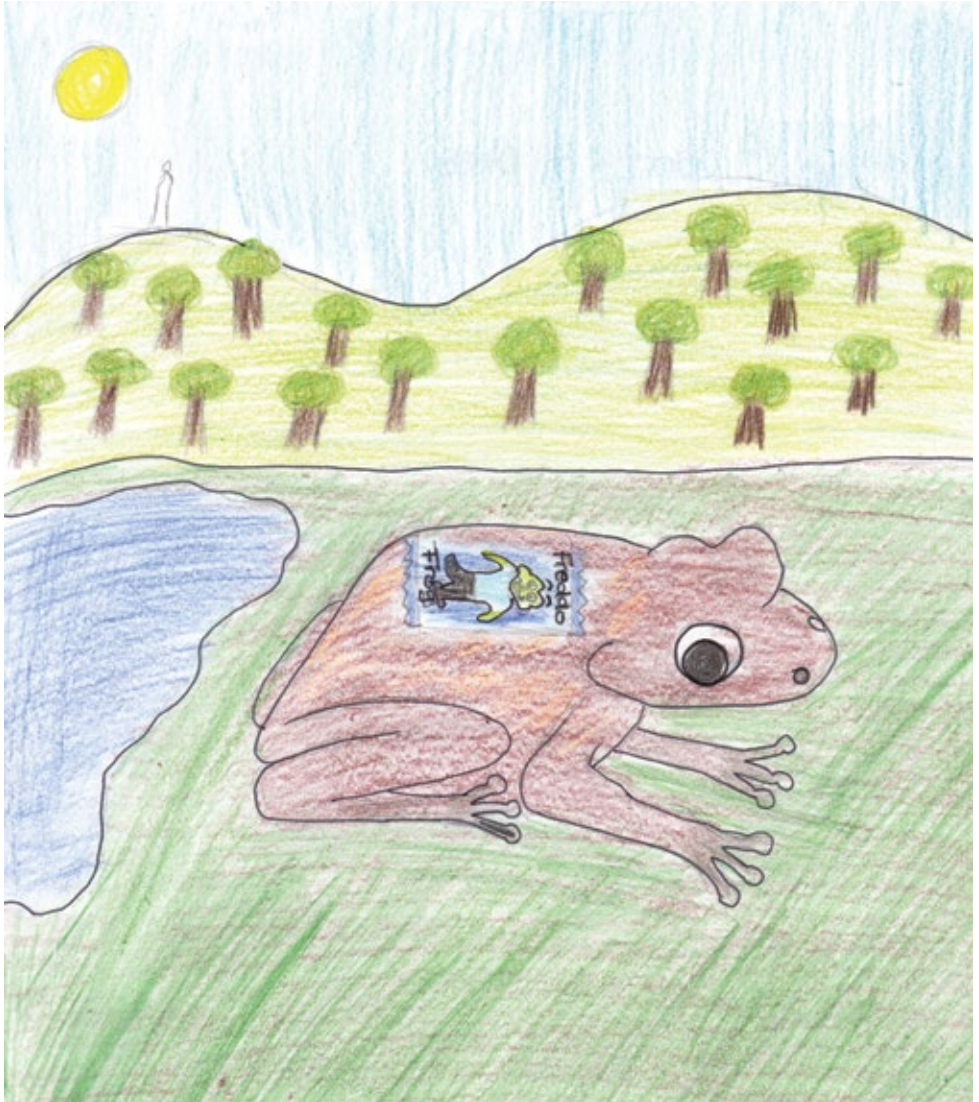
“Ahh!” screamed Emily.

“Hi, I’m Harris,” he said.

“I’m Emily,” said Emily.

Emily couldn’t see Harris because he was covered in a chocolate wrapper. Emily took the wrapper off Harris.

“Thank you,” Harris said, “I wish people would pick up their rubbish instead of throwing it on the ground.”



“Why don’t we go and look for another one of my friends?” suggested Olivia.

They walked along the path while looking at the trees. Emily saw something moving through the grass. It was long and thin. Emily screamed. It was a tiger snake.

“Hello!” said the snake. “I saw you walking along the bush track.” Emily wasn’t listening. She was terrified! Emily was thinking that she was going to be eaten by the snake.

“This is my friend, Tiarna the Tiger Snake,” Olivia introduced.

“Tiger... snake?” Emily was terrified.

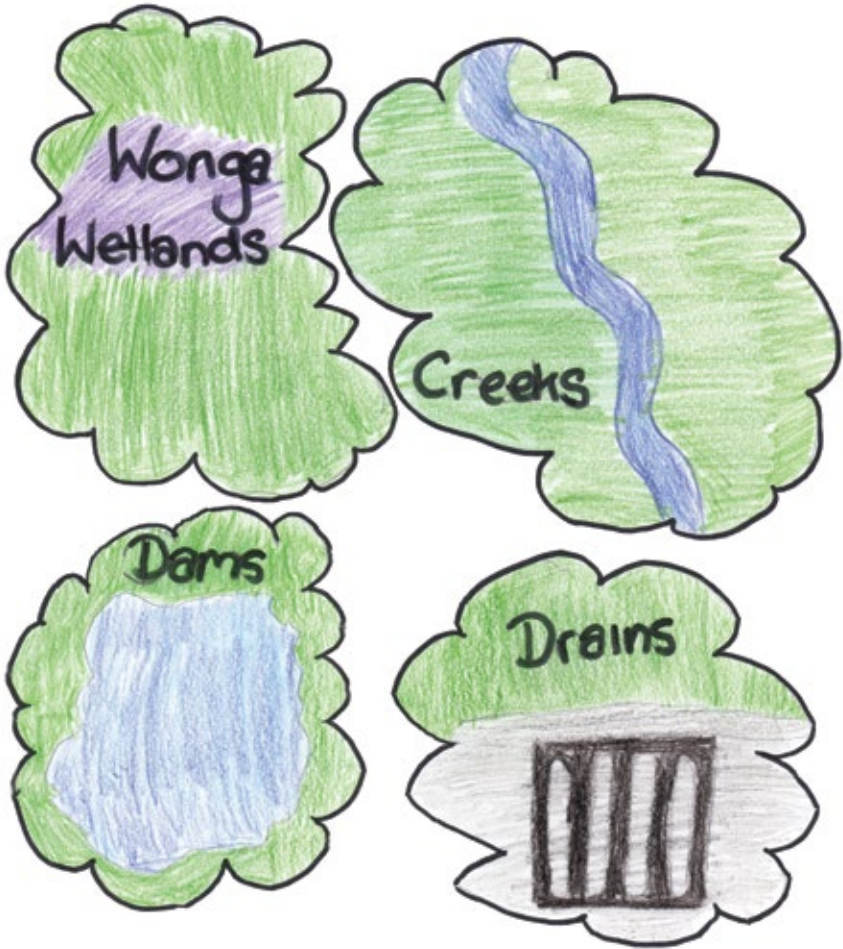


“I won’t hurt you! Can I please show you around where I live?” asked Tiarna.

“Okay,” agreed Emily.

Tiarna slithered off, with Emily, Harris and Olivia following her.





“Where do you live?” Emily asked.

“I live near creeks, dams, drains, wetlands, and in long grass, where there is lots of water,” Tiarna said.

Emily asked Tiarna what people could do to help tiger snakes.

“We get run over by cars! Instead of taking the car everywhere, they could go on a bike.”

As they finished their walk, Olivia suggested they go visit another friend. Olivia stopped at a tree and started throwing rocks at a hollow.

“Huh? Who is it?” came the voice from the tree.

“Come on Corbin. There is someone I want you to meet,” called Olivia.

Emily heard a flapping of wings. A bird landed next to them.

“Good afternoon. I am Corbin.”

Emily was surprised. She didn't think barn owls lived in Australia.

“Barn owls are endangered because people are taking away my home by building houses. Also, I fly low, so I could get hit by cars.”

“That's terrible!” Emily cried.

“But true,” said Corbin.





“Let’s go back to your home,” said Corbin.

“Yes,” said Emily. “That was a good adventure.”

They set off, walking, flying, slithering and jumping in the direction of Emily’s burrow. On the way, they had to cross a few roads. At each one, Corbin flew up high to see if any cars were coming.

When they were crossing the last road, a red car sped up the road and hit Corbin’s wing.

“Oooooowwwwww!” he yelled, dropping to the ground.

“Oh no!” Emily cried.





Emily and her new friends didn't know what to do, so they picked up Corbin and carried him to Emily's burrow. They tried to make him as comfortable as possible by putting moss under him.

It was morning, and a person came by on their morning jog. They saw Corbin, gasped, and picked him up. The others were sleeping after their long day, and didn't see him being taken away.

When Emily, Harris, Olivia and Tiarna woke up, they didn't know what had happened. They spent the day looking for Corbin, and the night too. They didn't find him.





A few days of worrying later, a car parked in front of Emily's burrow. Emily didn't know what was happening, so she hid in her burrow. A person got out, and put a bundle of white and brown feathers in a tree. That bundle was Corbin.

The person said something, then got in his car and drove off. Emily got out of her burrow and walked to the tree.

"You're back!" she said.

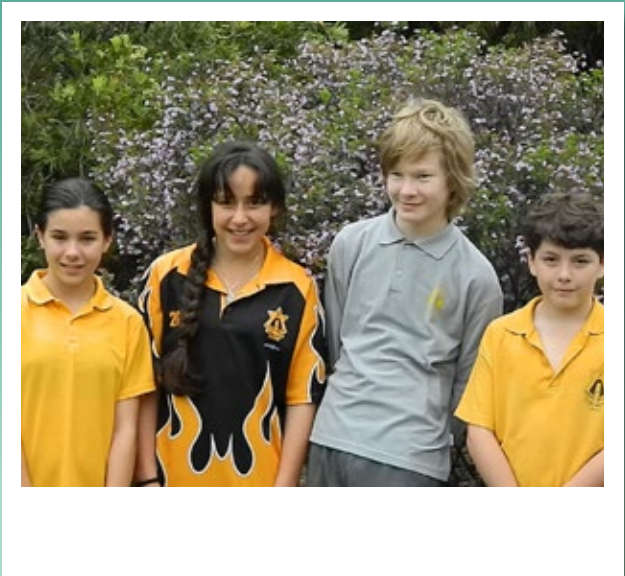
"It is good to be back," said Corbin.



For all creatures great and small.

To help save animals, you can always be on the lookout for hurt ones. If you see an injured animal, contact your state or territory RSPCA, and if you would like to volunteer, sign up at the **[www.rspca.org](http://www.rspca.org)** website.

*We would like to thank everyone who helped us with making this book. It has been great fun.*



Tiarna Whybrow, Olivia Sadowsky,  
Corbin Reid and Harris Riddell

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