

Native Trust

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Hume Public School





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.

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“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



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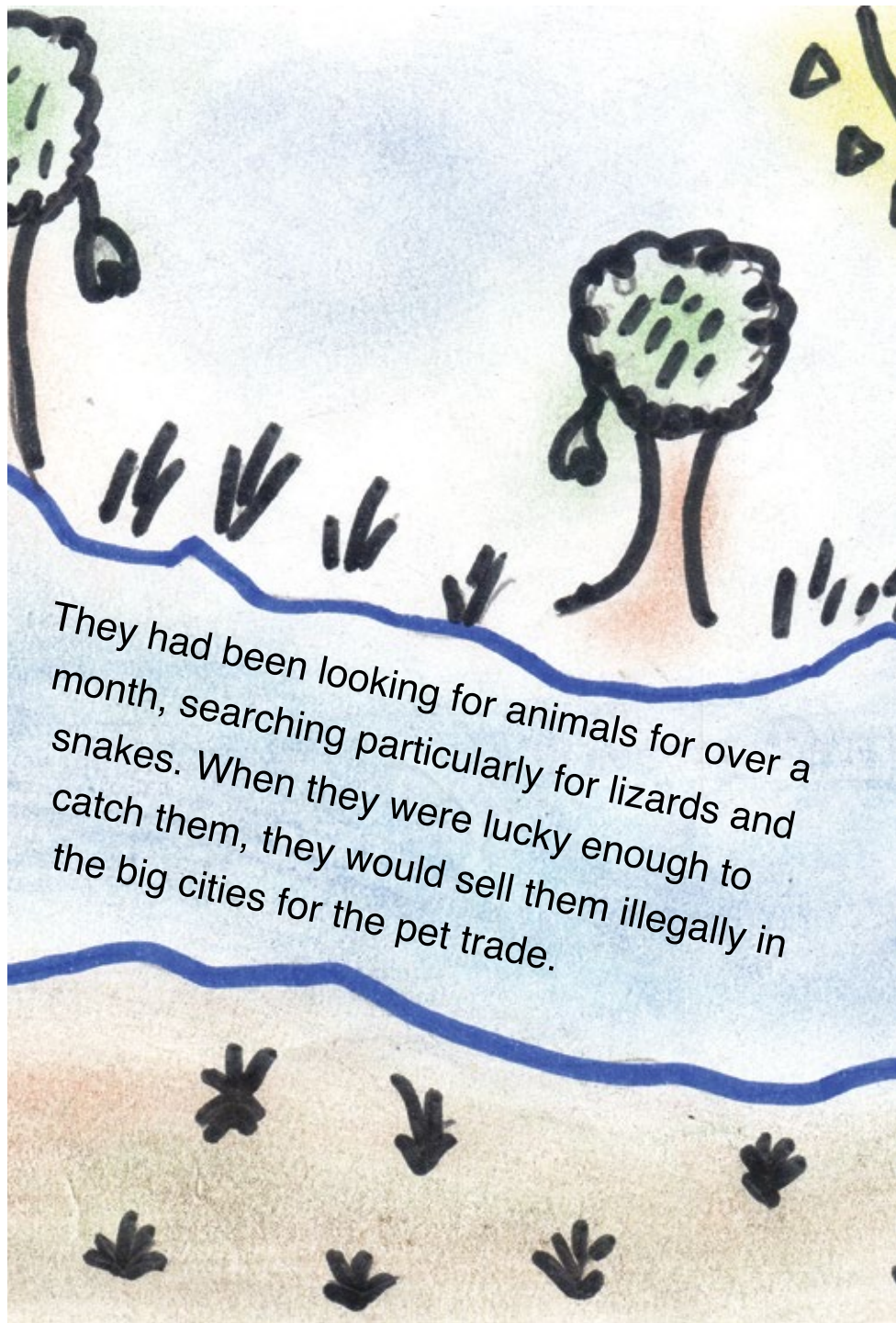
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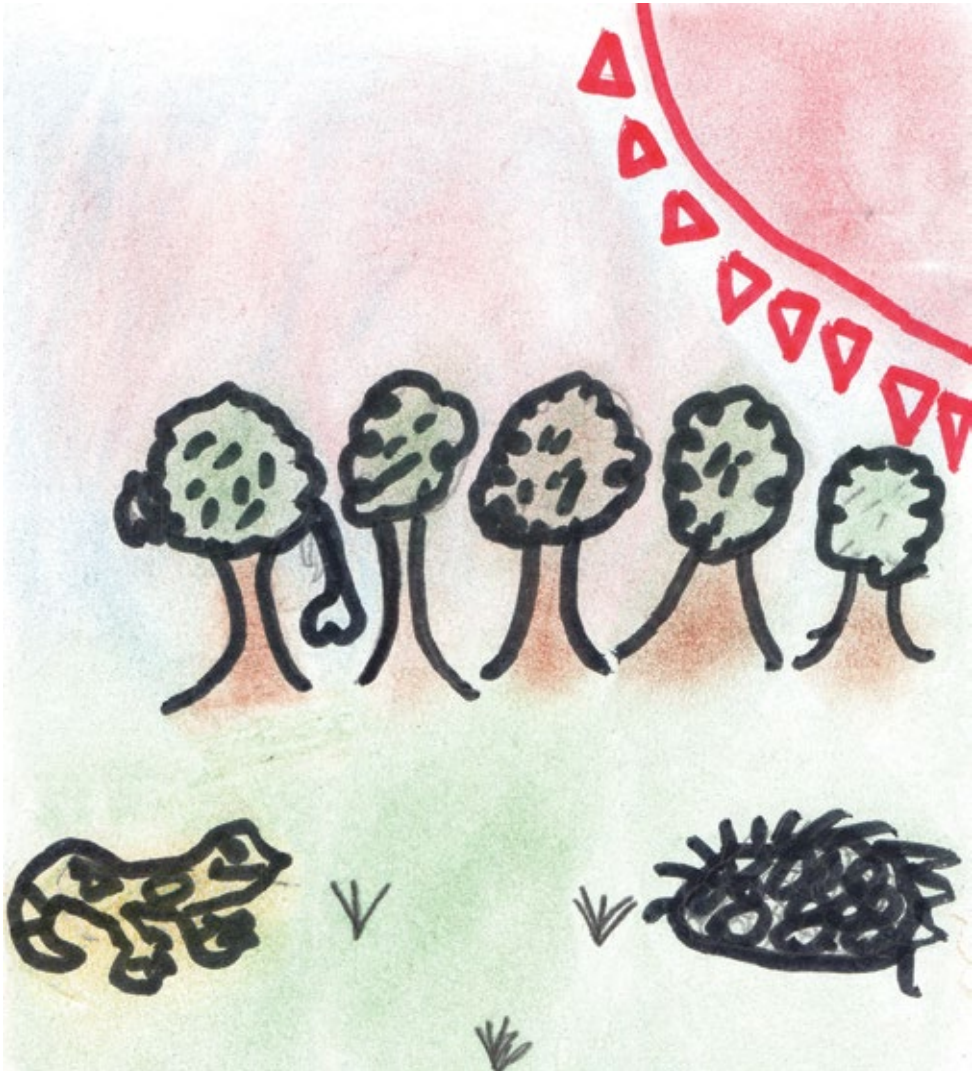
One boiling hot afternoon, along the Murray River, three poachers and a German shepherd were out hunting for Australian native animals to sell illegally.





They had been looking for animals for over a month, searching particularly for lizards and snakes. When they were lucky enough to catch them, they would sell them illegally in the big cities for the pet trade.

On that particular red hot afternoon,
Bluey the Blue-Tongue lizard was
scurrying along looking for tea.
Surprisingly he found a heap of juicy
crickets.





Then all of a sudden Bluey was nibbling on his supper when he heard a loud clanking noise as something was dropped on top of him.

Looking around him, Bluey yelled, "Help, help!" as he realized there was a cage trapping him.

Meanwhile, Polly the Murray-Darling Carpet Python, was also looking for her supper.

Slithering along, she saw a nice nest of bird eggs sitting on the ground. Before Polly could grab them, she heard the sound of someone screaming help.





Polly slithered along the ground following the source of the sound.

As Polly got closer, she saw a large rusted metal cage. “Please help me, I don’t know how this happened?” asked Bluey.

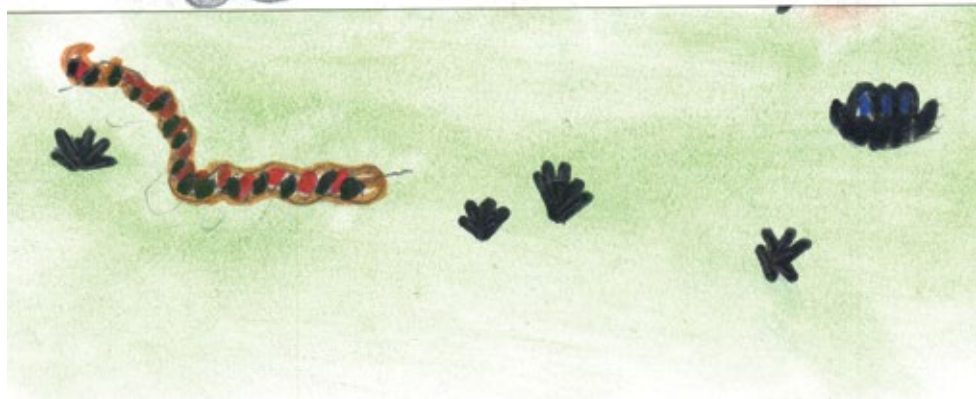
Suddenly the German shepherd spotted Polly and started barking at her.

Alerting the poachers, they ran over and dropped a cage on top of Polly.

“Ahh!” screamed Polly. As quick as lightning she slithered out of the cage.

“Wait, what about me?” worried Bluey.

“Don’t worry, I will help you get out of there as soon as I can,” replied Polly.





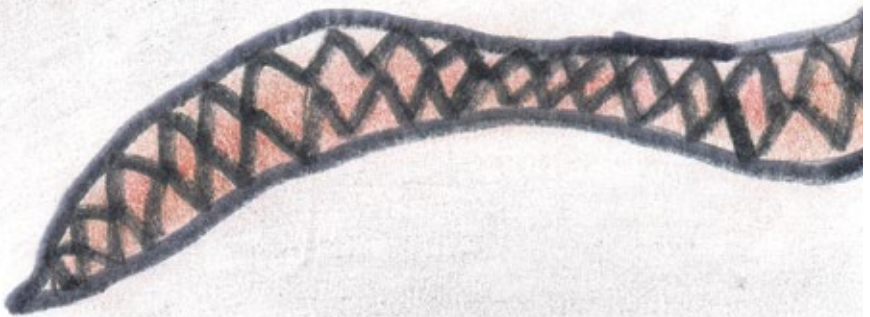
Watching close by, the poachers picked up the cage with Bluey inside and put it in the back of their ute.

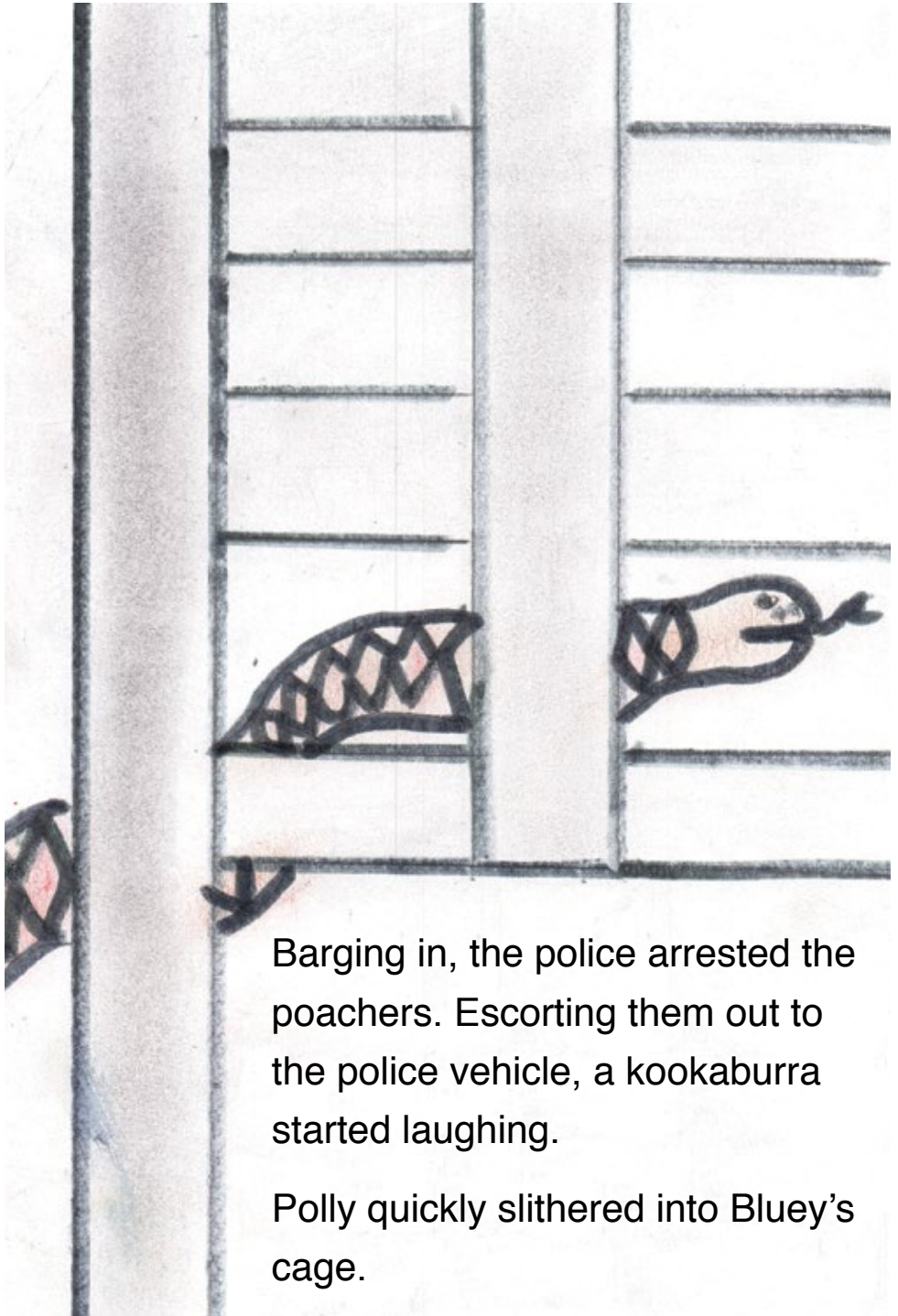
Before they took off, Polly decided to go into the back of the ute without being seen.

As they drove into the driveway of a warehouse, they grabbed the cage with Bluey inside. Polly still hiding, watched as they entered through a large wooden door, closing it behind them. Luckily they had left a window open so Polly could sneak into the warehouse.



As Polly got inside, she was horrified at what she saw. There were cages full of native animals like birds, snakes and lizards. Making a racket they all looked scared. In the distance Polly heard the sound of a siren.





Barging in, the police arrested the poachers. Escorting them out to the police vehicle, a kookaburra started laughing.

Polly quickly slithered into Bluey's cage.

A few weeks later, down by the river,
Polly and Bluey were basking on a
rock free of the poachers.

Bluey turned and said to Polly, “I don’t
know what I would do without you by
my side, you are my best mate!”





WILD FACTS

Murray Darling Carpet Python

- They are very rare.
- Their diet is rats, mice and rabbits.
- They live in rabbit holes.
- They hide in winter when it's cold.
- They are found near rocks, so they can hide and survive.

Blue Tongue Lizard

- Its tongue is used to threaten or warn other animals.
- It has a third eye on top of its head to tell when it is day or night.
- They need rocks, logs and fallen timber to make their home.

Poachers

- If you are going to take an animal from the wild you have to have a licence!



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TEYS
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