

Putting Pests in their Place

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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.

Putting Pests in their Place

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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
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CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

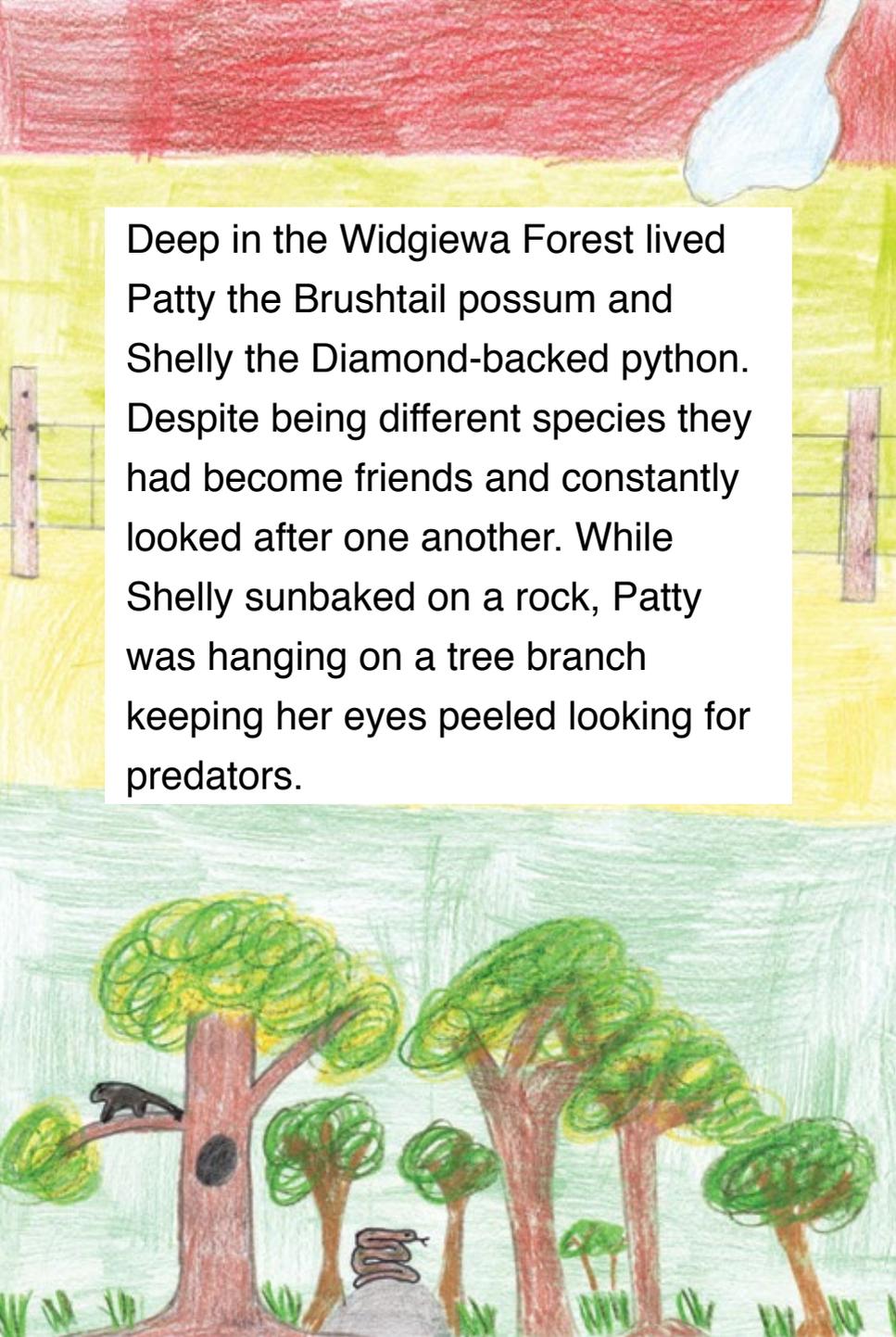


Catchment Management Authority
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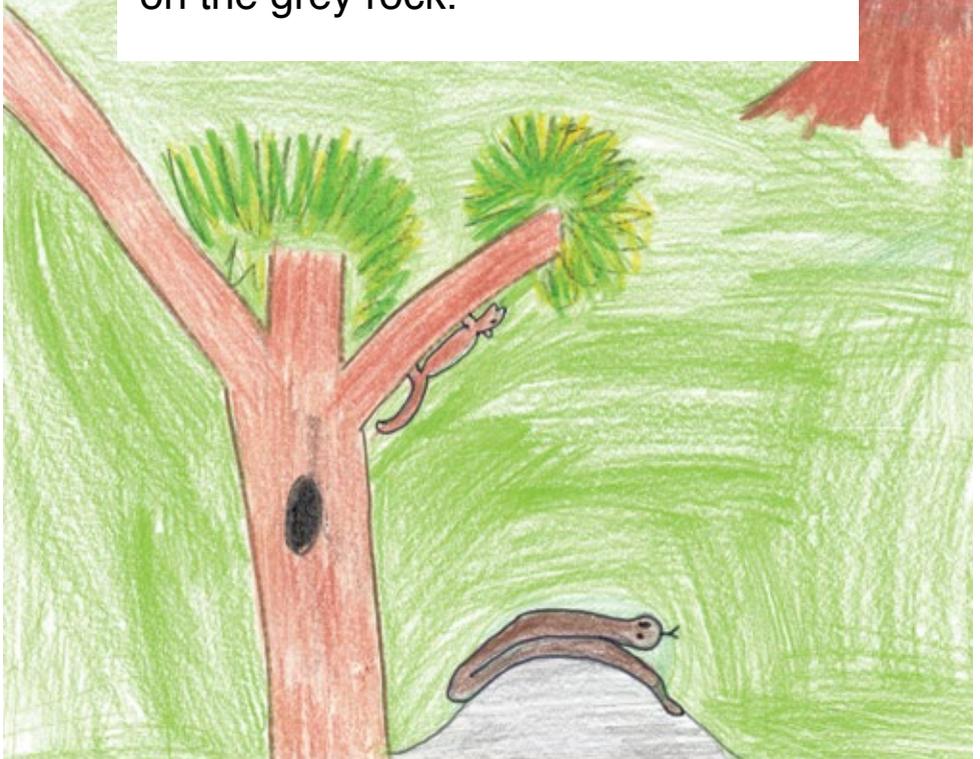
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Deep in the Widgiewa Forest lived Patty the Brushtail possum and Shelly the Diamond-backed python. Despite being different species they had become friends and constantly looked after one another. While Shelly sunbaked on a rock, Patty was hanging on a tree branch keeping her eyes peeled looking for predators.



All of a sudden Kat the Kookaburra swooped down, diving about fifty metres out of a huge gum tree. She was aimed straight at Shelly sitting on the grey rock.



Patty jumped along the branches and growled as loud as she could to try and scare Kat away. Kat looked up to see what had made that terrible noise and through lack of concentration crashed into the grey rock. Shelly slithered away very happy to escape being eaten.



The following morning Shelly was hungry so went looking for mice under an old house. She slithered through the ruins searching for her prey. All of a sudden rats and mice scattered everywhere to try and get away from the snake. Shelly grabbed the biggest rat she could and gobbled it down in the blink of an eye. Now satisfied, she decided to go and check if Patty was alright.

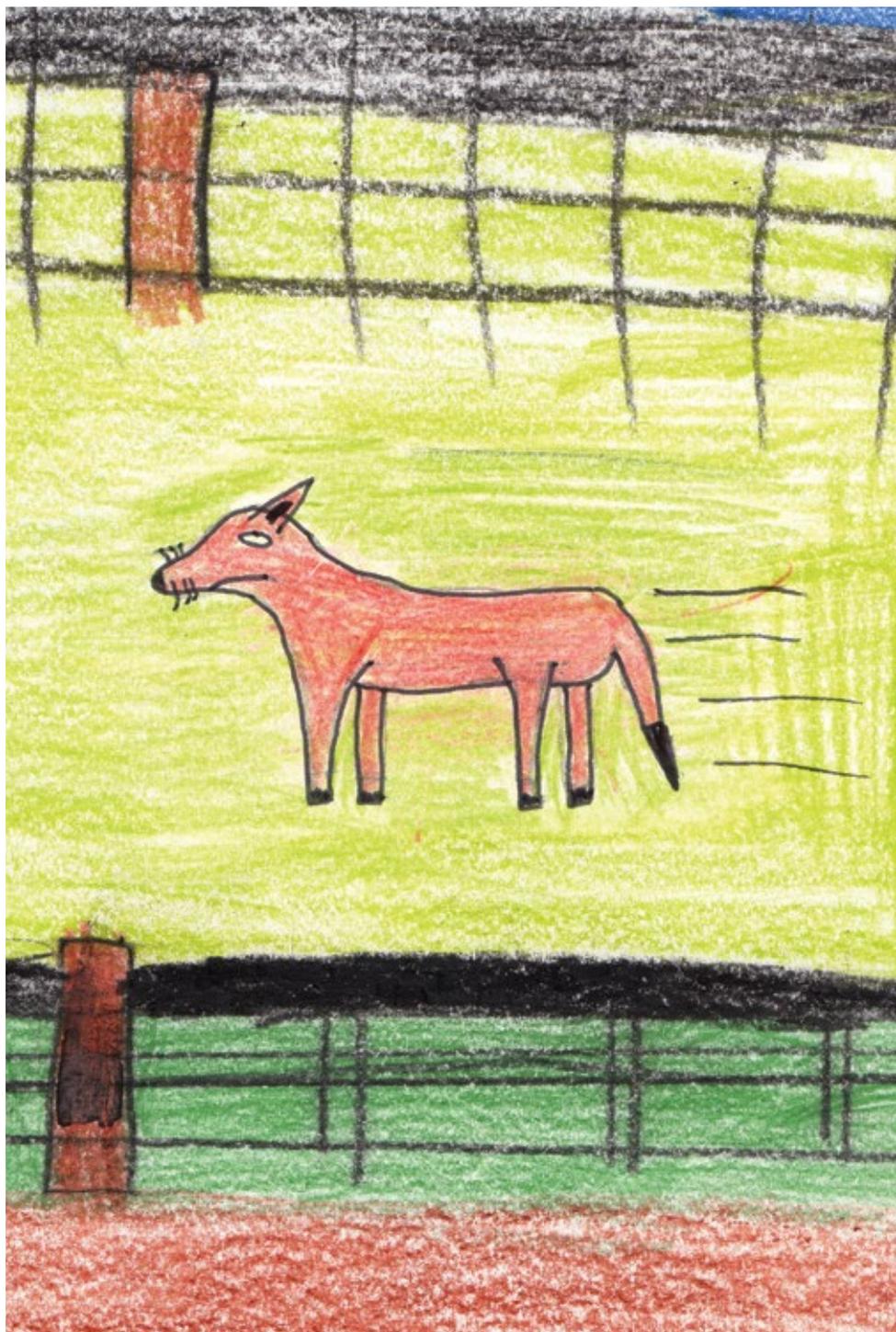




Just as Shelly arrived back at their home she saw a flash of red moving through the bushes near Patty. They both decided they should check it out just in case. To their surprise a massive red fox leapt out towards them.

In a flash the fox bounded towards them. Shelly and Patty scattered in different directions hoping this would confuse the fox. They knew just what to do.

They led the fox to a place where Doctor Dawson had set up a fox trap. Luckily for them the fox took the bait and ran straight into the trap under the tree.





The following morning, they nervously laughed when they saw the fox in a cage on the back of Doctor Dawson's ute. He was taking the fox back to his pest reserve so it wouldn't harm any more native animals.

Shelly and Patty loved being friends and knew that together they could better evade pests who threatened them.

WILD FACTS

Brushtail Possum

- A marsupial, so has a pouch
- Colour patterns are silver-grey, brown, black, red or cream
- Has a very brushy or bushy tail
- Eats eucalyptus leaves but will also eat flowers, shoots, fruits, seeds, insects, birds' eggs and small vertebrates.
- Has a scent gland in its chest for marking its territory
- Sometimes lives in towns and cities

Diamond-backed Python

- A reptile snake
- Can grow up to 2.4 metres in length
- Lays 10-50 eggs in a nest
- Lives for 20-30 years
- Eats small mammals, bats, birds, lizards and eggs.
- Weighs up to 20 kilograms
- Not venomous
- Likes to live in and under structure where it can hide



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