

Sally the Superb Parrot



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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.

Sally the Superb Parrot

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School: Henty 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.



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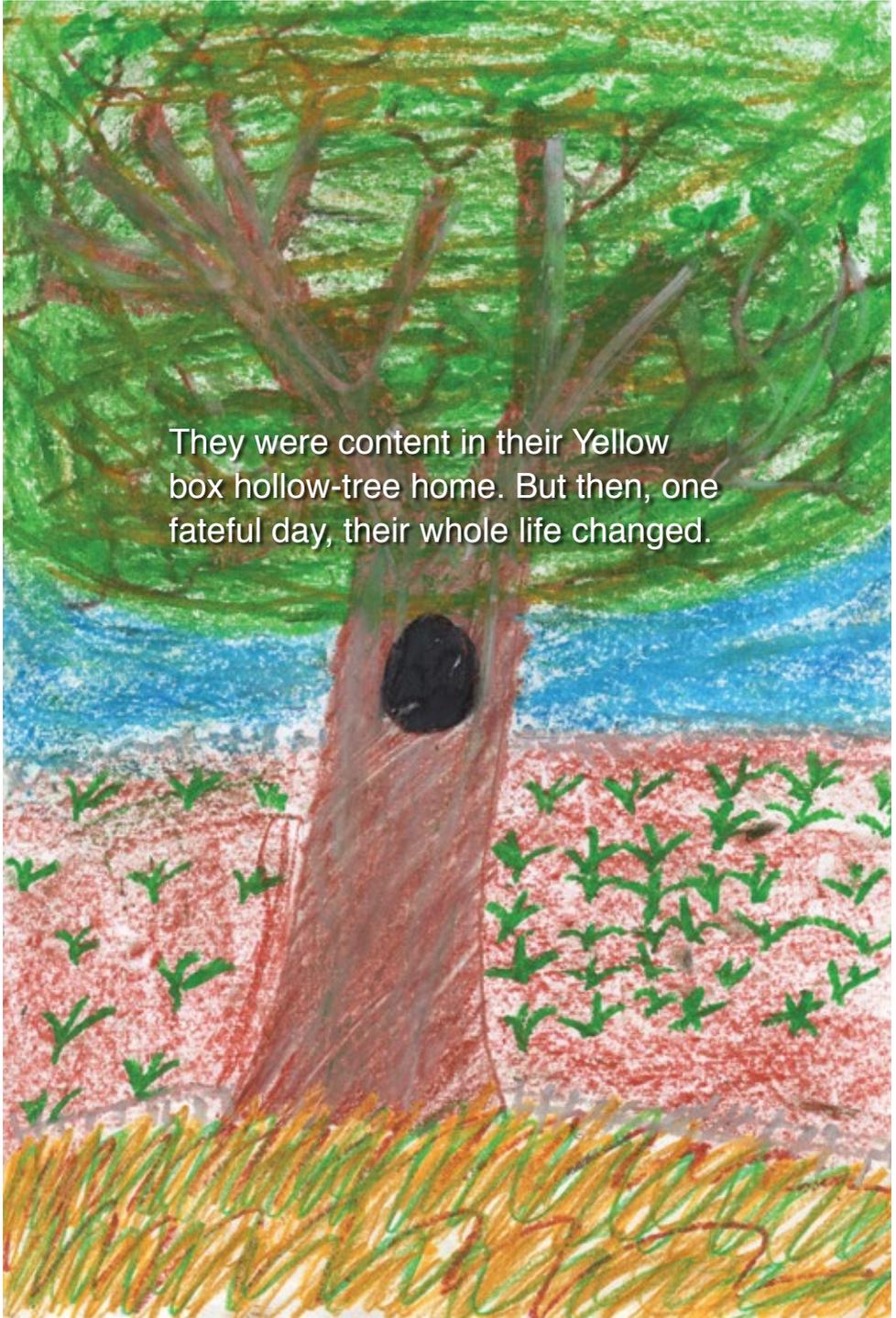
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Dedication

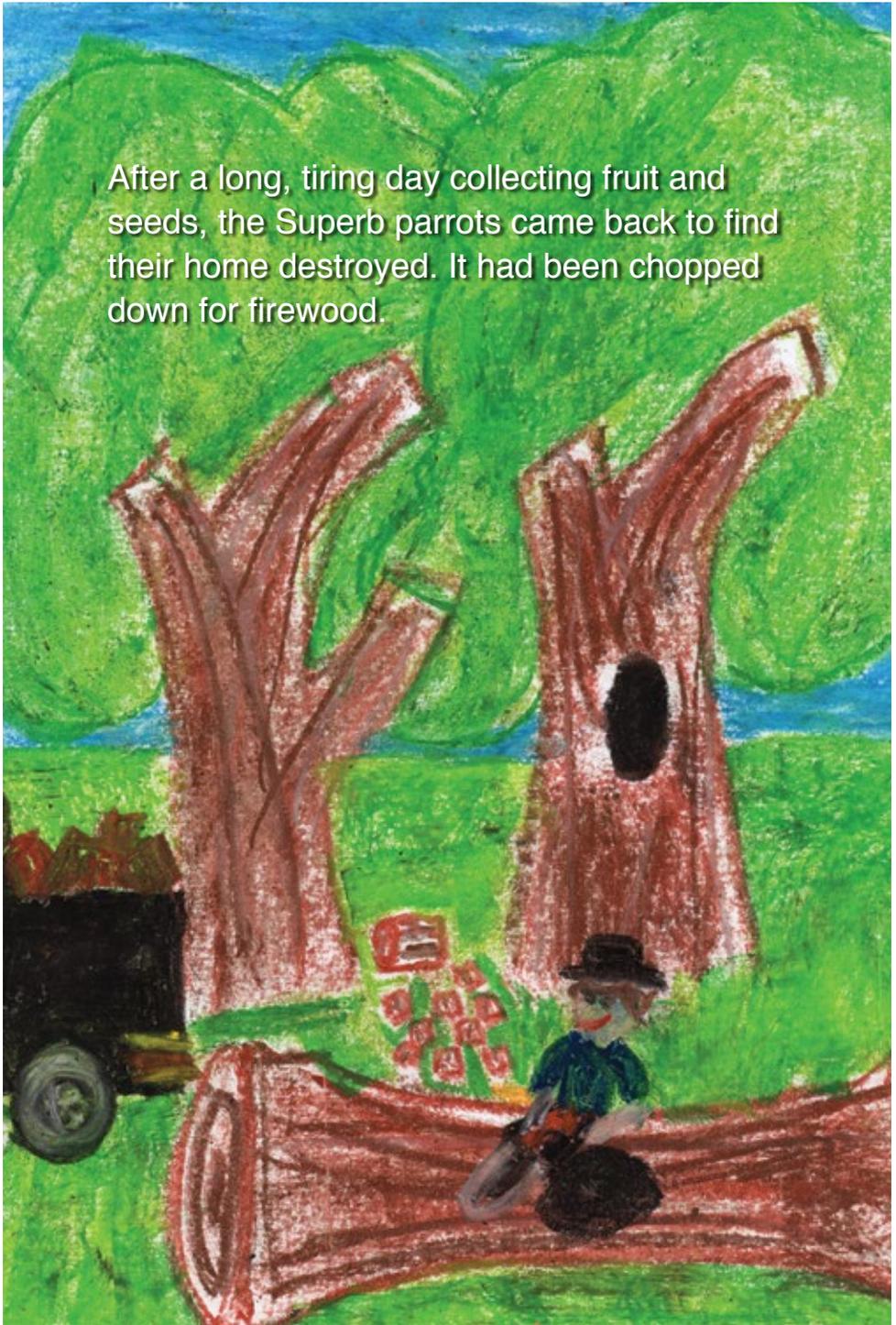
This book is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis, a passionate advocate for environmental education. Her contribution to the Fiveways Travelling Stock Reserve regeneration and revegetation project is a legacy for future generations.

Not so long ago, in the place called the Fiveways Reserve, there lived a family of Superb parrots. They were a happy family of five, including Mum, Dad and their chicks Patrick, Polly and six month old Sally.





After a long, tiring day collecting fruit and seeds, the Superb parrots came back to find their home destroyed. It had been chopped down for firewood.

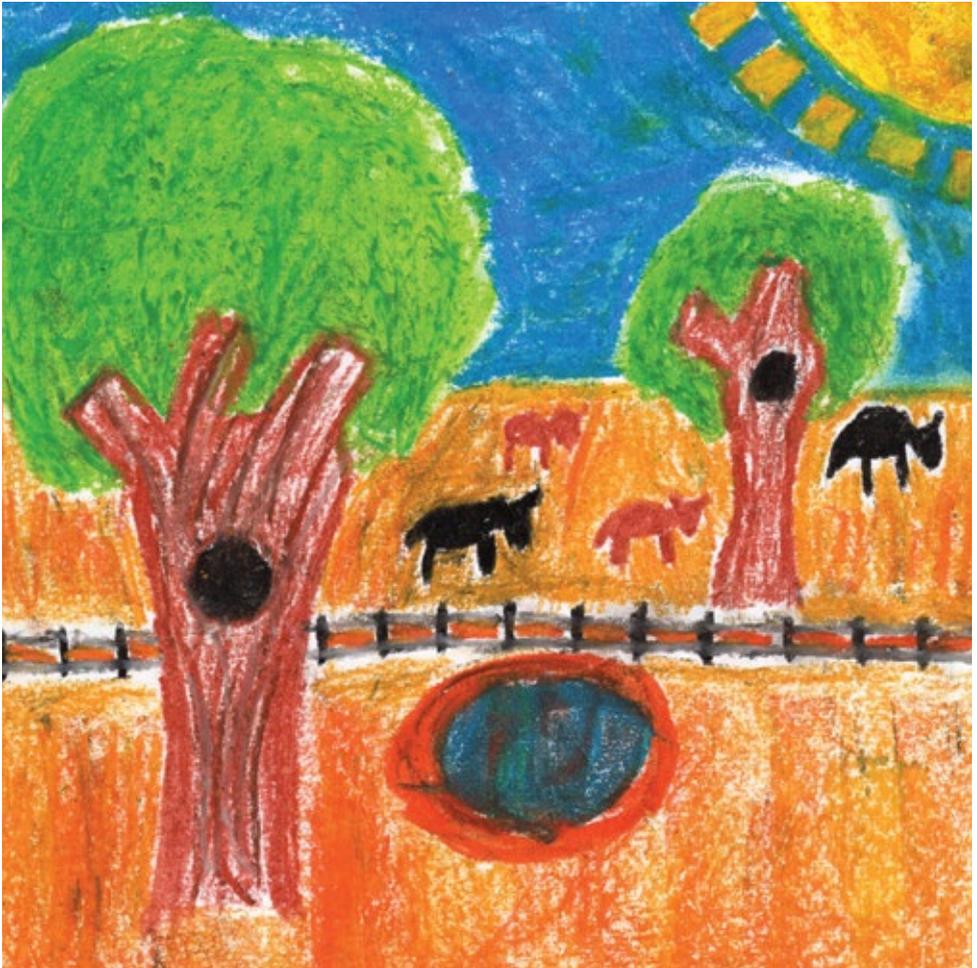


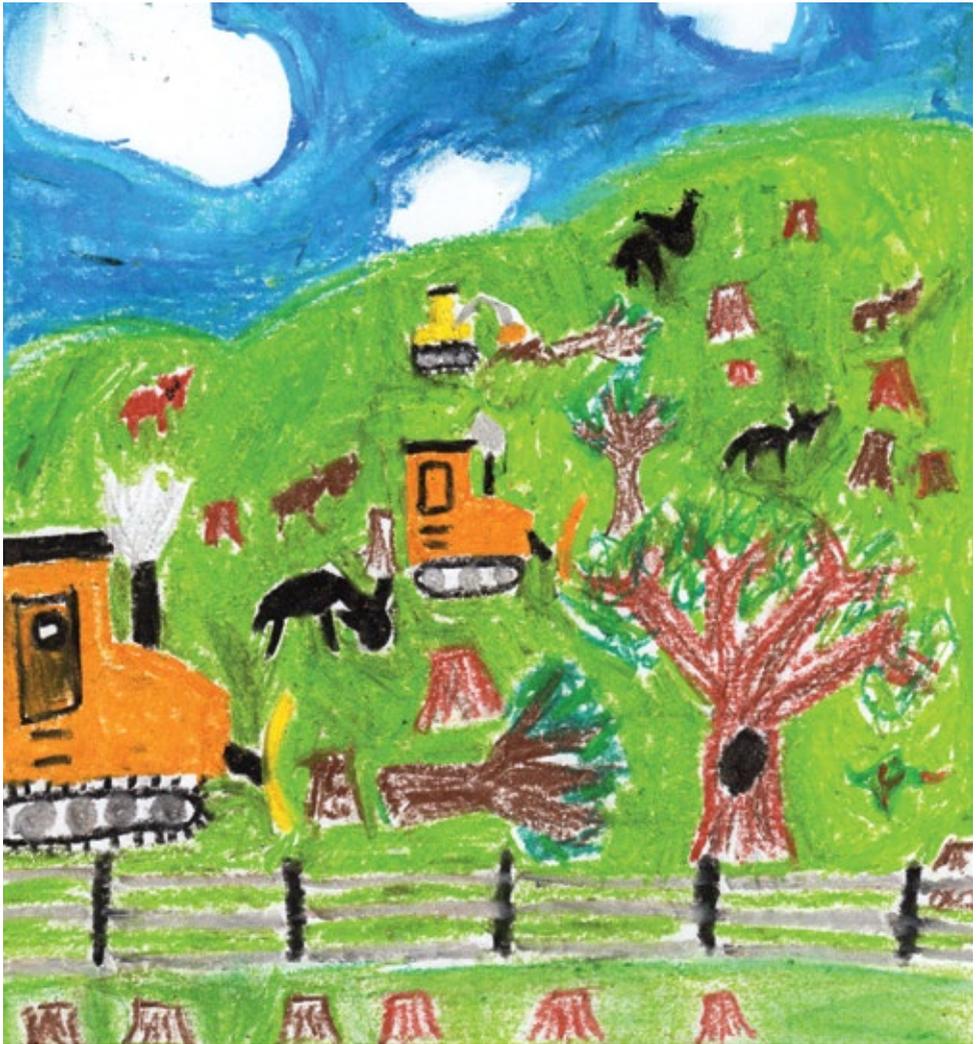


While searching for a new home a small flock of Myna birds came out of nowhere. Without warning, the Myna birds chased the Superb parrot family out of the hollow they were sheltering in, injuring Polly.

“While we wait until Polly recovers, I will tell you of a story, passed down from generation to generation,” said Mum.

“A long time ago, the Fiveways Reserve was a Box-Gum Grassy Woodland, filled with beautiful hollow trees, abundant food and water. There were many more of us with plenty of homes to live in. They were good times until the pale creatures with two long legs came and changed our way of life.”

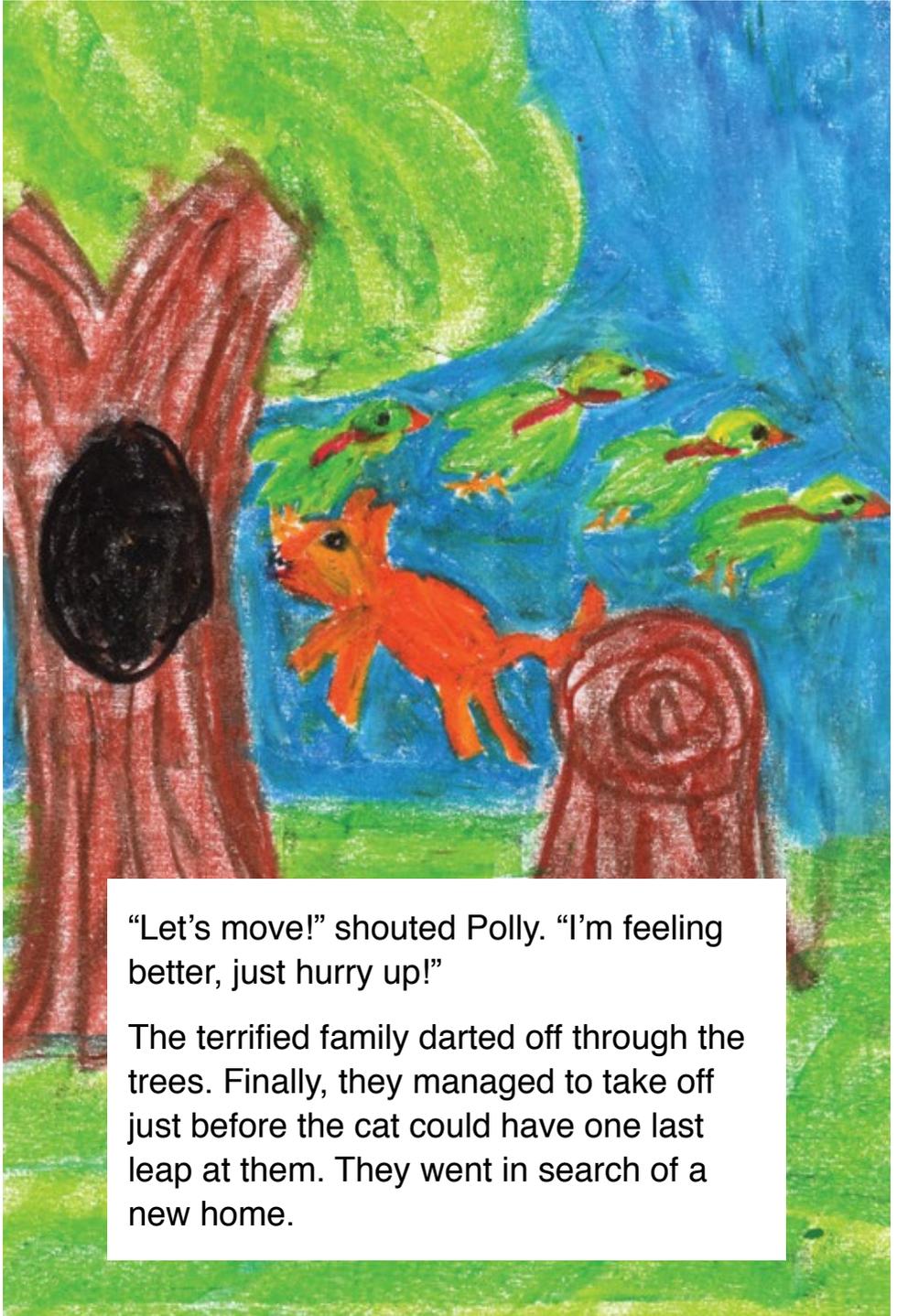




“They rode on huge monsters as big as our tree and as powerful as a storm. They destroyed our ancient homes. They loaded the reserve with horned, four legged black, brown and white creatures they called cattle. The cattle ate our long grass and trampled everything else. Our food source was nowhere to be found. Since then we have struggled to survive.”

“Wow!” gasped Sally, who seemed to have been holding her breath the whole time that her mother was telling the story. “That’s amazing……aaaaah!” Sally shrieked and leaped out of the way as a feral cat hissed and took a swipe at the frightened family of parrots.





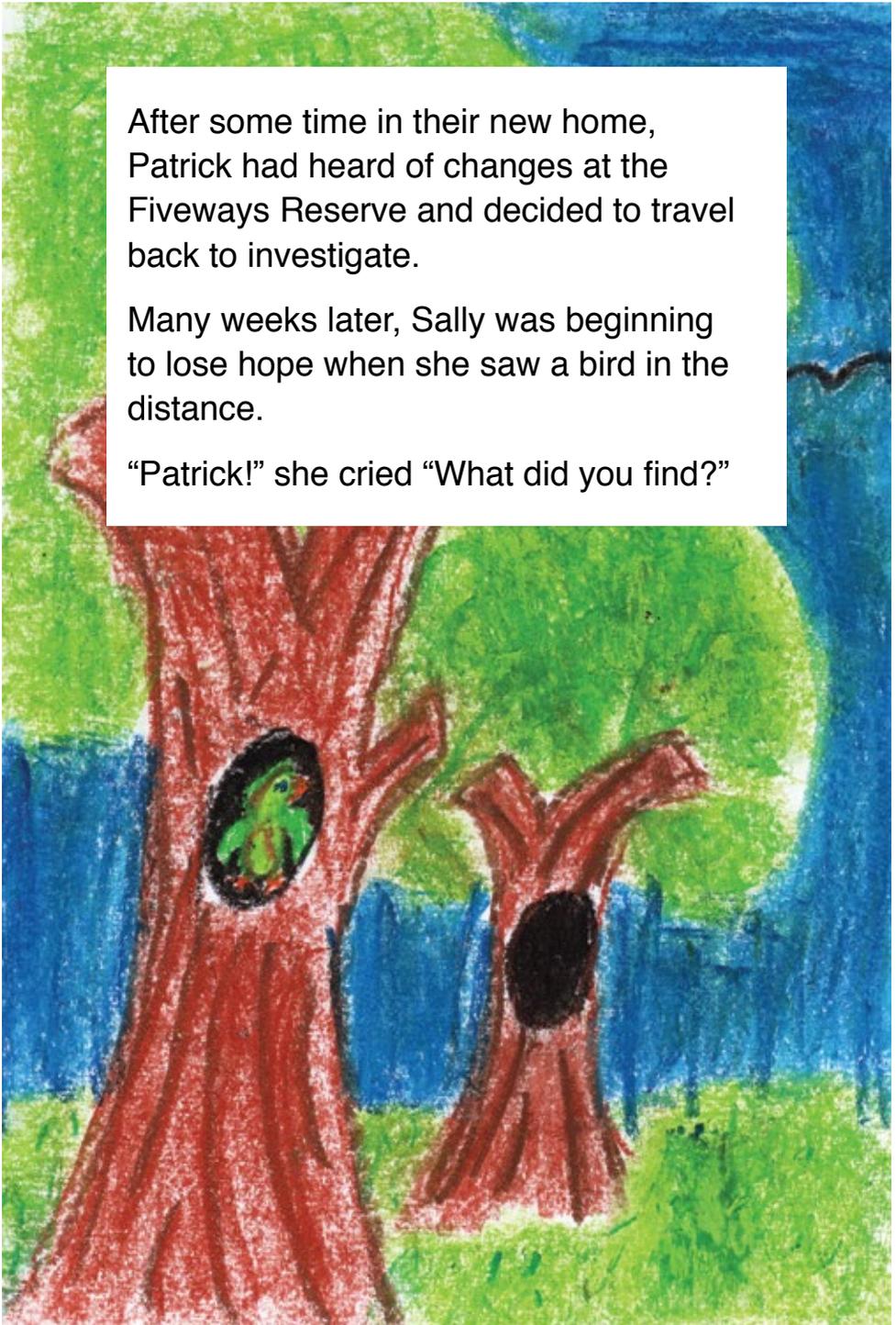
“Let’s move!” shouted Polly. “I’m feeling better, just hurry up!”

The terrified family darted off through the trees. Finally, they managed to take off just before the cat could have one last leap at them. They went in search of a new home.

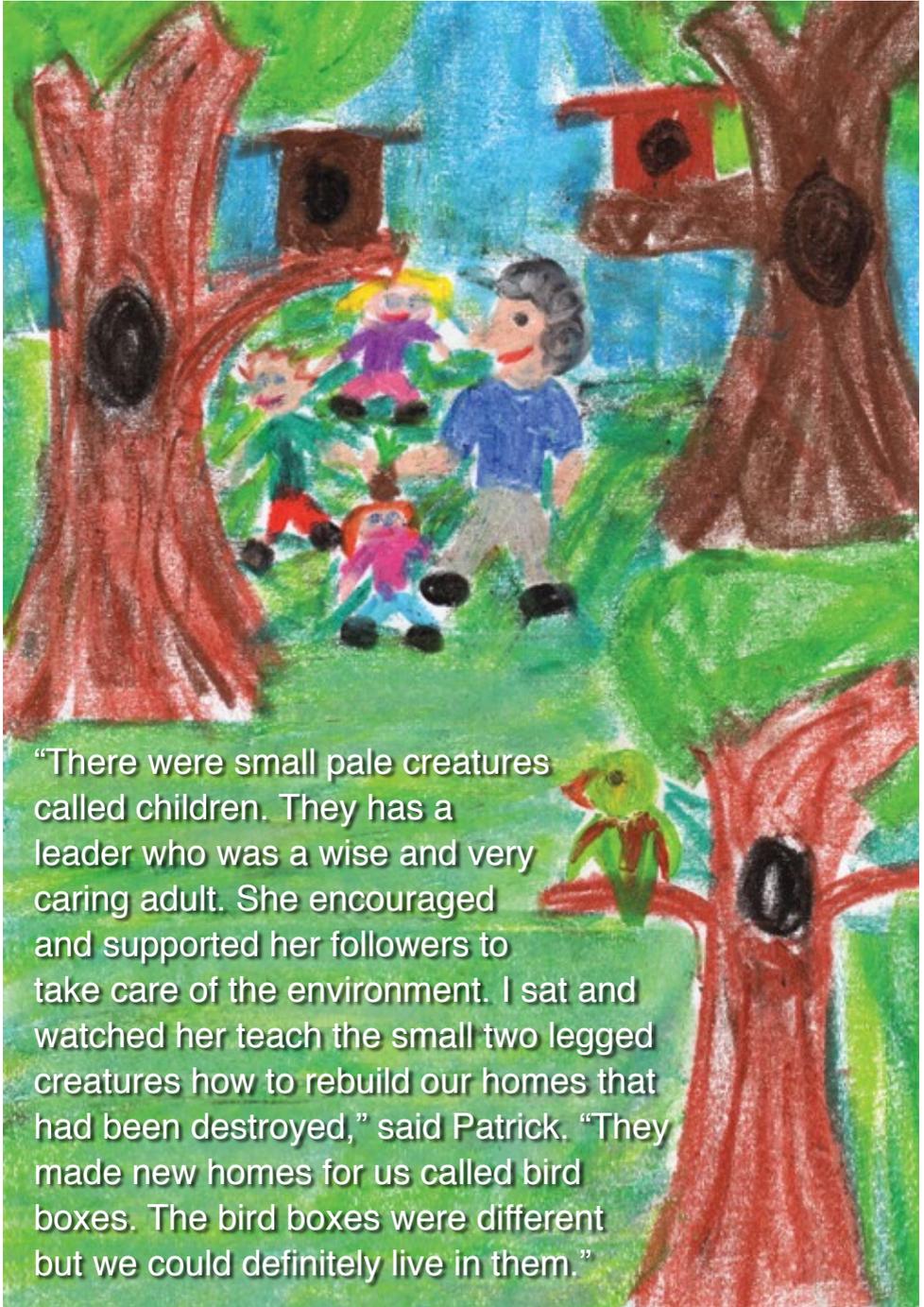
After some time in their new home, Patrick had heard of changes at the Fiveways Reserve and decided to travel back to investigate.

Many weeks later, Sally was beginning to lose hope when she saw a bird in the distance.

“Patrick!” she cried “What did you find?”

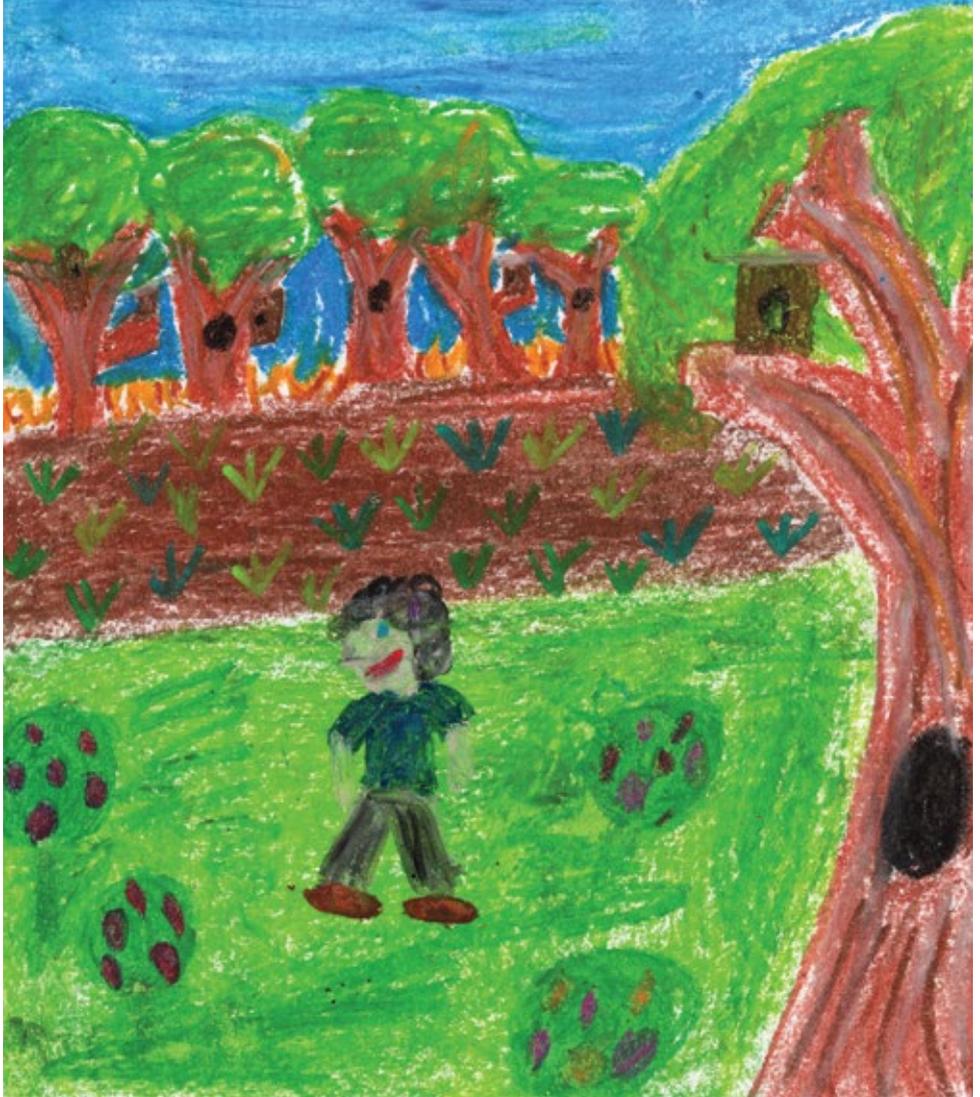


Patrick told Sally of his travels to the Fiveways...



“There were small pale creatures called children. They has a leader who was a wise and very caring adult. She encouraged and supported her followers to take care of the environment. I sat and watched her teach the small two legged creatures how to rebuild our homes that had been destroyed,” said Patrick. “They made new homes for us called bird boxes. The bird boxes were different but we could definitely live in them.”

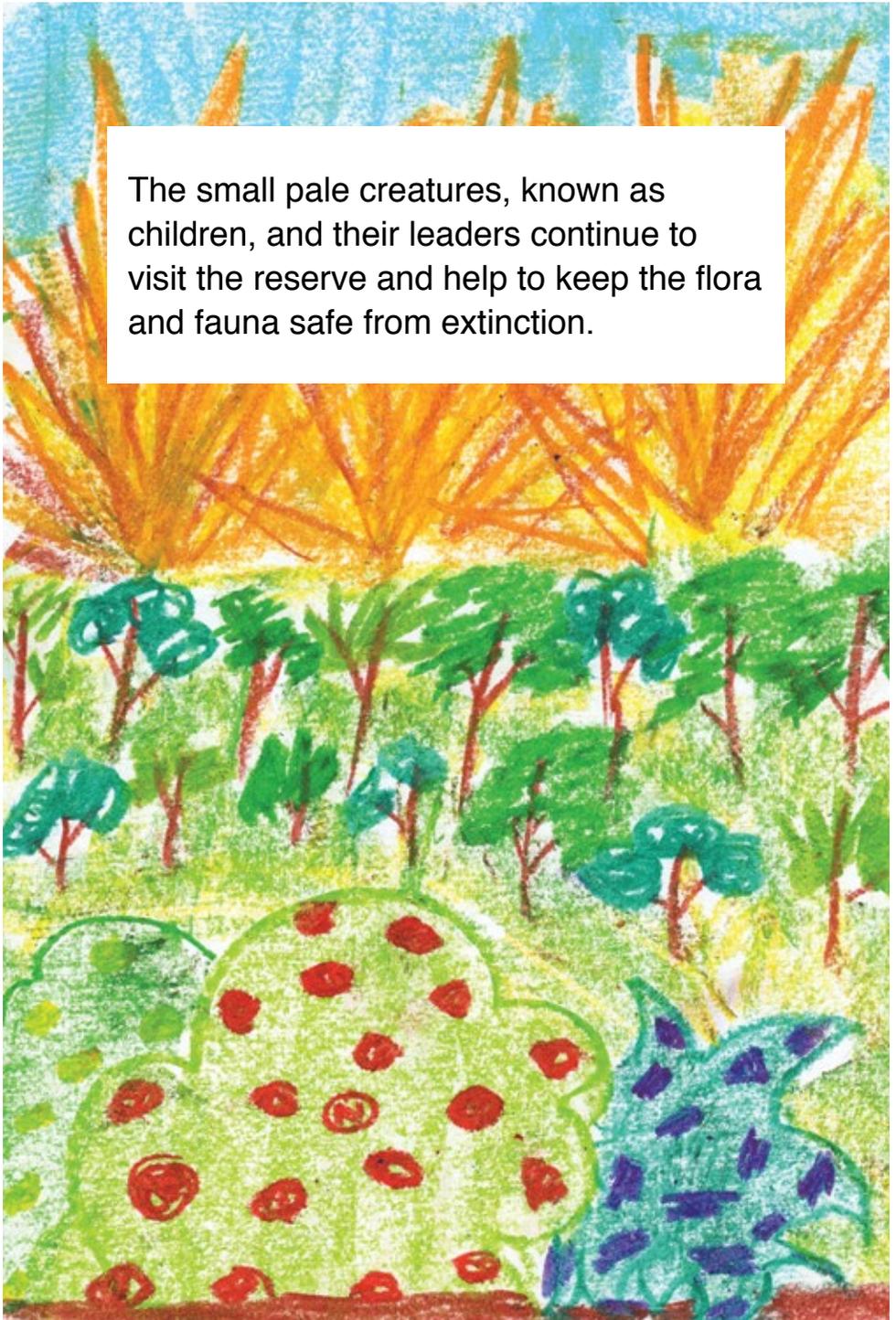
“I believe the leader’s name was Mrs. Ellis. She stopped the creatures from harming our home and helped them to fix the damage that had been done. It is safe to go back and live at the Fiveways!”



The Superb parrots travelled back to the reserve and found a new home. They discovered that Patrick had been right. Things had changed and it was a safe place to live. It was once again a beautiful Box-Gum Grassy Woodland that provided the perfect habitat for all creatures.



The small pale creatures, known as children, and their leaders continue to visit the reserve and help to keep the flora and fauna safe from extinction.



WILD FACTS

- The Superb parrot's closest relative is the Regent parrot.
- *Polytelis swainsonii* is the scientific name of the Superb parrot.
- Sometimes up to six parrot families share a hollow.
- There are estimated to be 6500 adult Superb parrots in the wild.
- Superb parrots eat the seeds of the Red gum as well as nesting in the hollows.
- In 2005, 60% of the gums used as nests by Superb parrots were cut down (6000 tonnes of Red gums).
- As well as Myna birds, Superb parrots must compete for hollows with Galahs and Bees.
- Superb parrots eat berries, nectar, seeds, flowers and some insects. Superb parrots are also known as the Barraband parrot and the Green Leek.
- Superb parrots can live for up to 25 years.
- Superb parrots feed in pairs or in small parties.
- The expected length of an adult Superb parrot can be up to 40 cm long.



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2012 Year 5/6, Henty Public School

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