

The Adventures of Perry Platypus and Wally Wombat



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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.

The Adventures of Perry Platypus and Wally Wombat

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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.



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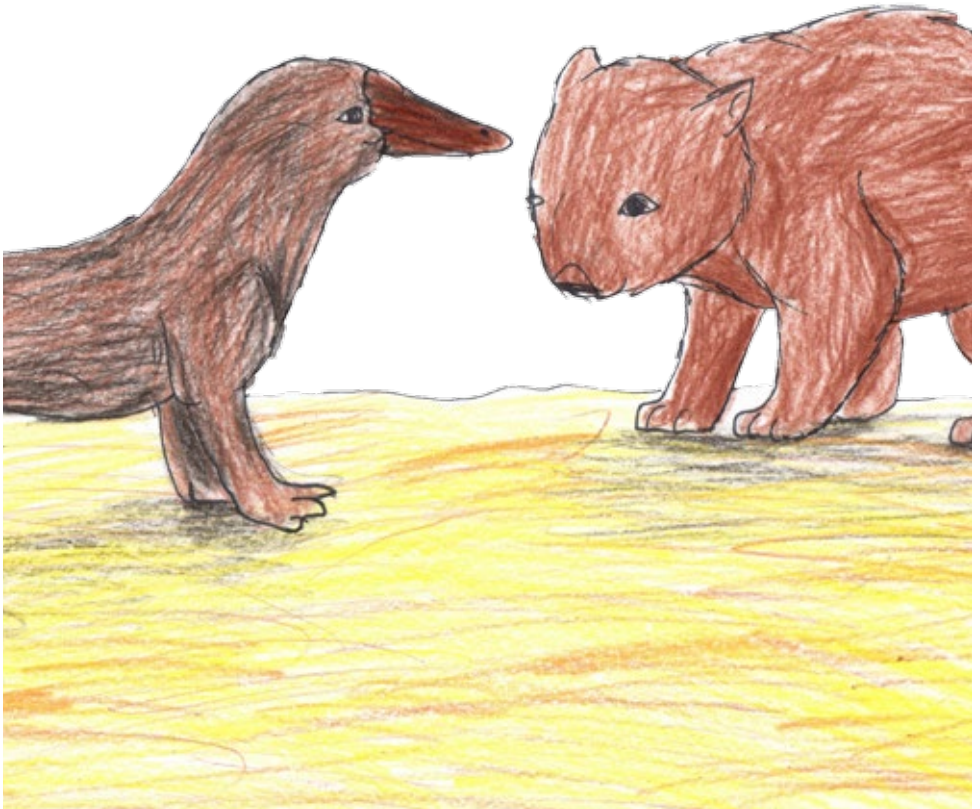
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One sunny morning, on the banks of the Murray River, sat Perry the Platypus and his best friend, Wally the Wombat. They were happily talking, until Wally decided to go home. Perry went back to his burrow too.

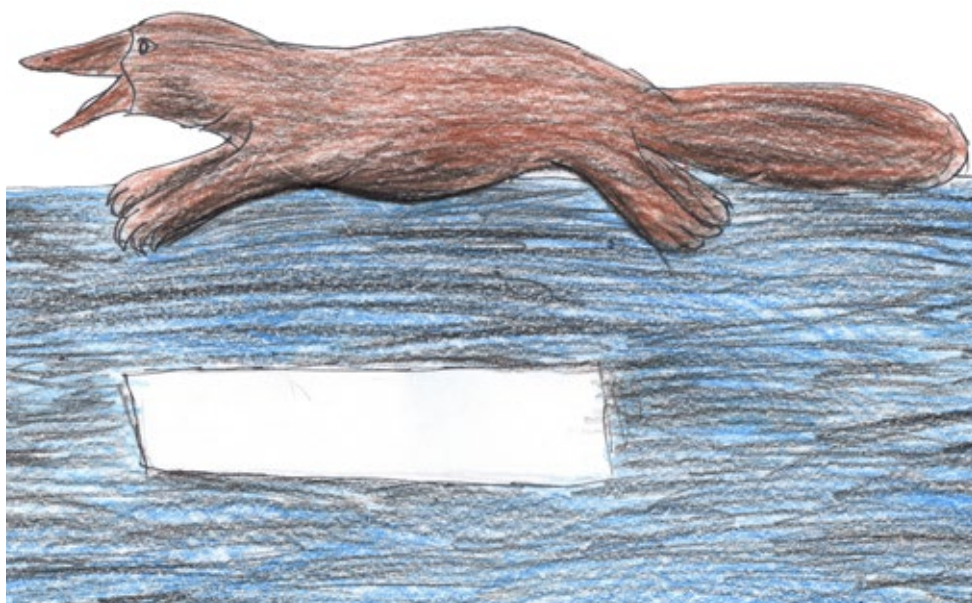


Later that afternoon, Perry went to visit Wally and ask if he wanted to go for a swim. But, as he arrived, he gasped at the sight of a destroyed burrow. Where was Wally?

Then he guessed – Wally had been wombatnapped!



Perry decided he had to go and find his best friend. He set off to the town. “Wally, I’ll save you!” Perry cried as he raced down the road.





As he was walking along the footpath, searching left and right, he saw a pet shop. And in the window sat...Wally!



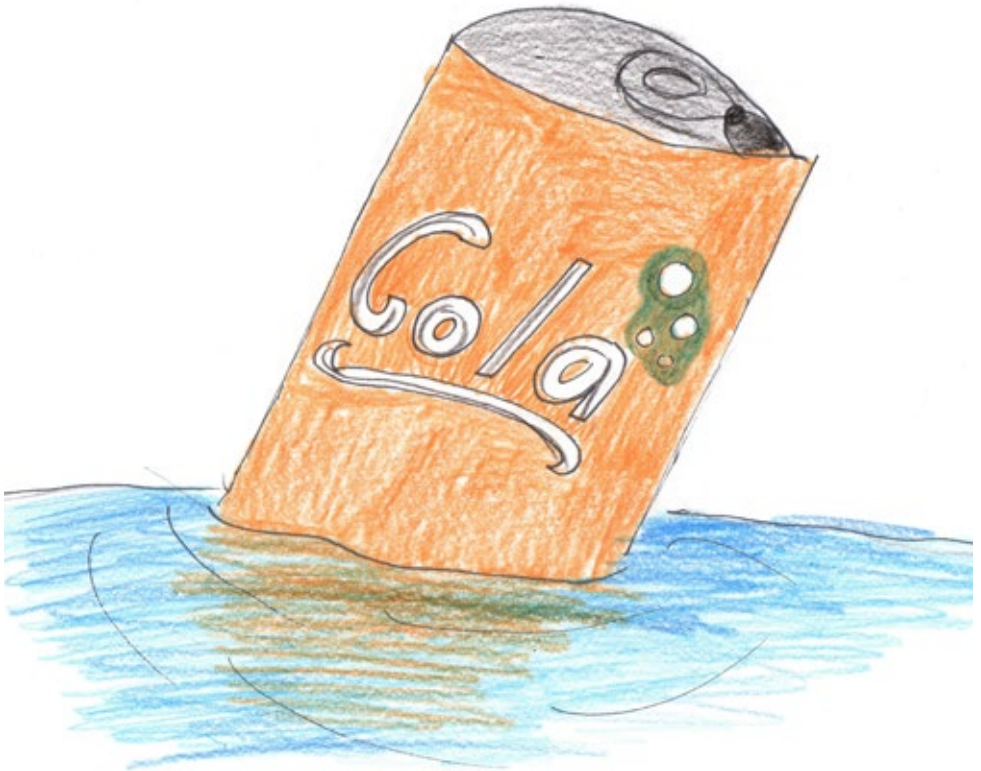
Perry strode into the pet shop on his little webbed feet, thinking confidently he would find his best mate who had been wombatnapped. But, to his devastation, Wally suddenly disappeared from the shiny shop window!

Perry ran out the door frantically and started calling, “Wally! Wally! Where have you gone?” There was no answer.



Perry felt very sad. He had no other choice but to begin the long journey home. He already missed Wally, even if he had only been gone about an hour.

As Perry arrived at his burrow, he saw something floating in the river. It was a big pile of rubbish! Cans, paper, bottles and bits of plastic were caught on a branch fallen in the water. Oh no!



He looked over the river, and on the bank was a small cottage. And on the front lawn, amongst the flowers, was...WALLY! He was munching on a sandwich. How did he get there?



Suddenly, a man came out of the house with a big rubbish bag over his shoulder. He walked up to the bank and...dumped it into the water! That is littering! Perry felt very angry.

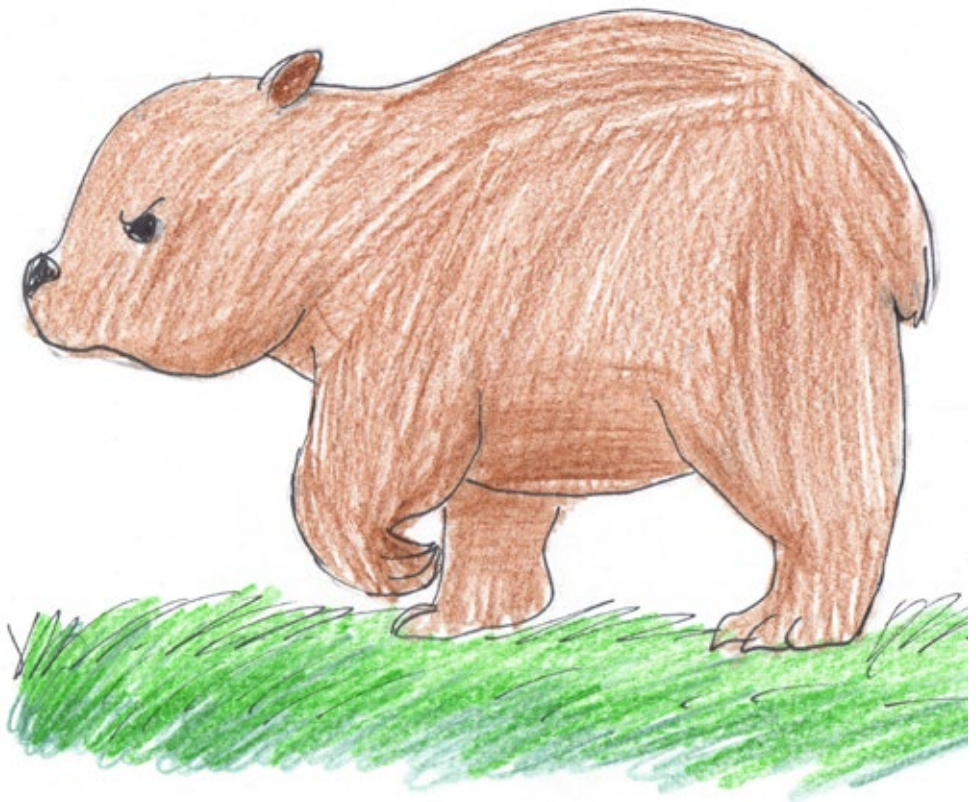


Without thinking, a very angry Perry jumped into the water and began swimming to the other side. He climbed out onto the bank and marched over to the flower-bed.

“WALLY!” he said angrily. “Why did that man put litter in the beautiful river? It’s very bad. Pollution will hurt the other animals! Like platypuses!” Wally looked dumb-struck.



“He did what? Wally cried. “I am going to speak to him right now!” Without another word he marched into the house with Perry waddling behind him.



Wally went up to the man who was at the kitchen bench and tried to speak, but of course he couldn't understand the complicated language of wombats.

“Aaw, aren't you cute?” he said, bending to pat Wally on the head. Wally snapped, and the man drew his hand back.

“Bad boy!” he cried. “Saffy! Get your wombat outside!” A moment later, a little girl hurried into the room.



“Yes Daddy!” she said sweetly. “Come on Womby!” She led Wally outside, almost stepping on Perry. As she went over to the bank, she saw cans, paper, bottles and all kinds of rubbish floating down the river.

“We need to clean this up!” she said excitedly. “Come on Womby. Oh! I see you have a little friend. He’s a very cute duck.” Before Perry the Platypus could try and argue, Saffy had dashed inside.



She came back out a moment later with about five rubbish bags in her hands. She threw them down next to Perry and Wally. “Let’s get this rubbish!” Saffy cried. Perry grabbed a rubbish bag and leapt into the water and dragged the bag behind him. He chased after the floating rubbish and the bag scooped up the litter as he went.

When it was full, he brought it back and Saffy gave him a new one. “Good duck!” she said, and he jumped back in.



Soon all the bags were full, as Perry had done three and Wally and Saffy two on the dry land. They had successfully cleaned the river!

From that day on, Saffy, Wally and Perry cleaned the river every month, just to make sure. Sometimes, Saffy brought all her friends to help. The river remained very clean and a nice place for animals to live.





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This book is dedicated to Lisa Abney-Hastings.

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