

The Fate of the Plains Wanderer

Kallum Little and Connor Widdup

Urana Central School



ENVIRO-STORIES





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 Fate of the Plains Wanderer

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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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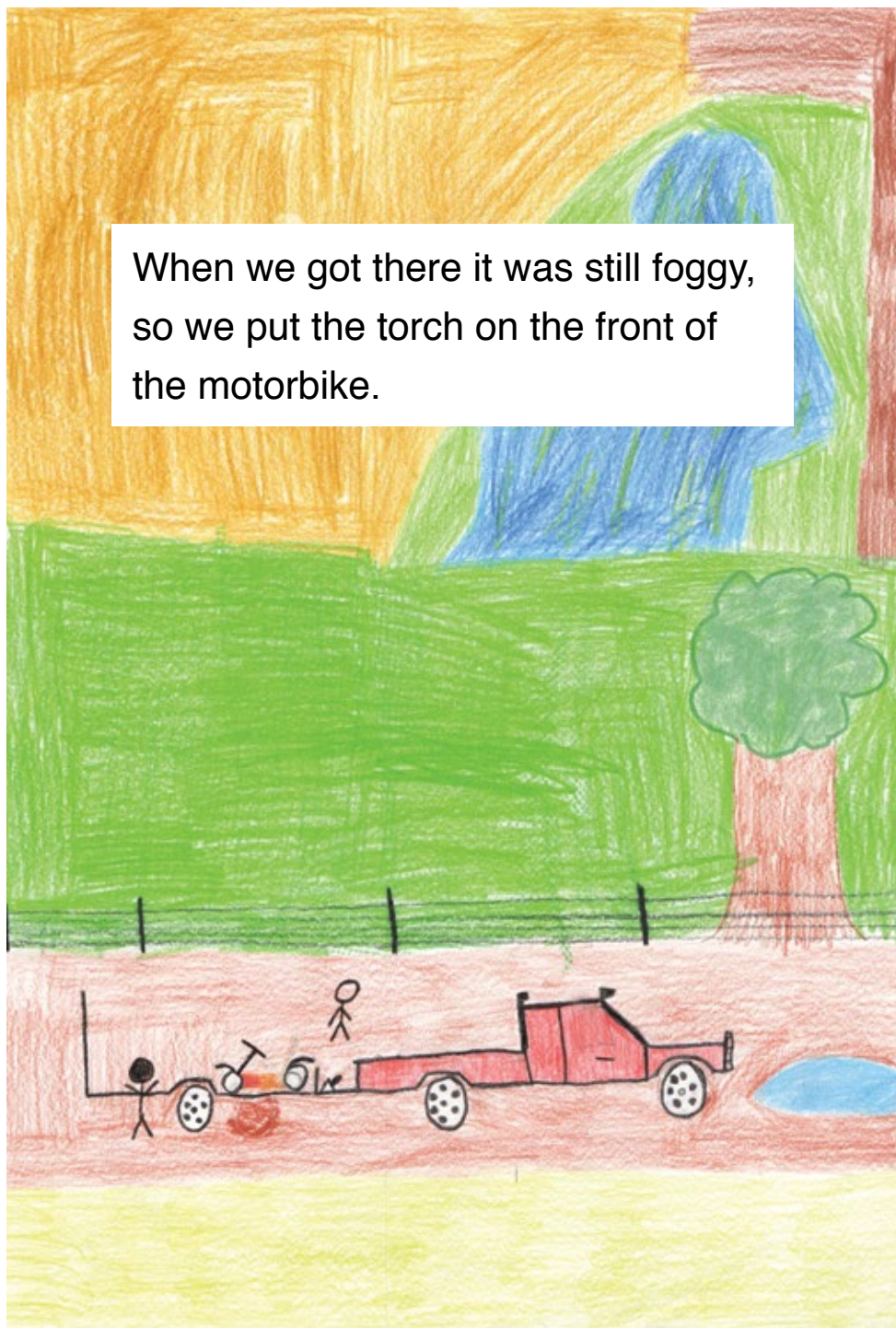
**Catchment Management
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Murrumbidgee





It was a cold, wet, foggy morning.
Dad and I were getting ready to go
motorbike riding. We were going to the
sand hills just outside of Urana.

When we got there it was still foggy,
so we put the torch on the front of
the motorbike.



I was a few hundred metres down the road when I heard a clunk. I hopped off the motorbike and shone the torch under the tyre. I had hit a Plain Wanderer bird and it had a broken wing.



I heard a chirp and I grabbed the torch and walked towards the sound. To my surprise there were three baby Plains Wanderers. I picked them up and put them in my backpack with some grass.



I rode up to Dad and showed them to him. He said, "They are just Quails, put them back."

"No they're not they are Plains Wanderers. They're an endangered species," I replied.

Dad finally agreed. "OK then, put them in the ute."

With that decided, we took them home.



I named them Mike, Mitch and Miki.
A few weeks later they got bigger
and scavenged around the backyard
to get creepy crawlies. Of a night, I
put them in the duck pen to let them
sleep with the ducklings.



Later on, through researching, I found out that the females are more colourful than the males and they are also larger. Unfortunately there are now fewer than eight thousand left in the wild.





A few weeks later when they were older, I took them back to the Sand Hills. When I let them go Miki would not leave me alone. Then he finally plucked up the courage to go with his family and I never saw them again. I felt happy that I had helped save an endangered species.



The Plains Wanderer

Conservation status in New South Wales: Endangered

Conservation status across Australia: Vulnerable



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