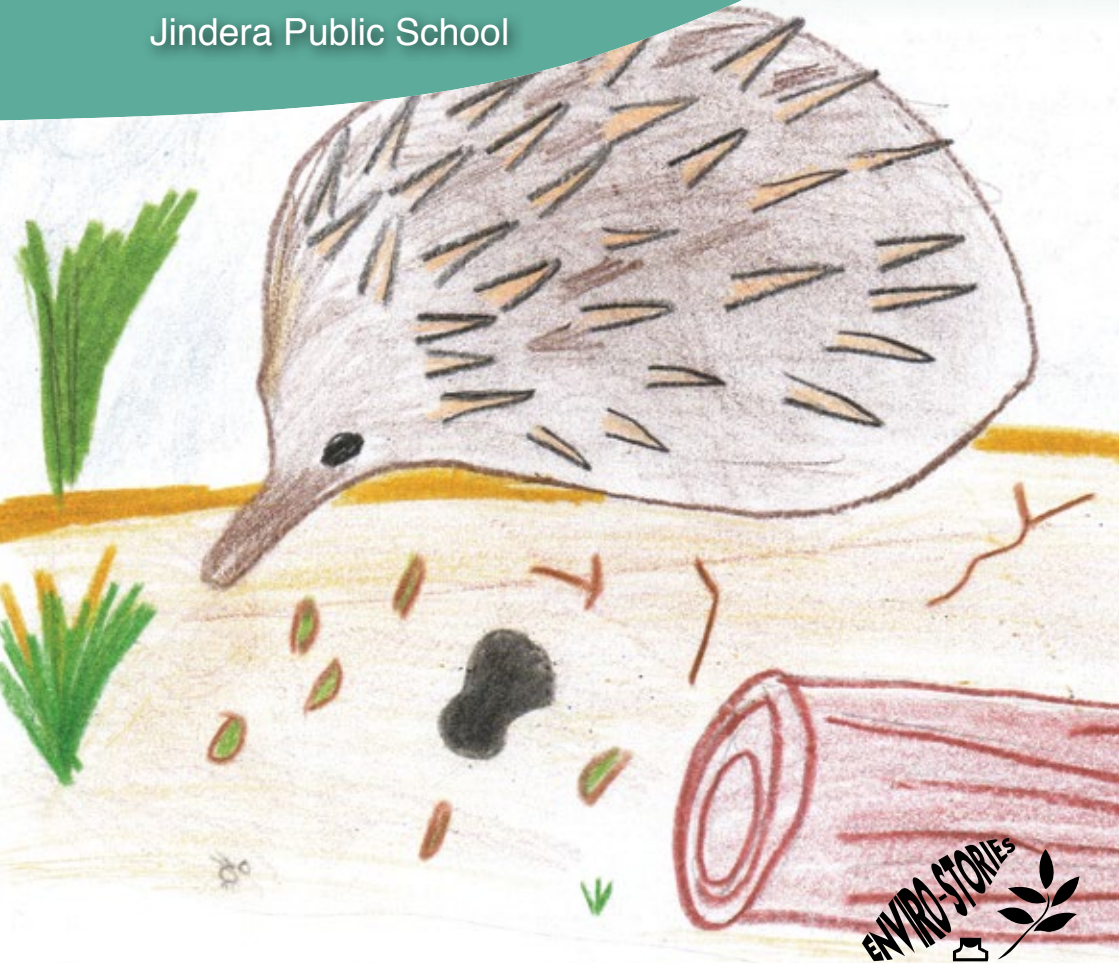


The Water Thief

Dale Twyford, Hannah Walsh,
Marieke Hoelscher, Connor Piper
and Katelyn Donney

Jindera 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.

The Water Thief

Authors: Dale Twyford, Hannah Walsh,
Marieke Hoelscher and Connor Piper

Illustrator: Katelyn Donney

Teacher: Shannon Blair

School: Jindera 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.



Catchment Management
Authority
Murray



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



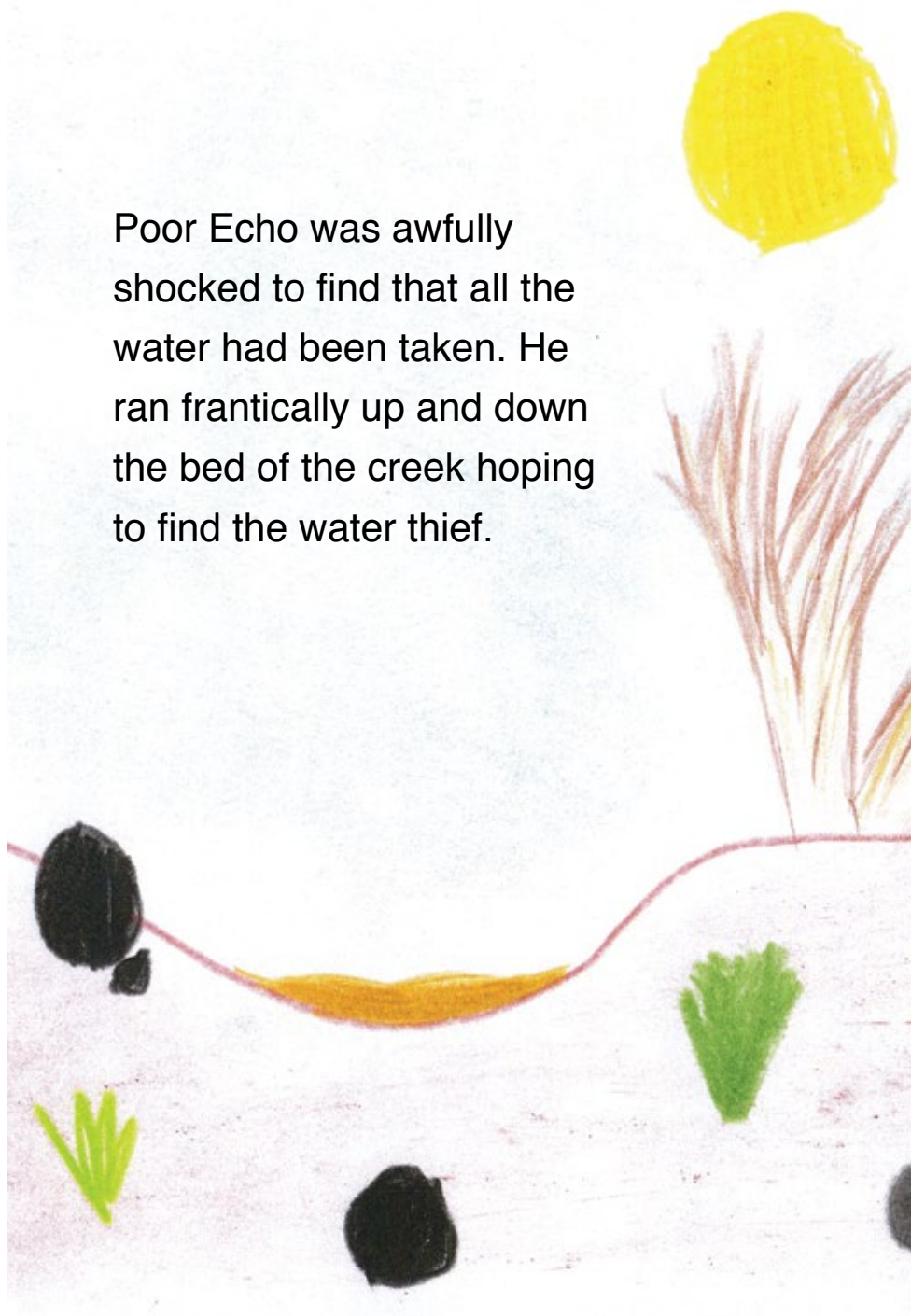
Catchment Management
Authority
Murrumbidgee



One bright morning, Echo the echidna awoke and left his burrow to collect water for the day. He strolled down to the creek that flowed into the Murray River.



Poor Echo was awfully shocked to find that all the water had been taken. He ran frantically up and down the bed of the creek hoping to find the water thief.

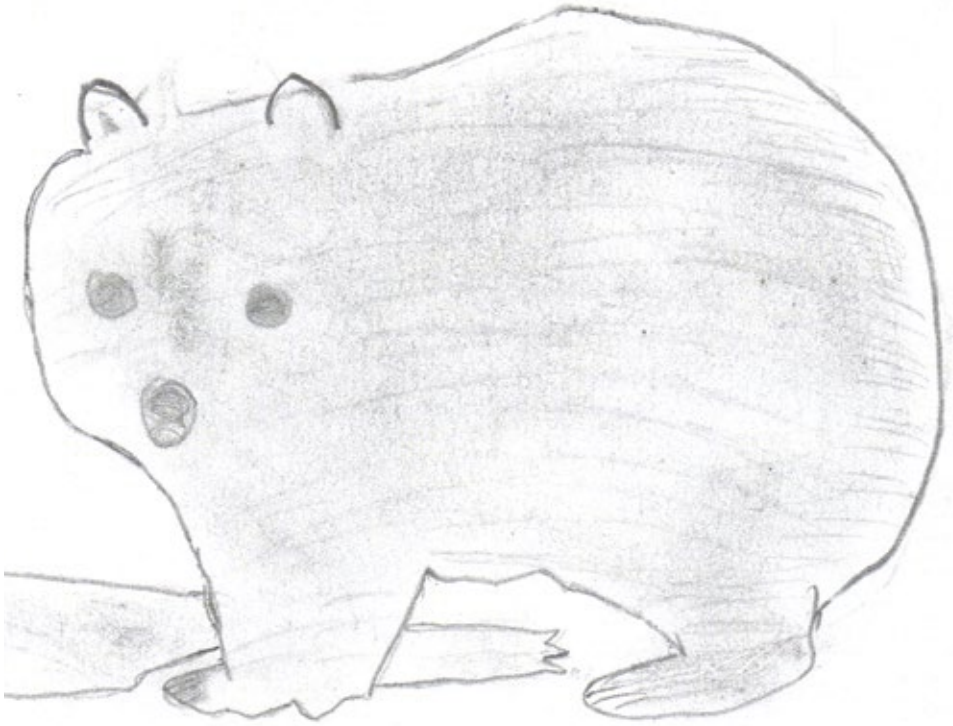


After he searched the area around him he decided to wander back to his burrow, to get sleep for another big day of searching.



He was only a few metres away from his burrow when the ground suddenly caved in. He landed with a thud in a wombat hole. The owner of this fine burrow was quite rude to everyone.





Suddenly a great shadow towered over Echo. A voice boomed out of the shadow's mouth.

“What are you doing in my home, you trespasser?”

As once Echo recognised that voice, it was the voice of Wally Wombat.



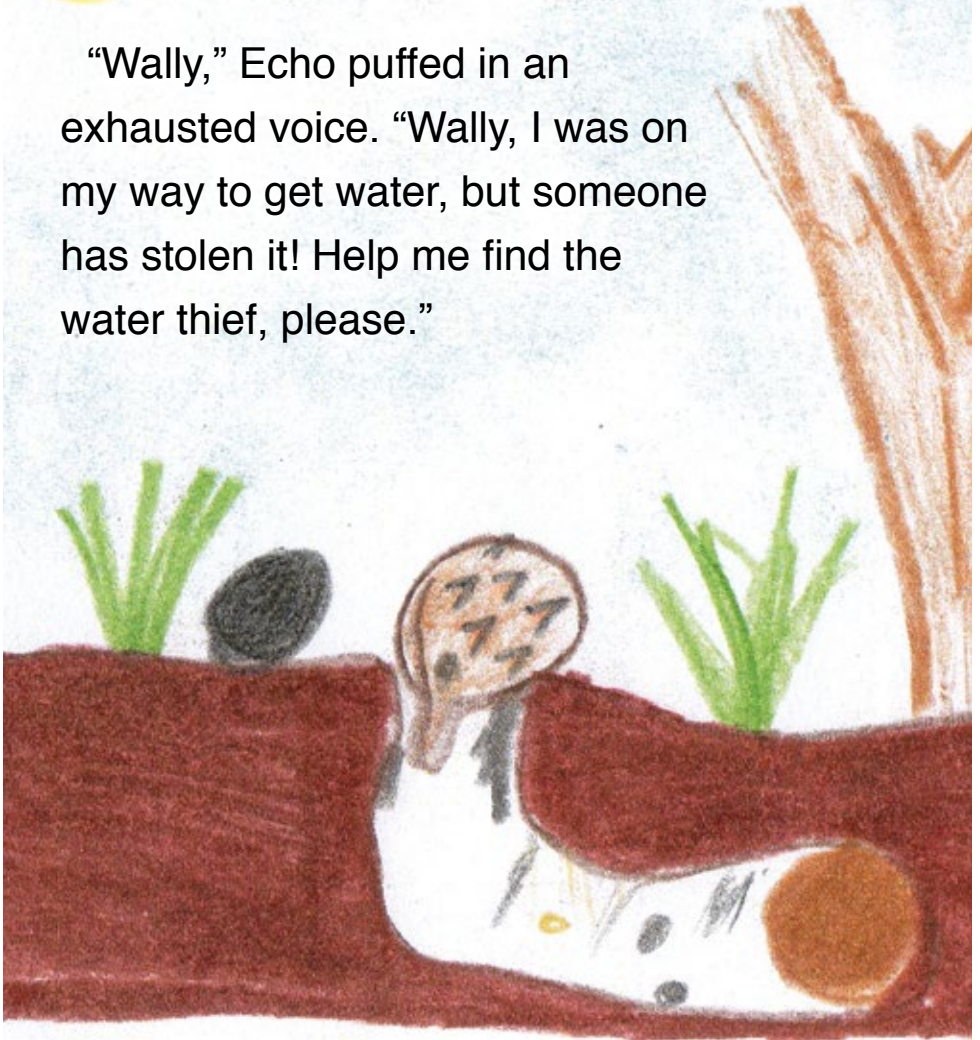


“Wally!” Echo screamed.

“What are you doing in my perfect...”

Wally paused for a second. “Well what was my perfect burrow. Can you explain yourself Echo?”

“Wally,” Echo puffed in an exhausted voice. “Wally, I was on my way to get water, but someone has stolen it! Help me find the water thief, please.”



“Okay, okay I will help you, but as long as you fix up my burrow,” Wally declared.

Echo then agreed with the deal.

“Alright, you can sleep in my burrow tonight and I will get to work straight away.”



The next day Echo got up early to work on the burrow. He worked harder than he ever had before. It was very, very hard without water, but he got his job done. He only went to bed when the sun went down.



The next morning the sun was already high in the sky when Wally and Echo woke up to go searching for the water thief.

They set off by heading downstream hoping to find a little bit of water, as they were so thirsty.





They had been walking for hours without water. All of a sudden an exhausted joey with a cut leg jumped out of the bush and said, “Can you travellers please help me? I have lost my mother and I can’t find any water.”

“What is your name?” asked Echo.

“My name is Jack,” the young joey told them.

Echo replied, “Well hello Jack, my name is Echo and this is my friend Wally. We are looking for the water thief and I am sure that you could come with us to find your mother.”

The three of them walked off together. After a while the three travellers stopped to eat from some Ruby Saltbush.





Jack thought that the Ruby Saltbush was very sweet. As he was eating he saw a blue spot out of the corner of his eye. Jack then yelled, “Echo, Wally, I can see water!”

“Where, where?” Echo asked.

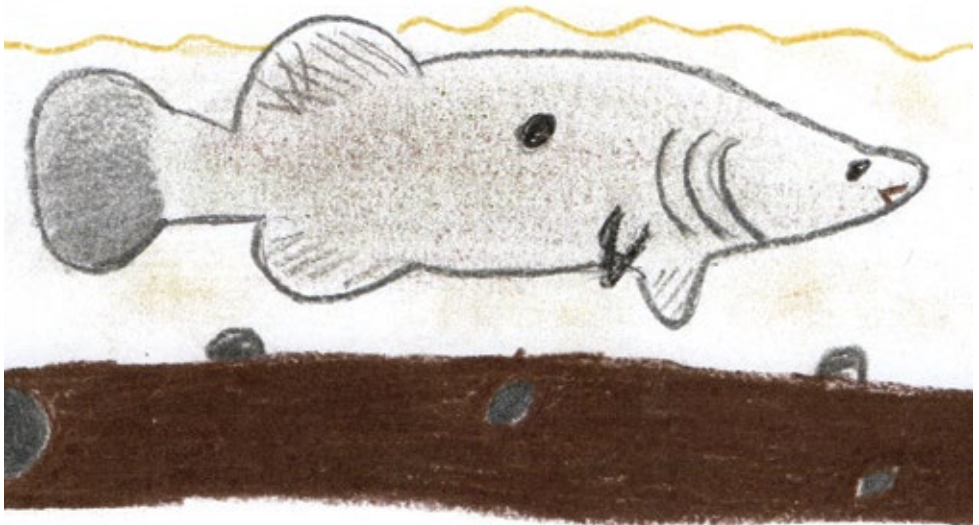
“This way,” Jack replied as he bounded off.

As they approached the water, Jack, Echo and Wally saw a shape moving in the water.

“What is that?” Joey asked.

Before anyone had time to answer, a head popped up out of the water and said, “Don’t worry, it’s just me. My name is Mark, Mark the Murray cod.”

Wally then replied, “Well my name is Wally and this is Echo and Jack. You sir have stolen all the water.”



“No I haven’t, it’s a drought. The people have been using too much water so that leaves less water for us,” Mark explained.

As they started talking, Jack saw his mother coming.

“Mum, mum!” he screamed as he bounded towards her.

Jack found his Mum and they had solved the mystery of the water thief.





Dale Twyford, Connor Piper, Hannah Walsh
and Marieke Hoelscher

2012 Year 5, Jindera Public School

peekdesigns
Environmental & Educational Designs & Publications



Catchment Management Authority
Murray



Catchment Management Authority
Murrumbidgee



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Australian Government

