

Tommy the Trout cod



Greta Mackinlay, Claire Holt, Claudia Allworth, Annabelle Grunow, Brian Marshall and Jordan Hughes.

Holbrook 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.

Tommy the Trout cod

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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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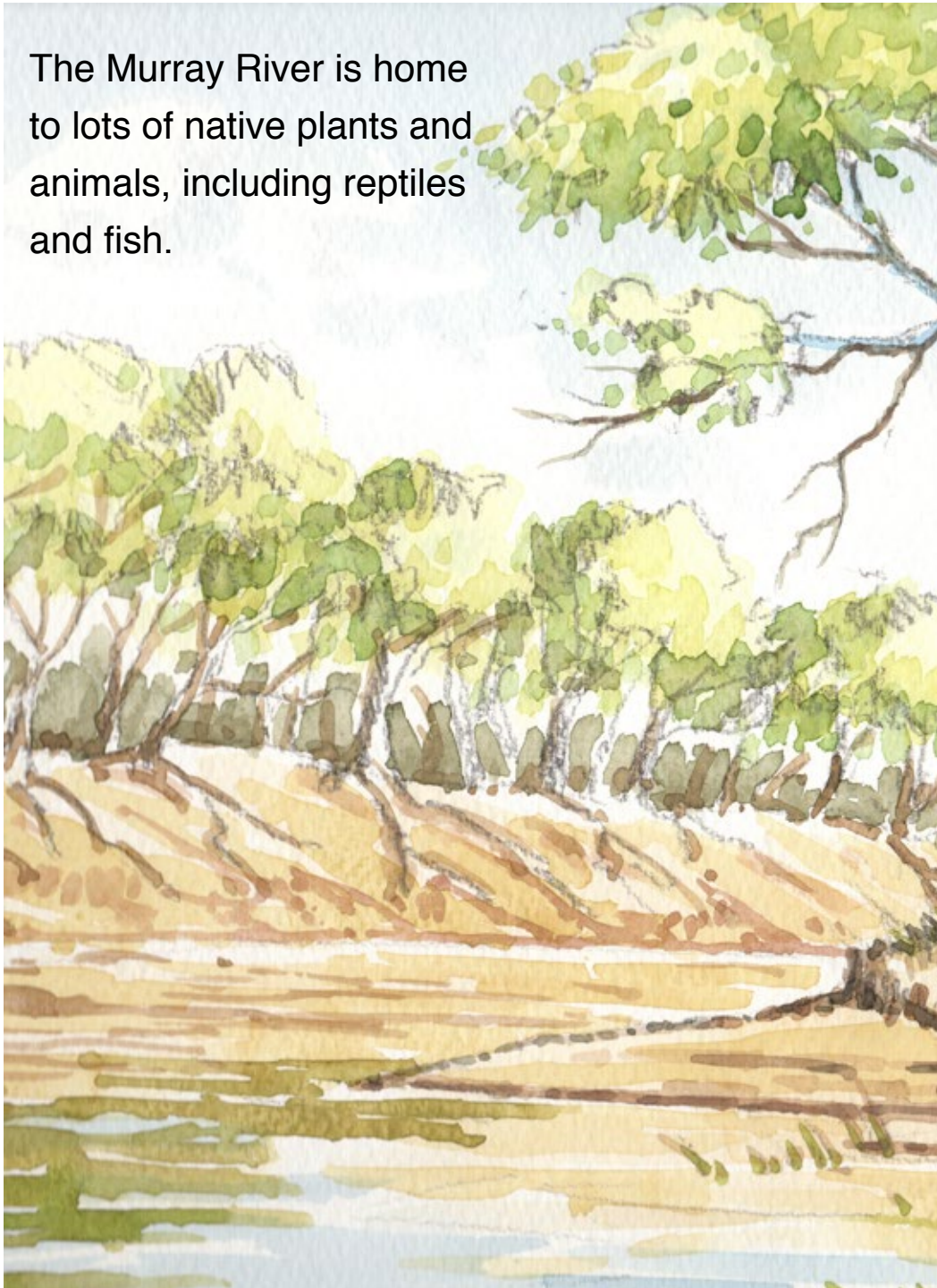
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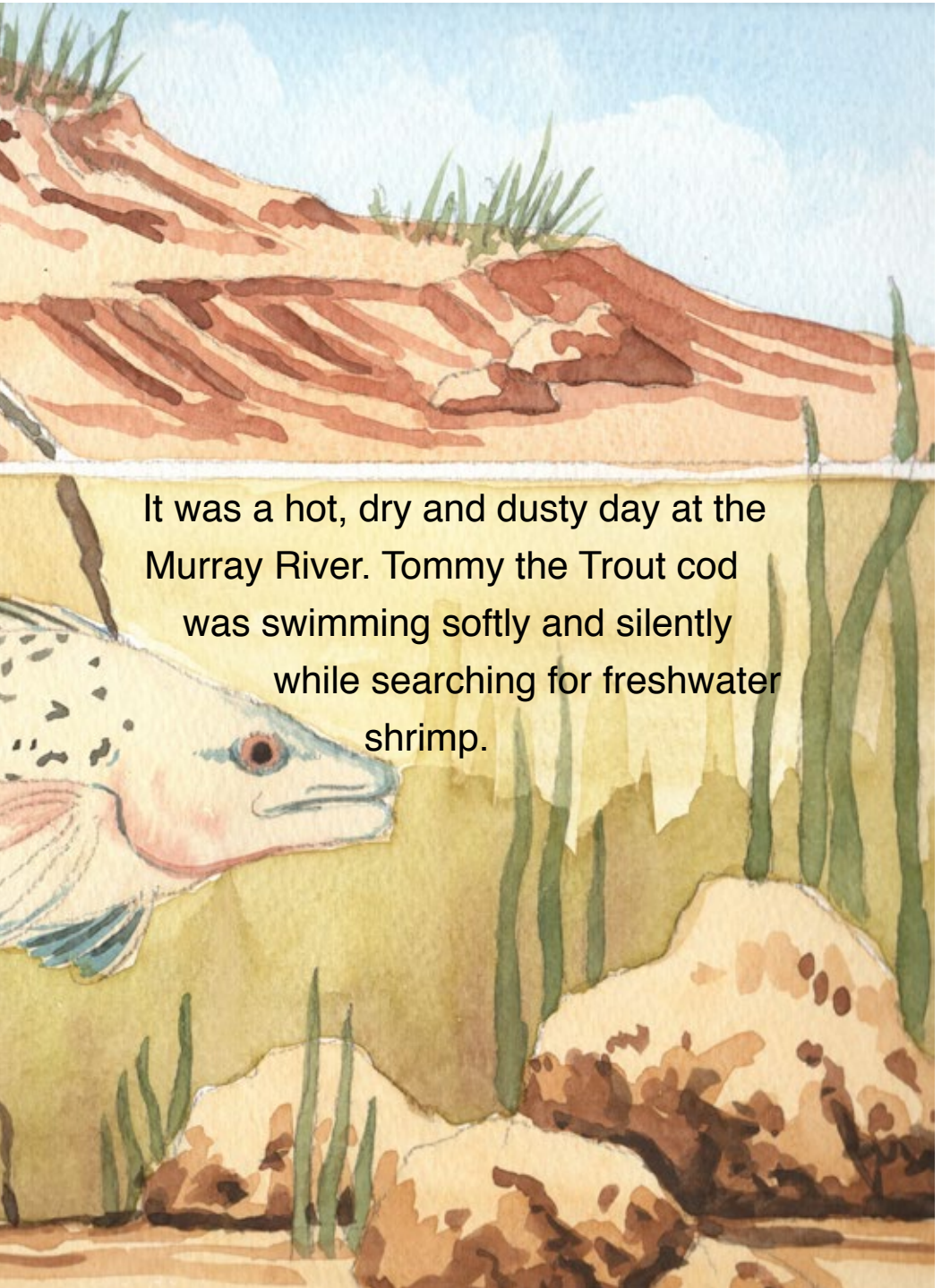
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The Murray River is home to lots of native plants and animals, including reptiles and fish.





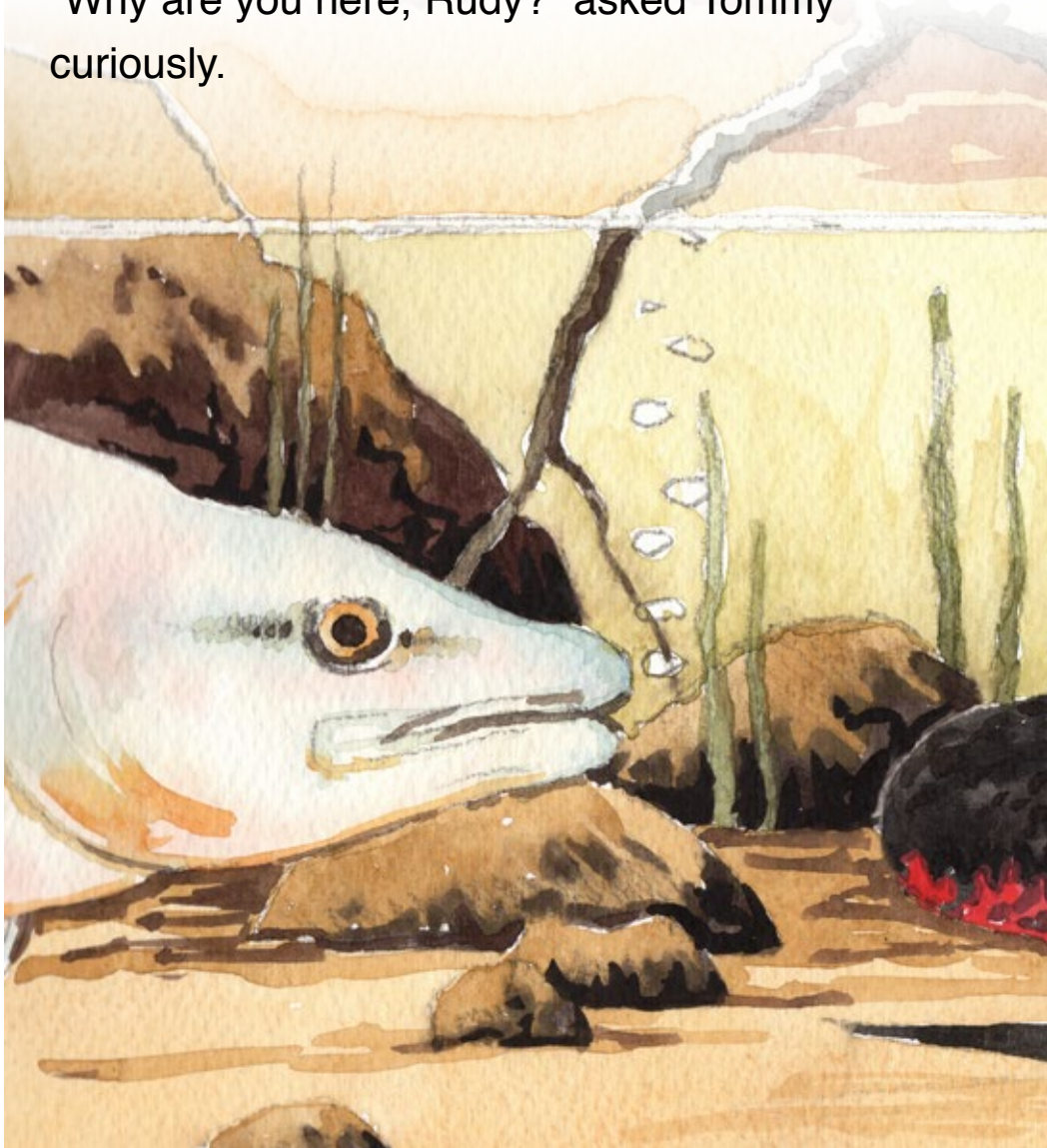




It was a hot, dry and dusty day at the Murray River. Tommy the Trout cod was swimming softly and silently while searching for freshwater shrimp.

Tommy came across his old friend Rudy the Red-bellied black snake. He approached Rudy with a confused look on his face.

“Why are you here, Rudy?” asked Tommy curiously.



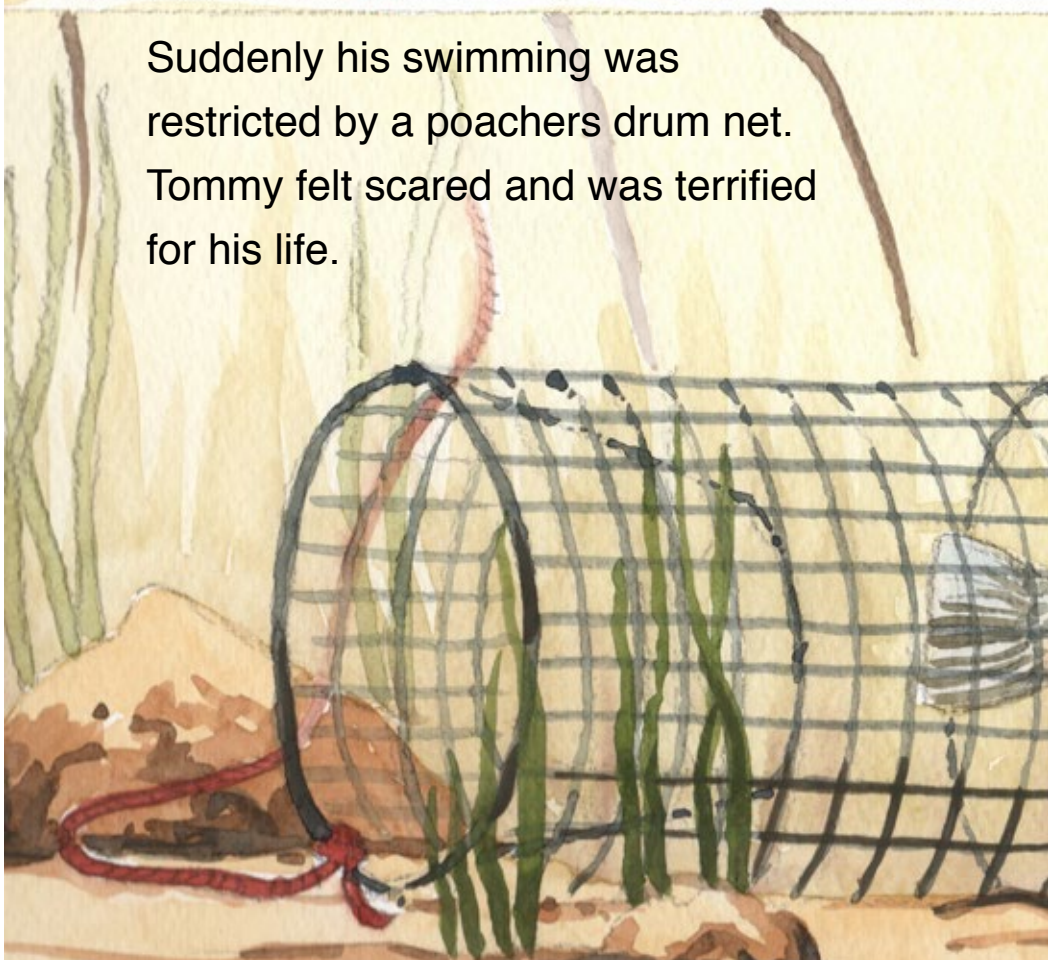
“I’m hiding Tommy. Something scared me into the water.”

Tommy swam off with Rudy’s words echoing in his head.





Suddenly his swimming was restricted by a poachers drum net. Tommy felt scared and was terrified for his life.

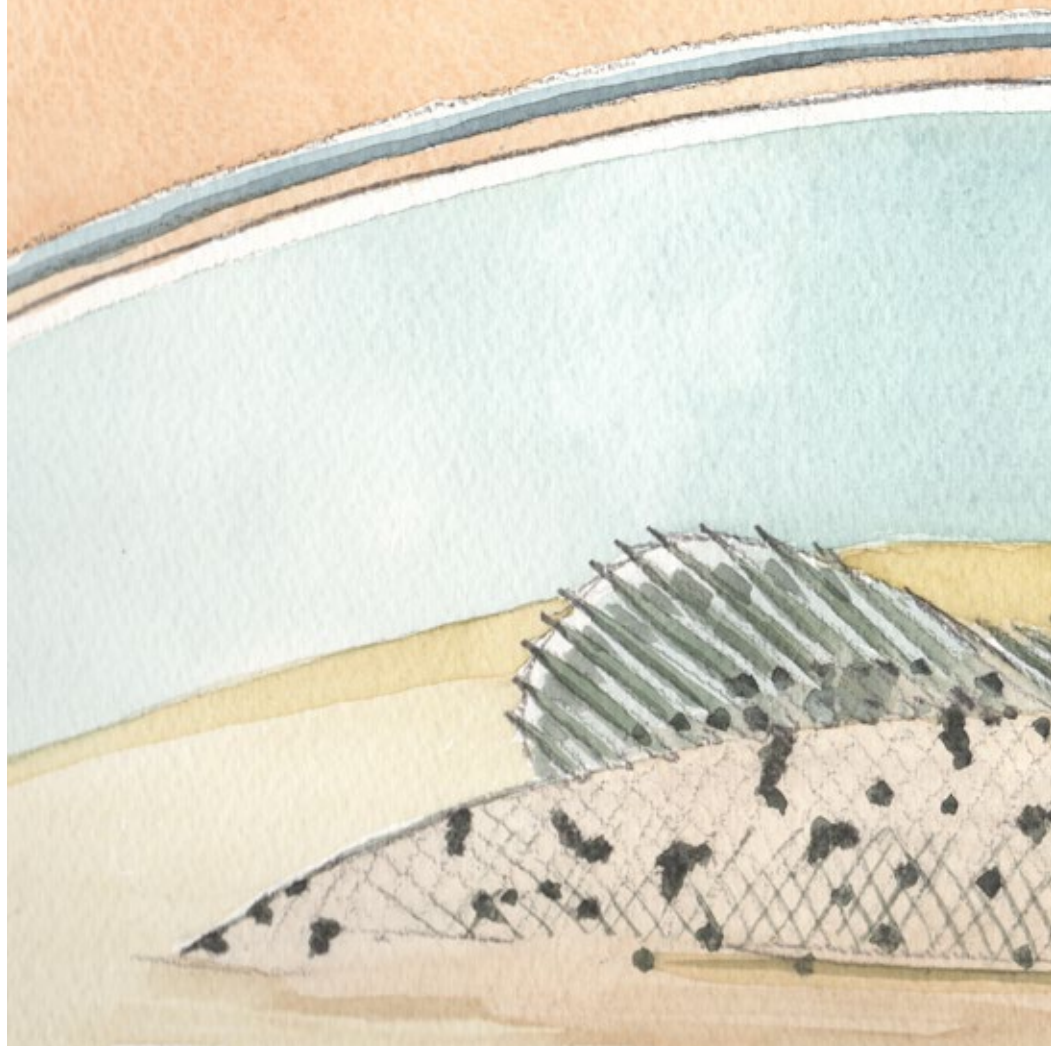




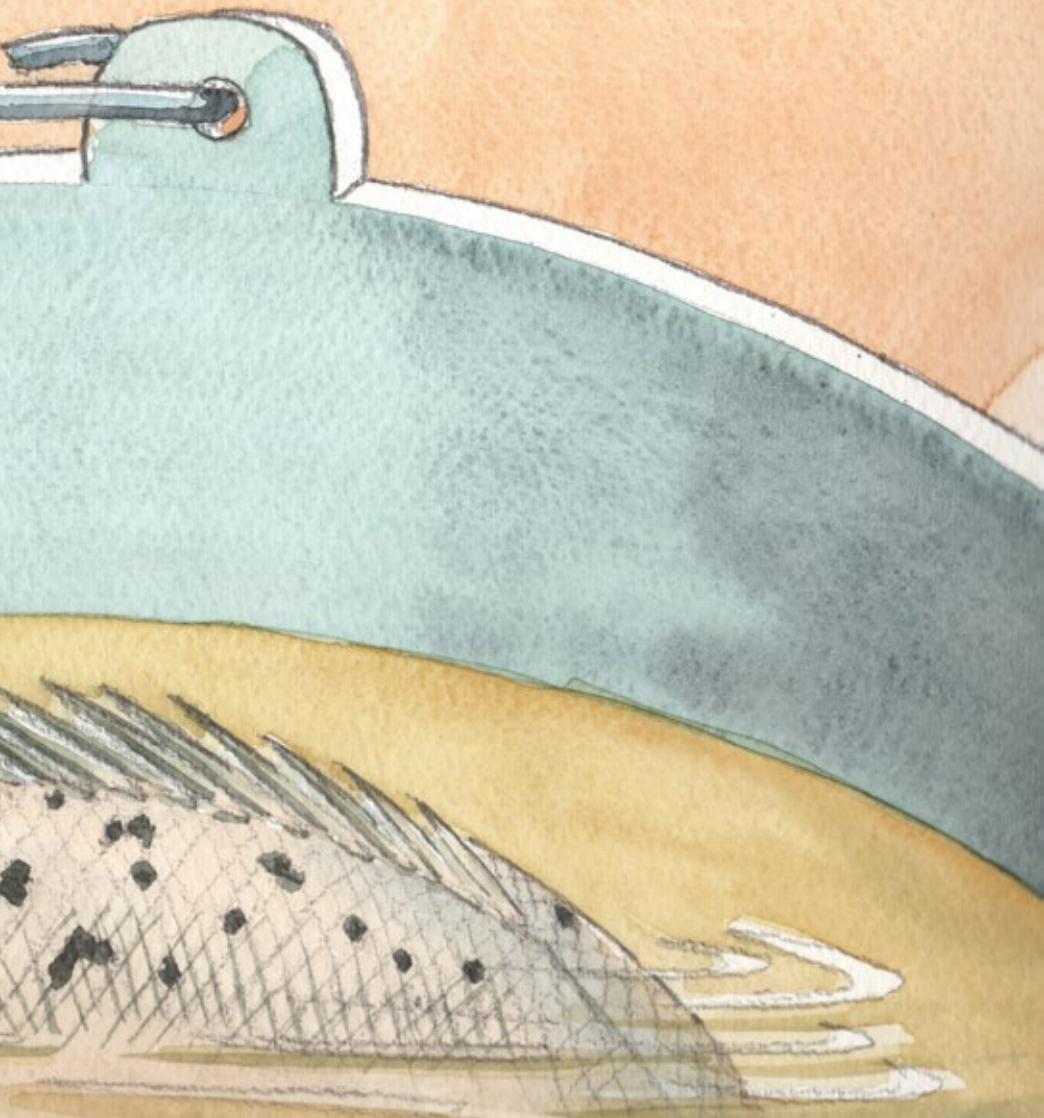
After what seemed like an eternity, the poachers returned to check their nets. They found Tommy in the barrel net and put him in a bucket of water.



The poachers put the bucket in the back of their ute and drove off.



Tommy was scared as the water splashed everywhere as they drove down the bumpy dirt road.



Fisheries Officers pulled up the poachers for a routine check. They discovered Tommy in the bucket and started to ask questions.

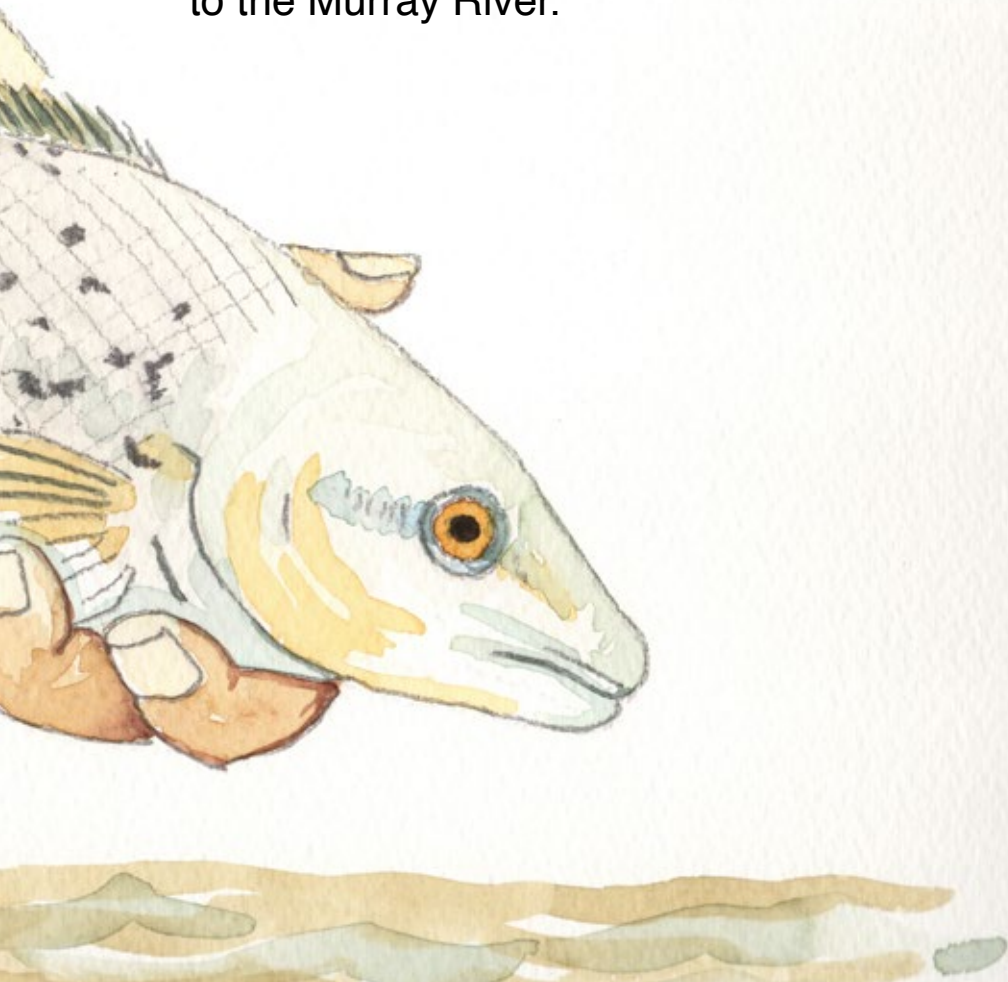






The Fisheries Officers confiscated Tommy off the poacher. They also left the poacher with a hefty fine.

The officers then returned Tommy back to the Murray River.





Trout cod

Scientific Name: *Maccullochella macquariensis*

Other Common Names: Blue Nose cod, Rock cod

Size: up to 800 mm long and weighing 16 kg

Conservation Status: Endangered, listed under the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*.

Habitat: Large Trout cod inhabit deep holes while smaller Trout cod inhabit beneath and amongst boulders and other cover. Often found in fast flowing water over bedrock, boulder and sand substrates amongst heavy cover in faster water than for Murray cod. Highly territorial and aggressive towards other fish including its own species.

For more information on Trout cod, please go to www.mdba.gov.au



Greta Mackinlay, Claire Holt, Claudia Allworth, Annabelle Grunow, Brian Marshall and Jordan Hughes.

Special thanks to Mr Graeme Clifford (pictured) and Mr Adam Preston.

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