



# The Birthday Party

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Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.



**[www.envirostories.com.au](http://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 Birthday Party

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## **WATER! The Life of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area Enviro-Stories Education Program**

In 2012, MIA EnviroWise delivered the “WATER! The Life of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by Murrumbidgee Irrigation. It was generously funded by Murrumbidgee Irrigation and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Murrumbidgee

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One sunny bright day in Wagga there lived a Wedge-tailed Eagle named Bella. She was so excited because she had just received an invitation from her cousin Junior who was turning 50. He had invited her to his party at

Barren Box swamp near Griffith. She couldn't wait to go as she would be able to see the beautiful Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area on the way.





Bella knew how to get as far as Gogelderie Weir. She followed the Murrumbidgee River from Wagga, past Berry Jerry and Matong State Forests, until she reached Narrandera. From here she flew north-west along Irrigation Way until she got to Gogelderie Weir, just near Leeton, where she decided to spend the night.





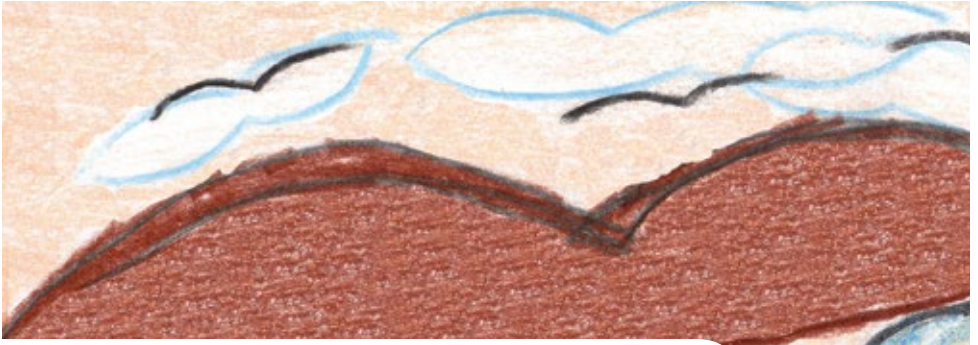
Bella realised she didn't know the way to Barren Box swamp from Gogelderie. Luckily, she ran into TJ her older brother. He knew the whole Murrumbidgee area quite well.

TJ was fantastic but he was so excited to see Bella that he rattled off the directions so fast that Bella missed some. TJ flew off and disappeared into the sky.



She had a few directions to go by and knew she had to go to Whitton. Bella gathered her belongings and continued her journey. However, she was very stressed that she didn't know how to get the whole way to Barren Box swamp.





She followed the Sturt Canal to Whitton. Once she left Whitton, she wasn't quite sure which way to go. Bella flew west until she became extra thirsty, so she looked around for water. She came to Bray's Dam which was a great place to rest and stock up on food.







Bella asked a turtle that was swimming around for directions to Barren Box swamp. He was extra slow at giving directions that Bella forgot them all by the time he had finished.

Bella headed north. She soon needed to rest again and found a place with water just near Griffith. Was this Barren Box? It could be. She knew it was near Griffith.

She looked everywhere for her cousin Junior. Bella noticed there was only one cell of water not the three cells that she knew Barren Box had. Two very smart, but shy, emu's told her this place was actually called Lake Wyangan.





Bella flew around looking for someone to help her find out how to get to Barren Box swamp. She asked a kangaroo but he seemed to be lost too.

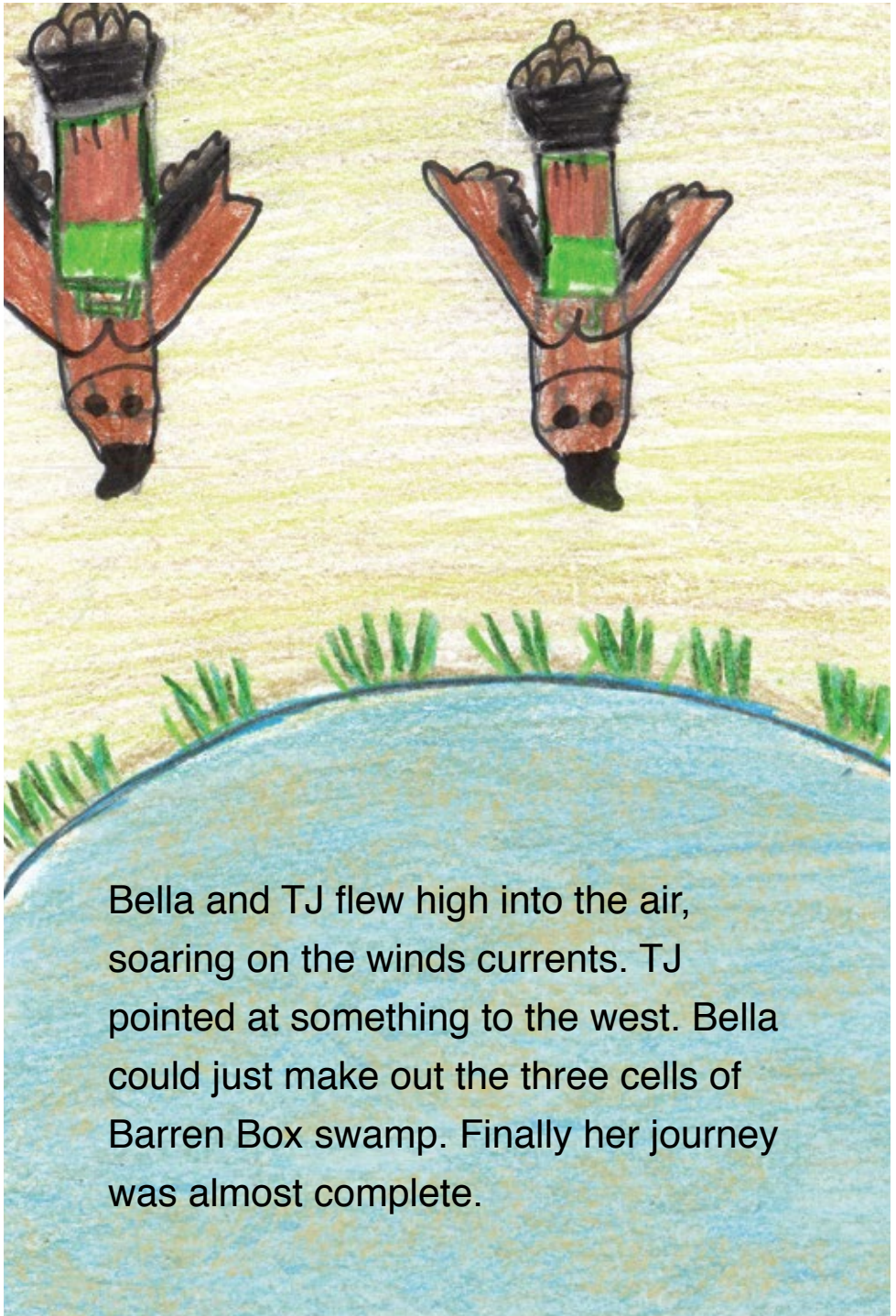






Bella was so sad because she was afraid that she would not make it to the party in time. All of a sudden she felt a whoosh as something dived very close to her. It was her crazy brother TJ.

He was impressed how far she had gotten on her own. So he helped her find the rest of the way to Barren Box swamp. Bella was so HAPPY!



Bella and TJ flew high into the air, soaring on the winds currents. TJ pointed at something to the west. Bella could just make out the three cells of Barren Box swamp. Finally her journey was almost complete.



Bella and TJ joined their cousin Junior to celebrate his 50th Birthday. Bella gave Junior a present containing worms from all the different places she had visited on her journey through the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area. They all had a great time exploring the peaceful wetland at Barren Box Swamp.









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