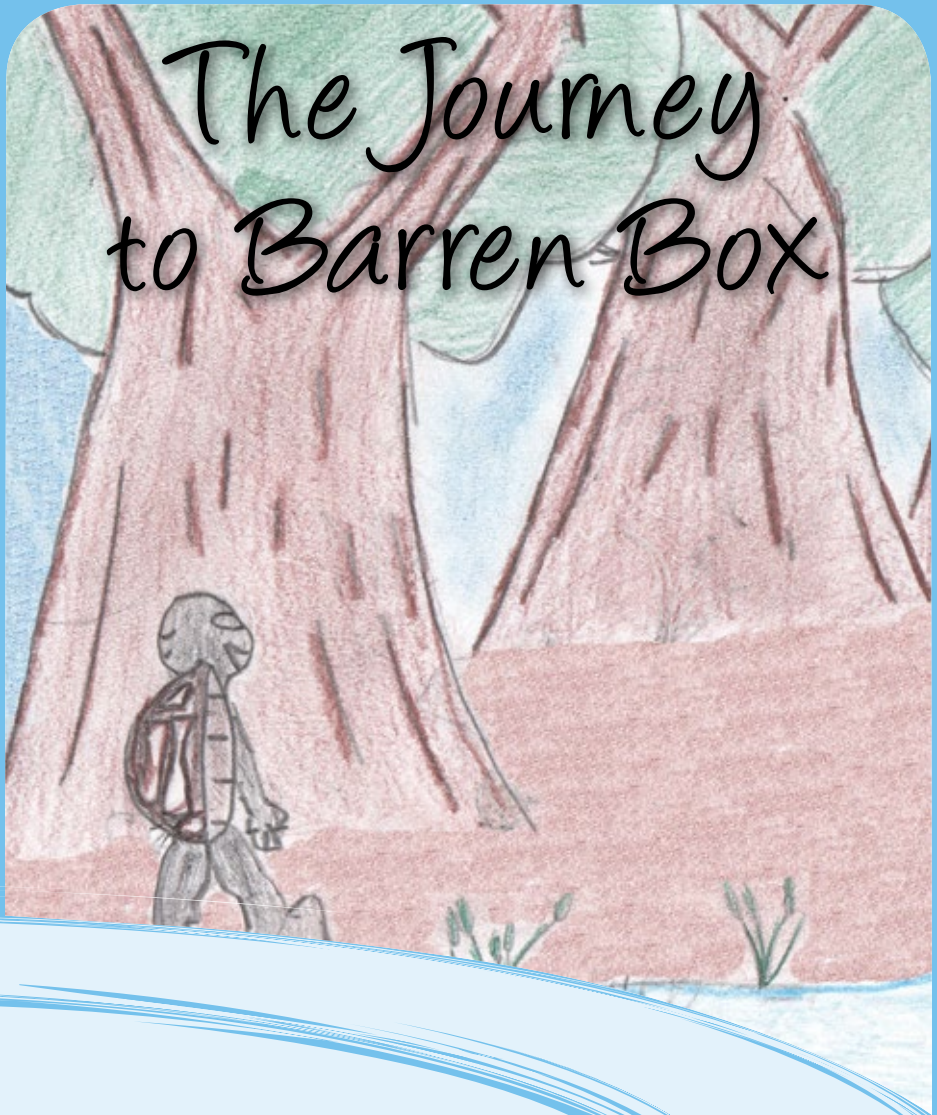


# The Journey to Barren Box



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Griffith Public School



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.

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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 warm night under the moonlight,  
there was an old wise turtle named Tim.  
He was sharing stories of his journey to  
Barren Box swamp. This is his story...*





It all started when I got separated from my family and friends by a terrible storm. I got washed up on the Murrumbidgee River near Narrandera and the rest of my family were washed further down the Murrumbidgee River and ended up in Darlington Point.



I was knocked unconscious until a family of pelicans found me.





The next day they told me they knew a place  
where peace and tranquillity dwells

“You must travel in the north west direction  
to reach a place called Barren Box swamp,”  
said the Pelican.



So there I was, making my way to Barren Box swamp. Along the way I stopped at Yanco and met a Simpson's Python, who was lost like myself. He hissed at me and said "Where are you going?"

"I am making my way to Barren Box swamp." I replied.



“It’s getting dark, would you like to come inside for the night?” asked the python.

So I decided to stay with the old Simpson’s python. The python had rat soup topped with rat’s tail. I had carp fish and mussel soup. After dinner he led me to my room. I knew he was up to no good. He closed the door behind himself whispering, “I’m up for seconds,” licking his lips.





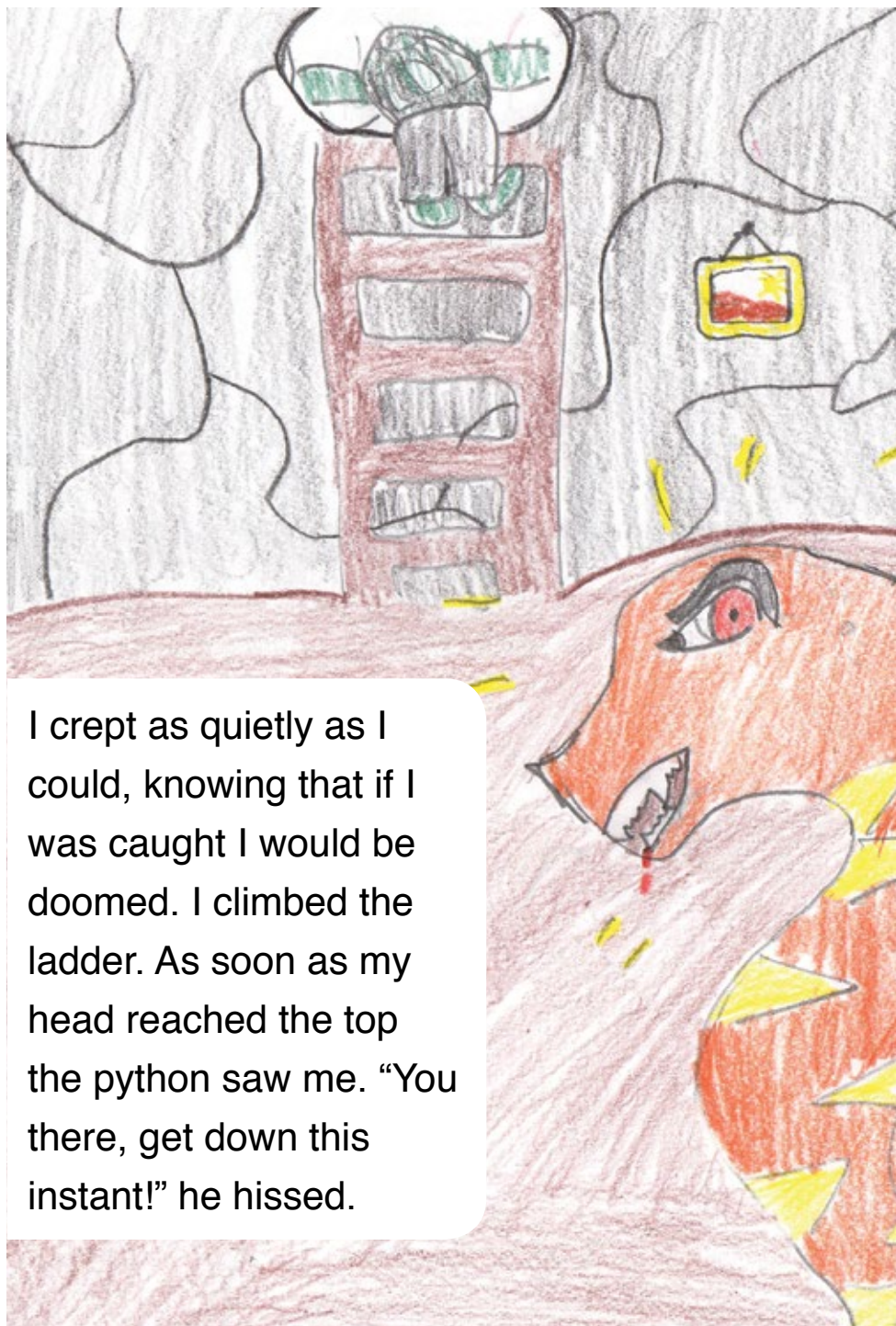
I was scared. I searched for a way out but found nothing. I stayed awake till my eye lids couldn't stay open any longer.

Then I heard a noise, like someone moving pots. I peeped through the hole in the door. He was chopping up carrots, potatoes and making bread. I panicked, I didn't know what to do. Just when I thought all hope was lost, I noticed there was a key under the rug.





I quietly unlocked the door and crept towards the kitchen table. I noticed that above the kitchen, there was the hatch. I needed a distraction, so I picked up a rock and threw it across the room. He hissed very strongly “Who’s there?” yelled the python.



I crept as quietly as I could, knowing that if I was caught I would be doomed. I climbed the ladder. As soon as my head reached the top the python saw me. "You there, get down this instant!" he hissed.



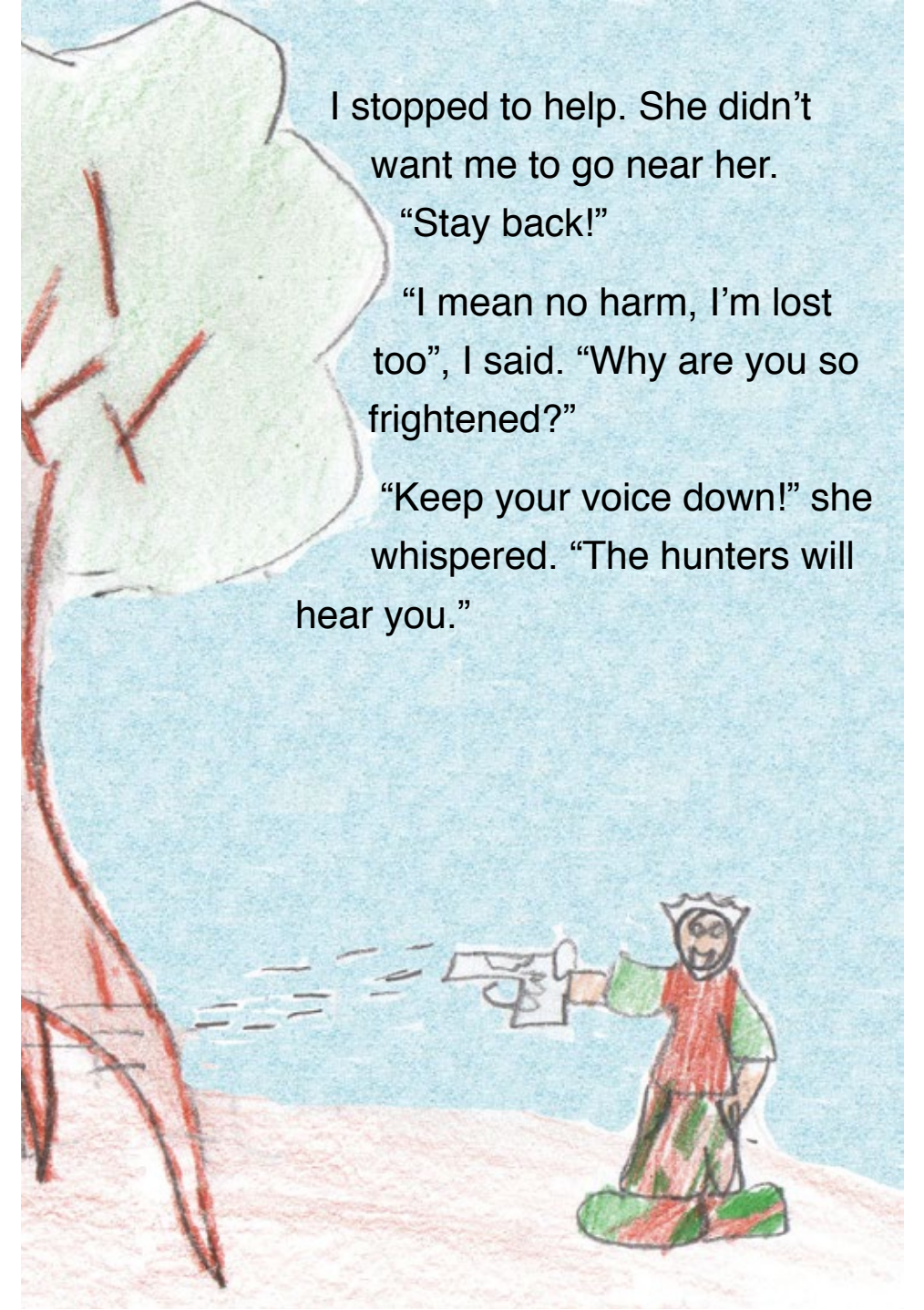


I ran into the water and swam. The python hissed. I swam and swam and swam until I got to Gogelderie Weir.

There I met an Emu who looked lost and worried.







I stopped to help. She didn't  
want me to go near her.

"Stay back!"

"I mean no harm, I'm lost  
too", I said. "Why are you so  
frightened?"

"Keep your voice down!" she  
whispered. "The hunters will  
hear you."

“Maybe we can help each other,” I suggested. “No way, I can’t trust you!” replied the emu.

BANG! BANG! BANG! “There it is, get her!” shouted the hunters.

I jumped onto the emu’s back and she ran like the wind. Bullets were flying everywhere, hitting trees and branches around us.

“Hold on tight!” she yelled and leaped into the air. The hunters disappeared.

“You can stop now. You know you’re pretty fast for an emu.”

“The names Speedo,” replied the emu. “I used to be an all time emu champion for the Skippy family.”







“Wait, I have an idea.” I said, “ I’ll swim in the water and you run on the land and that way we will get to Barren Box faster.”

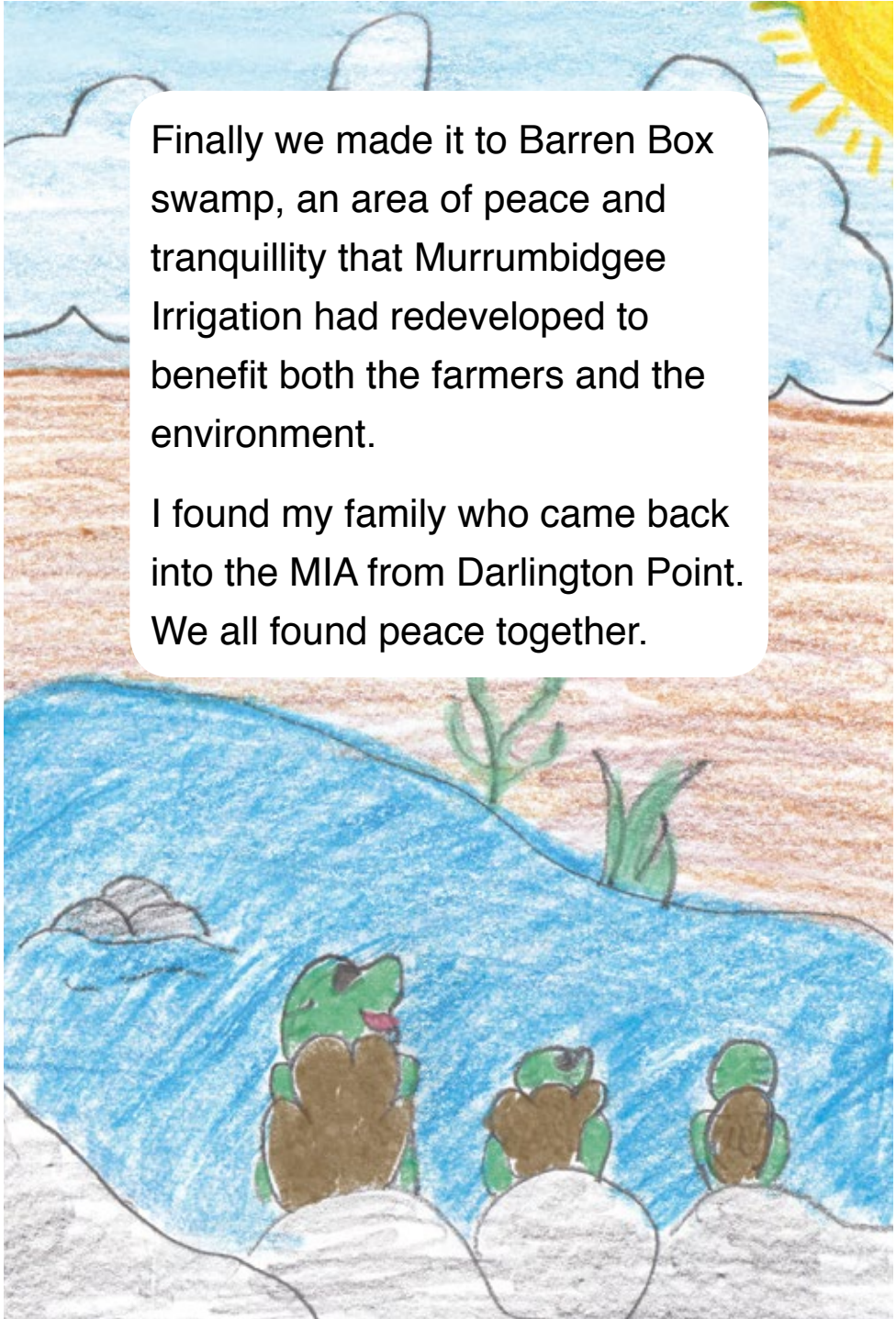
“Ok, that’s a good idea, but we’ll have to go down the Sturt Canal and past Griffith then to Barren Box swamp,” replied Speedo.



So we set out to find Barren Box.

I swam past a family of Water Rats and Murray cods and even met some other friends, Wally Wallaby and Edna the Echidna. I waved up at some koalas munching in their gum trees.

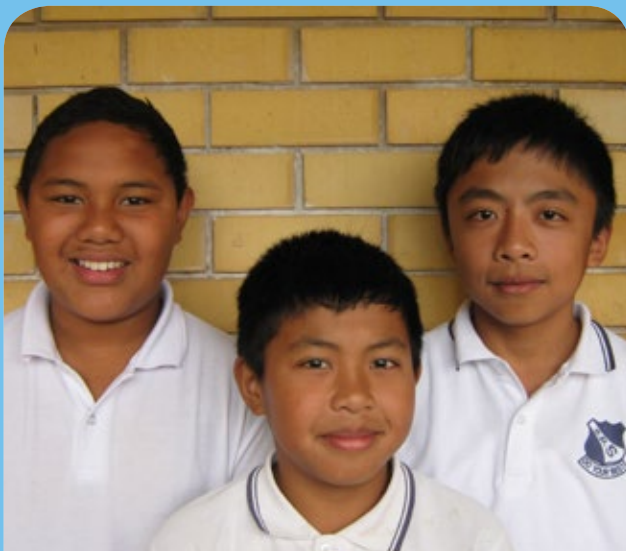




Finally we made it to Barren Box swamp, an area of peace and tranquillity that Murrumbidgee Irrigation had redeveloped to benefit both the farmers and the environment.

I found my family who came back into the MIA from Darlington Point. We all found peace together.





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