

Bobby and Alex's new place to call home



Tessa Pymont and Sophie Cowan
Forbes Public School

Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2013, the “Save Our Species” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about threatened species. This program was sponsored by the Central West and Lachlan Catchment Management Authorities.

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Lachlan Catchment Management Authority

At the Lachlan CMA we work to achieve balance between productive and natural landscapes. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales and in the heart of Wiradjuri Country.

www.lachlan.cma.nsw.gov.au

Bobby and Alex's new place to call home

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This "Save Our Species" Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- The Purple Copper Butterfly
- The Dying Forest
- Jimmy the Jacky Dragon
- Brushy the Squirrel Glider
- Save Our Friends

Sponsored by Lachlan CMA

- Bobby and Alex's new place to call home
- The Survival of Bob the Frog
- Kevin the Baby Koala
- The Adventures of Squirt the Malleefowl
- Mia the Malleefowl's Rescue

ISBN: 978-0-7313-3616-6

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

Graphic design by PeeKdesigns, www.peekdesigns.com.au

Printed by Greenridge Press, www.greenridgepress.com.au

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Citation: Pymont, T. and Cowan, S. 2013. *Bobby and Alex's new place to call home*. Lachlan Catchment Management Authority, NSW.

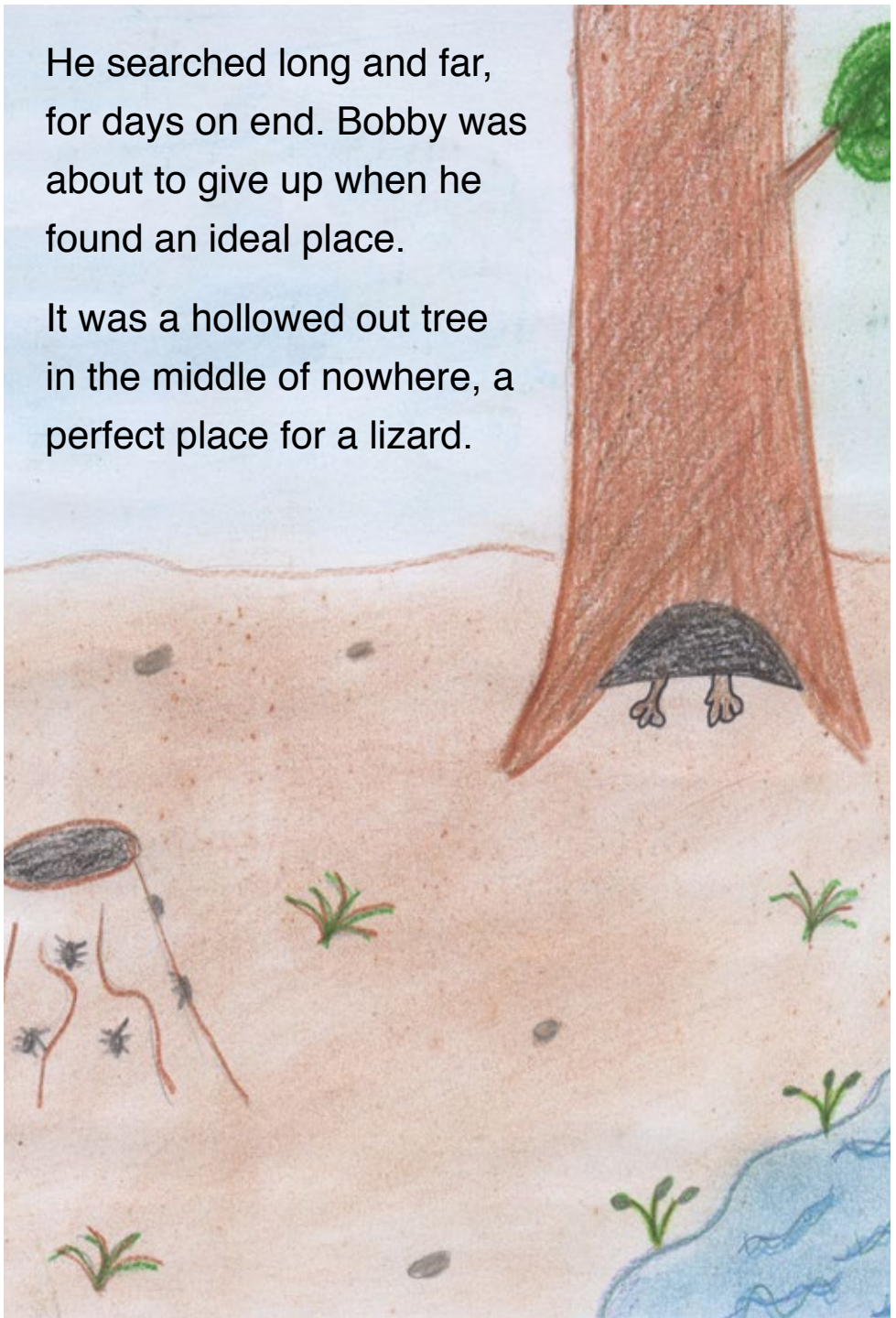


One hot afternoon, on the outskirts of Forbes, Bobby the Western blue-tongued lizard sat in the cool shade of a gum tree trying to escape the blazing heat.

He stared out across the beautiful bushland, looking to find a new home.

He searched long and far,
for days on end. Bobby was
about to give up when he
found an ideal place.

It was a hollowed out tree
in the middle of nowhere, a
perfect place for a lizard.





Bobby loved his new home. It was brilliant!
There were insects and native plants
everywhere that he could eat.

He decided the only thing it was missing was
that he had not seen any other animals.



Bobby called out as loud as he could. “Hello! Is there anybody out there? Hello!”

He waited and waited and then all of a sudden another lizard popped out from behind a bush.



Bobby was shocked the other lizard looked just like him. The only difference was that the other lizard was different shade of brown, a lighter colour than Bobby.

He was an Eastern blue-tongued lizard. His name was Alex.



Alex's species, the Eastern blue-tongued lizard, are common around this area.

Bobby's species, the Western blue-tongued lizard, is a threatened species. This means there are not as many left in the wild.



Bobby told Alex about how he had just moved to the area yesterday because his home had been destroyed. People came and cut down the trees and cleared the bush to build houses. They destroyed his home!

Alex felt sorry for Bobby and told him that he had an unfortunate story too.



Alex went on to tell Bobby how he got caught up in a lawn mower and his foot got chopped up.

“Luckily a kind lady helped me recover and then dropped me off here,” Alex explained.

“This is a wonderful place and I’ve been here ever since.”



The lizards kept talking about their experiences and adventures until sundown. Bobby was relieved he actually found someone nice to talk to. That night, Bobby had a great sleep, as he knew he had made a new friend.



The following day a loud noise woke them up. They ran out to see what all of the racket was.

“What is that awful noise?” questioned Alex.

Bobby replied, “Oh no! That’s a bulldozer. It was one of those that destroyed my old home.”



“We can’t let this happen here. We have to make a plan to stop this destruction,” said Bobby. “Do you have any ideas?”

“I know lots of animals around this area. I know koalas and lizards and snakes and kangaroos and wallabies and birds and bats and frogs and so many more,” Alex replied.

“Maybe they could help us stop the bulldozer.”



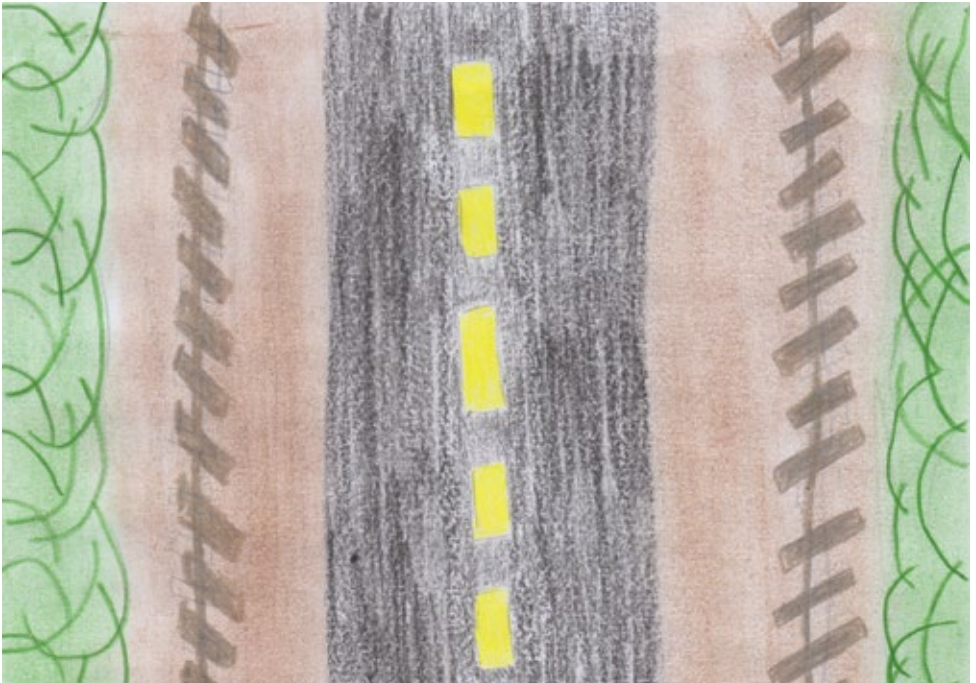
So Bobby and Alex walked for kilometres through the bushland, calling out to the other animals.

Alex yelled out, “Hey guys, it’s Alex. Please come, I need your help to save our homes.”

Slowly but surely, out of the bush came a flock of animals. There were hundreds of them.

The animals charged back to Bobby and Alex's habitat. The people were starting to clear it as they were constructing a road through the area.

The animals all spread out across the bushland to stop the destruction.



When people clear land to build roads or other structures it is called habitat fragmentation. The habitat is split in half and the animals cannot move freely through the landscape. This has a negative effect on lots of animals, especially threatened species.

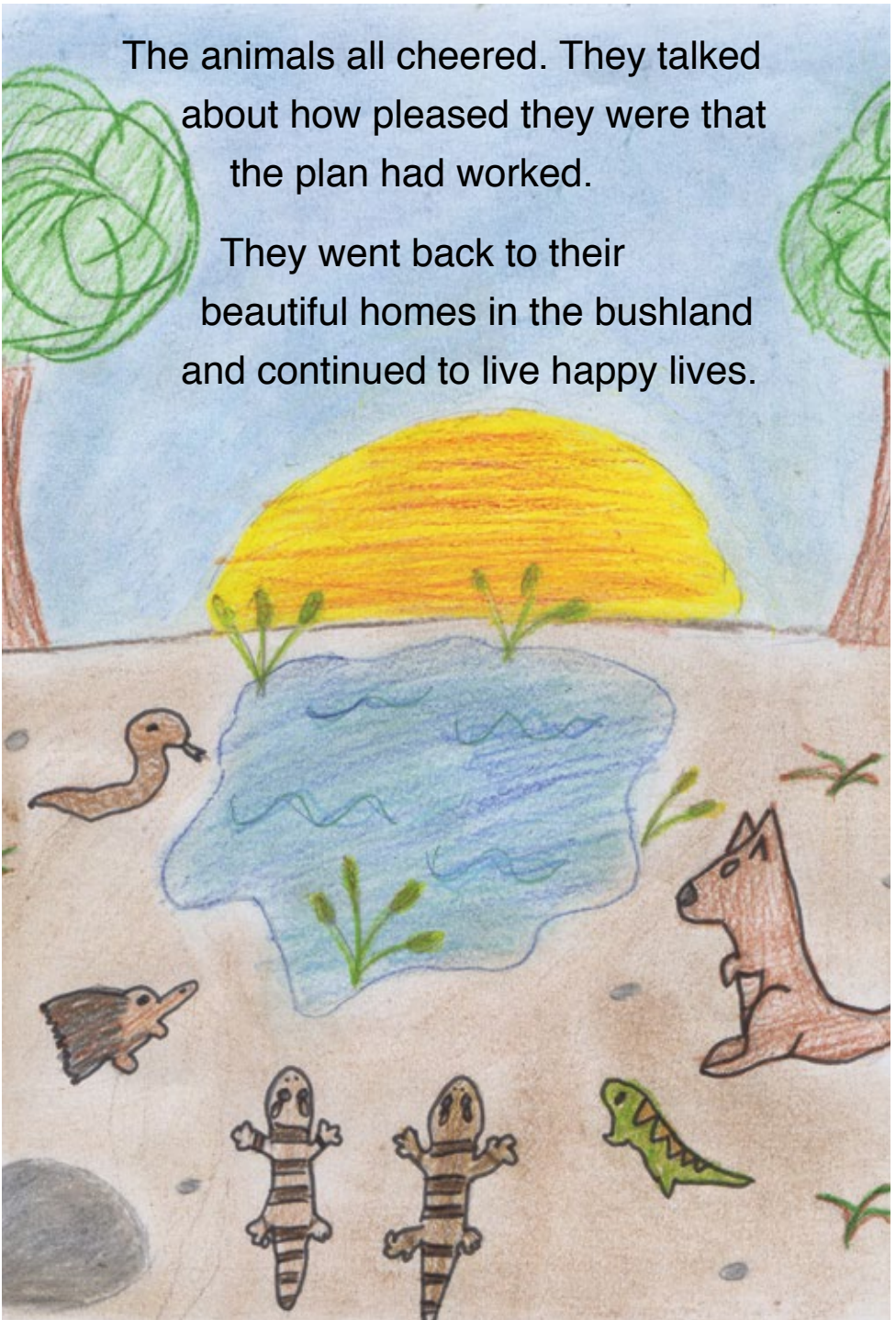
The animals knew they had to work quickly to save their land. They climbed in, on and around the machinery and screeched and yelled chanting, “SOS! SOS! Save Our Species! Save Our Species! SOS! SOS!”



The bulldozer stopped and the driver got out. He chatted to the other humans and they inspected the area more carefully. They decided that there were so many animals here that perhaps they should stop putting in the road. They all hopped into their vehicles and left.

The animals all cheered. They talked about how pleased they were that the plan had worked.

They went back to their beautiful homes in the bushland and continued to live happy lives.





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Forbes Public School, Grade 6 2013



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