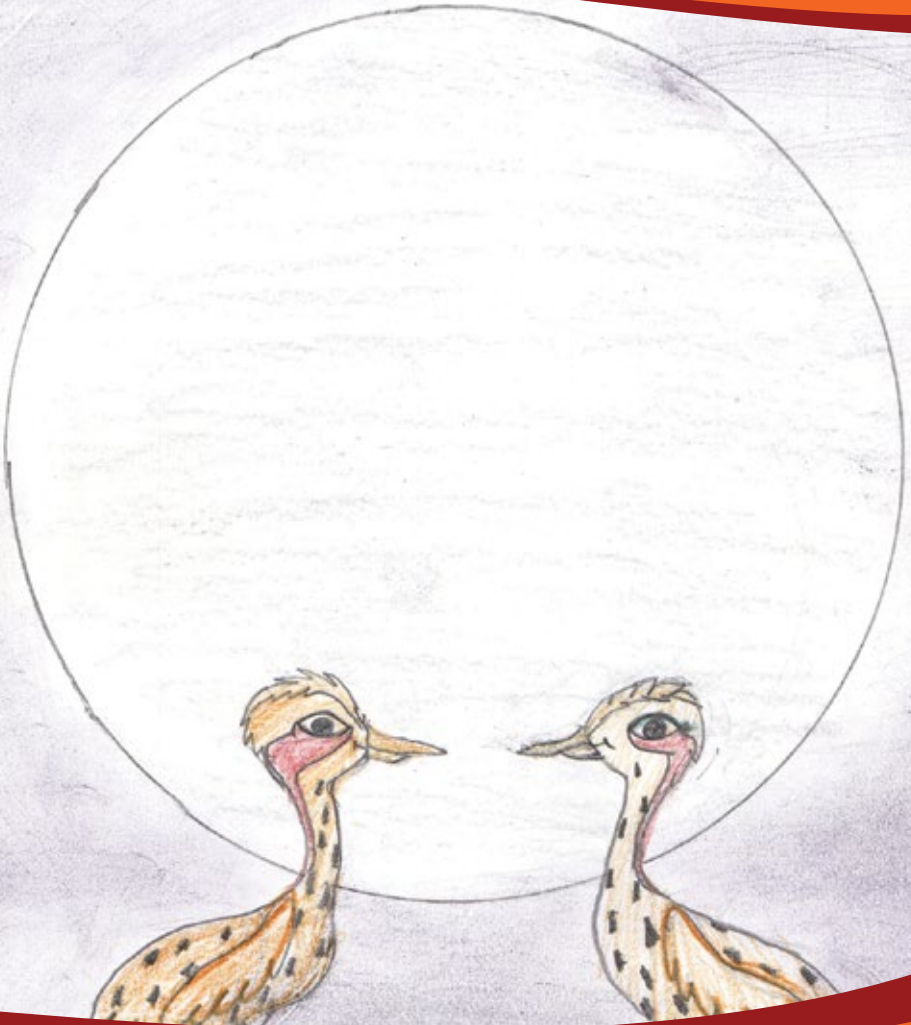


Bonnie and Basil's Baby Chicks



Francesca Smith
Narrabri 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 Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Cotton Australia and the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority.

Cotton Research & Development Corporation

Cotton Research & Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry.

CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

www.crdc.com.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in NSW and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is helping people in our communities look after the land for future generations. The catchment is located in northern NSW, just west of the Great Dividing Range. The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will become Local Land Services in January 2014.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Bonnie and Basil's Baby Chicks

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Teacher: Sue McLeish

School: Narrabri Public School

This "Save Our Species" Enviro-Stories Education Program sponsored by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Cotton Australia and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority consists of the following books:

- Connor the Murray Cod
- Brave Bronte Brolga
- Kipper the Koala finds his home
- Sophie the Bandicoot
- Vanishing Birds
- Bonnie and Basil's Baby Chicks
- The Journey to Safety

ISBN: 978-0-9923758-0-5

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeekKdesigns initiative.

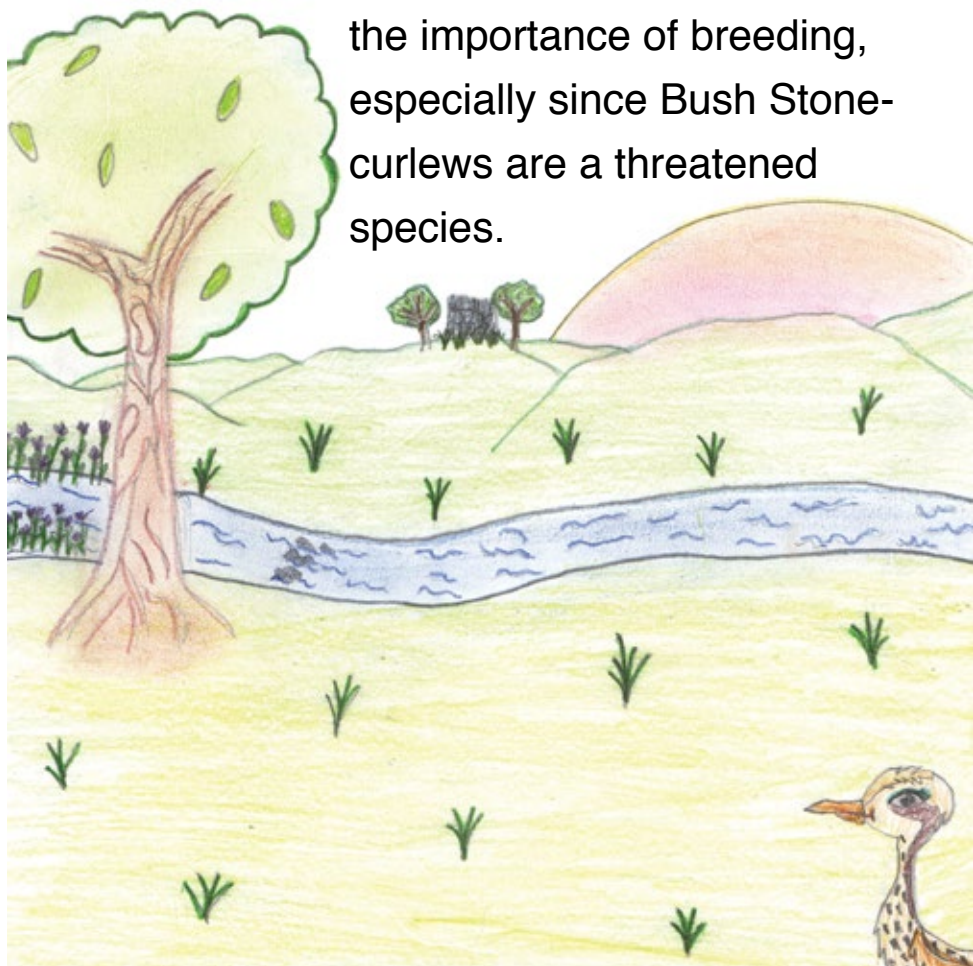
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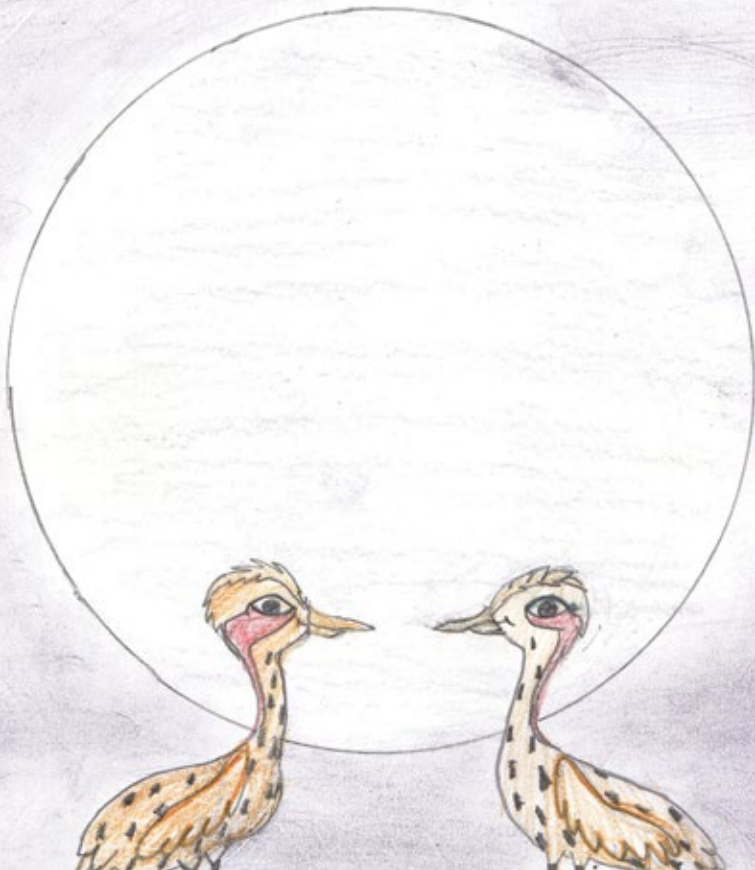
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One cool spring evening Bonnie the Bush Stone-curlew went hunting in the scrub around Narrabri. This was no ordinary evening as it was a bright full moon. Evenings with bright moonlight like this one are always special as it's a chance for Bush Stone-curlews to meet a mate. Bonnie knew the importance of breeding, especially since Bush Stone-curlews are a threatened species.



When Bonnie was out hunting she saw a handsome Bush Stone-curlew dancing in the moonlight. His name was Basil. They fell in love and decided to stay with each other forever. They knew it was their lucky night!





Bonnie was beautiful. She has big yellow eyes and long thin legs. She was very fashionable, because her feathers were grey and we all know that grey is the new black!



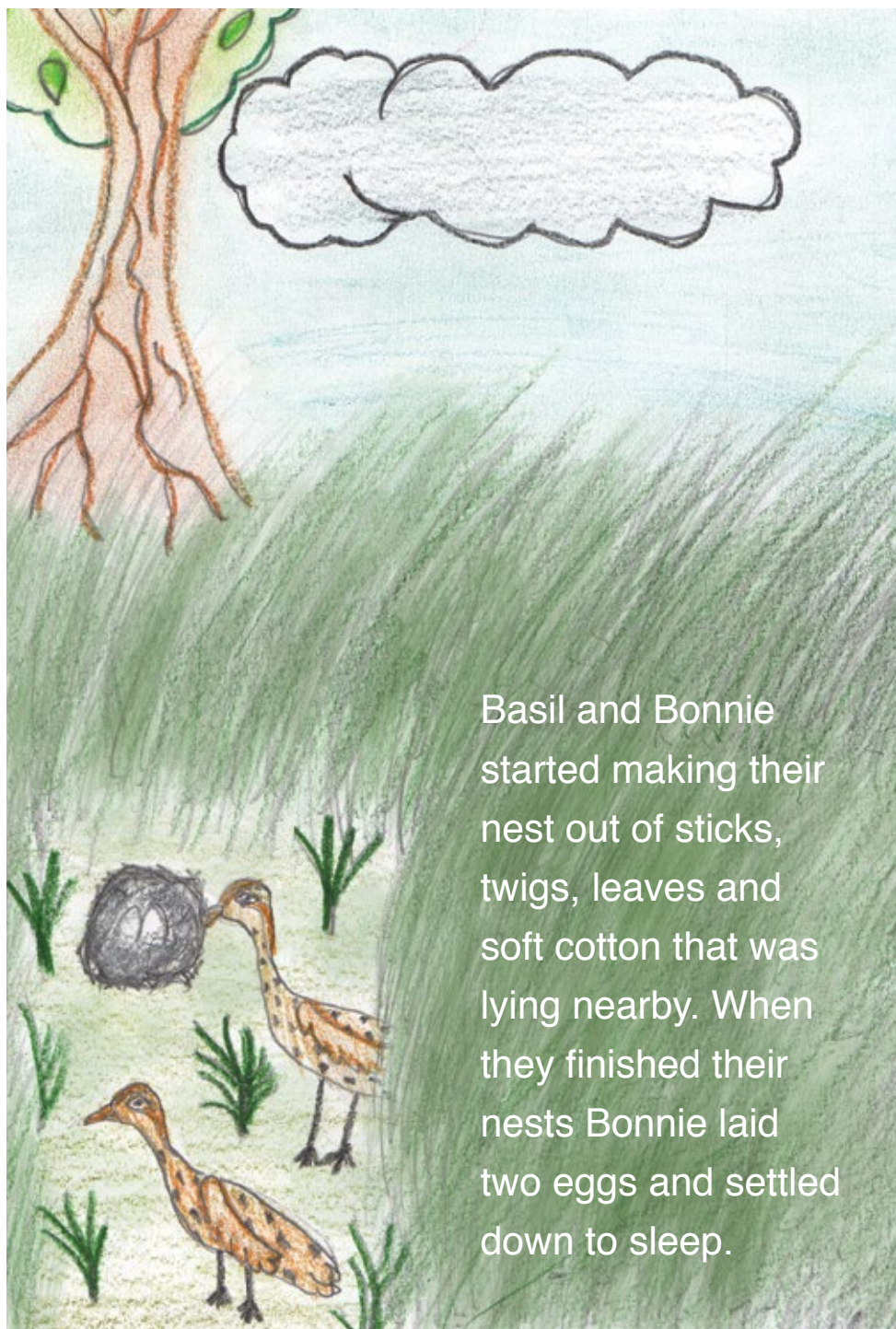
Basil was also very attractive with his big yellow eyes and long thin legs like Bonnie. Basil was Bonnie's prince charming. They were a perfect match for each other.



Basil and Bonnie
decided to start a
family. First they
needed to find a
nice, cosy place for
their new home.

After a day looking they
found something perfect in
amongst tall, shady grass.





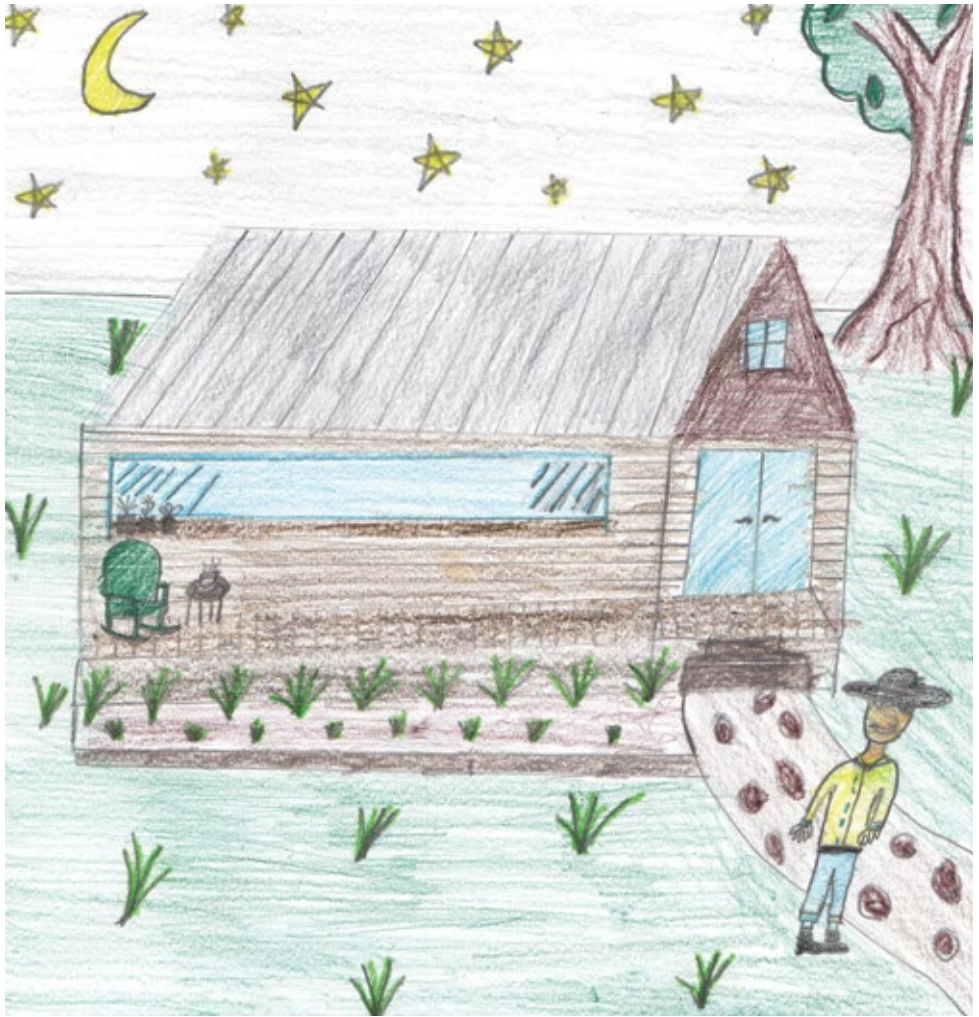
Basil and Bonnie started making their nest out of sticks, twigs, leaves and soft cotton that was lying nearby. When they finished their nests Bonnie laid two eggs and settled down to sleep.

Later that night Bonnie woke up and heard a rustling noise in the bushes. She woke her mate up straight away. Bonnie and Basil started wailing and wailing because they thought something was wrong.



They were right. There was something wrong. In fact there was something very wrong! There was a feral fox hiding in the bushes. The fox was hunting and they thought he was going to eat them!!!



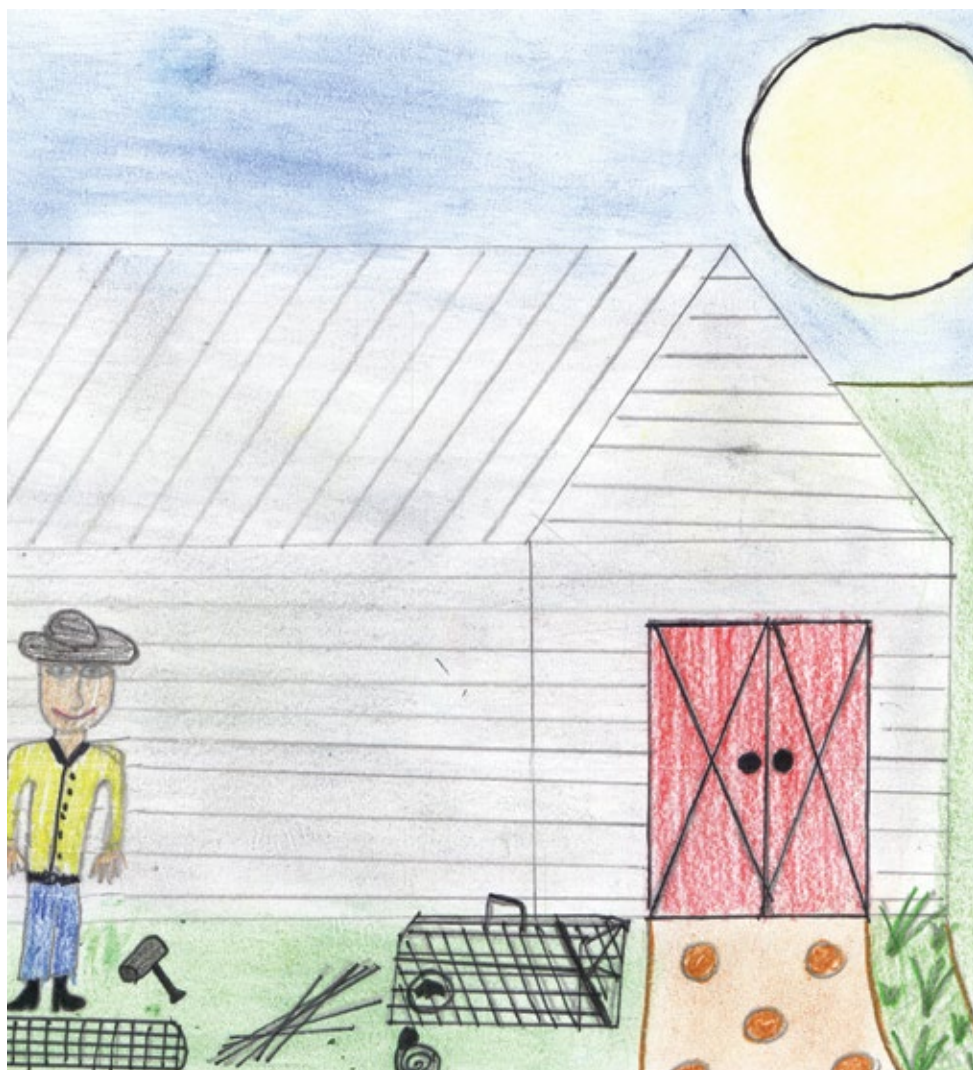


Farmer Lawrence heard Bonnie's and Basil's wail. He loved birds and had just been bird watching on the weekend. He picked the wail as an endangered Bush Stone-curlew right away. He went to investigate what was happening.



Luckily their friend Wedgie, the Wedge-tailed Eagle also heard them and came to their rescue. As soon as Wedgie flew down towards the fox, he sprinted out of sight and out of the paddock.

Lawrence saw the fox and he knew he had to get rid of it. He went back to the house and got some supplies to make a fence. Just to be sure, he also brought along electric wire and a feral animal trap.



Lawrence ran back to the nest and started making the fence. After he had finished all he had to do was to wait.



Two hours later Lawrence the farmer was going to give up when he saw the fox. It sniffed and found the meat in the trap and...SNAP!



The fox was trapped.

Lawrence started cheering because the fox was trapped and Bonnie and Basil's eggs were now safe.





A few weeks later Bonnie was sitting on the eggs when she heard a crack beneath her. She jumped up straight away. Bonnie called out, "Basil, come quickly, the eggs are hatching!"

Right then two adorable baby Bush Stone-curlews peeped out.

Bonnie and Basil were proud parents now and named their two babies Stuart and Shirley. They had done their part to help their species survive. They both hoped that they could continue to have chicks in the years to come.

Farmer Lawrence made very sure that those pesky foxes stayed away!



Authors Story

One day Mum and I had just been on a walk, around our block in Narrabri.

We walked into our drive and I said to Mum, "Look at those two funny birds, with long legs." I started laughing because they had such long legs.

We told Dad that we had seen these funny birds. He went and investigated to see what type of bird they were. Dad told us that they were Bush Stone-curlews and that they were endangered.

Dad works with National Parks in Narrabri, so we took some photos of them and sent them to one of his work friends who studies birds.

Dad's friend Peter told us that he would come to our place to look at the birds. He listed them and told us that they were the only two in Narrabri. We felt very lucky to find them.



Francesca Smith
Narrabri Public School, Grade 5 2013



Australian Government
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation



Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir

