

# Brave Bronte Brolga



Emma Hawkins  
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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Diving Range. The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will become Local Land Services in January 2014.

[www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au)

# Brave Bronte Brolga

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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

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The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

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Bronte the Brolga lived with her family in a water storage on a cotton farm.

They made their home among the reeds that grew close to the bank.

As Bronte was swimming Paul the cotton farmer drove past in his Toyota Ute. As always, all of the Brolgas stopped and stared. Luckily, Paul loved the Brolgas living in his water storage as he knew that they were a threatened species..

Paul had put a lot of effort into planting lots of native species in and around the water storage turning it into a beautiful healthy waterway.





During the day the Brolgas played, fossicking around for frogs and lizards and digging for plant roots and seeds.

At night they huddled together and slept soundly.



One morning they awoke to the shock of their lives. The water level had dropped. If the water storage kept losing water at this rate they would soon be only a small puddle left.

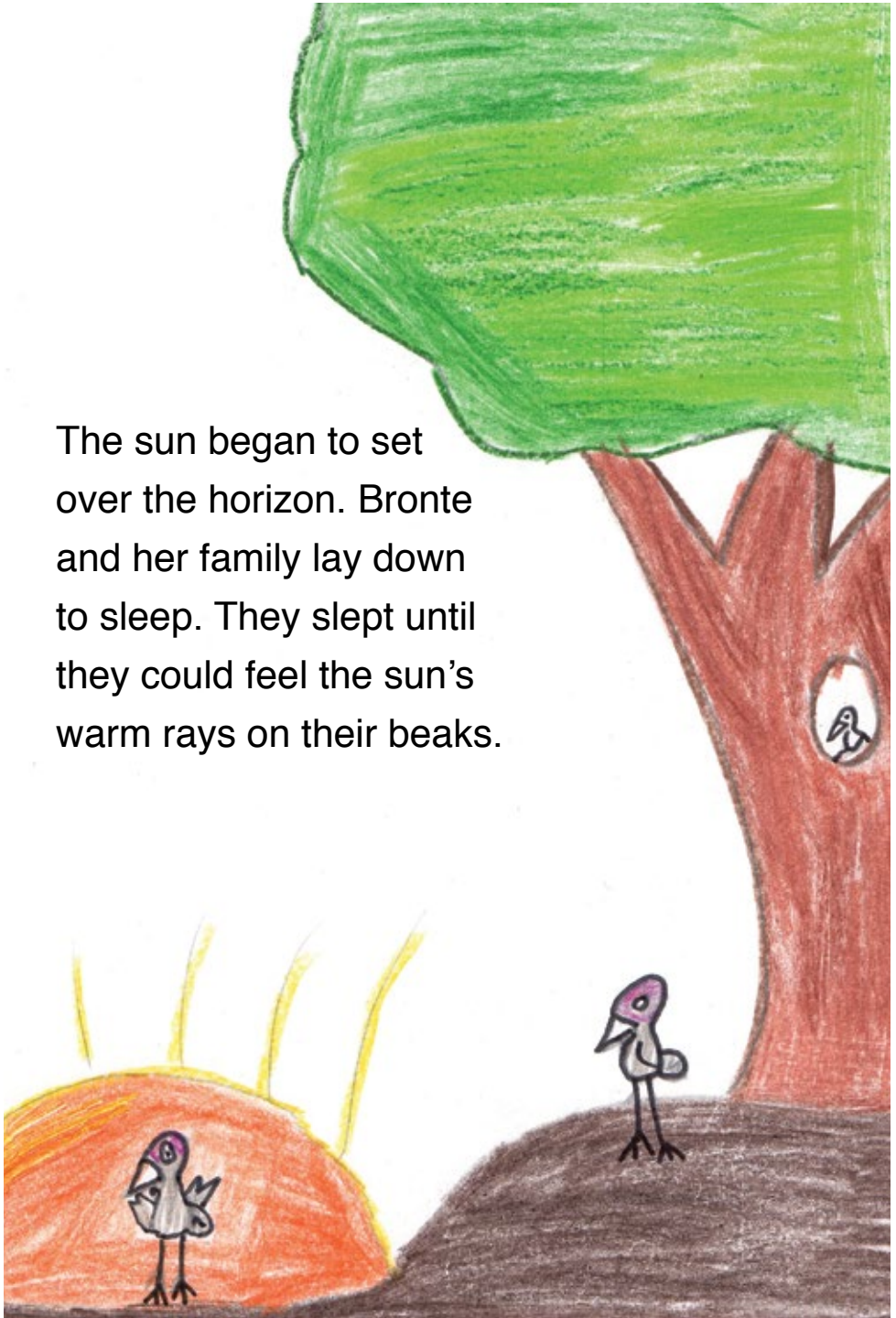


Bronte started to cry and so did all of her brothers and sisters. Bronte led them past the gum tree where the swift parrots lived to find a new home.





The sun began to set over the horizon. Bronte and her family lay down to sleep. They slept until they could feel the sun's warm rays on their beaks.





That morning they found another water storage on the cotton farm. What a relief! They were unaware though that it was home to Ben the Brolga's family. "It's Bronte and her family," cried Ben.





Ben invited Bronte's family to stay the night as long as they could get enough food.

"Look!" said Bessie, the youngest Brolga.



“A fish! A big fish!” she shouted,  
pointing to it. Ben jumped in and  
caught it. It was huge and filled  
everybody’s stomach.



The next day they decided to go for a walk to see whether conditions had improved at Brontes family's old home.

On they walked until they saw a scary dog. They were afraid of him and immediately got ready to fly away.



The dog seemed excited by something but did not seem to want to attack them. It barked, howled and yapped jumping around as if it was trying to tell them something.





Suddenly Paul the farmer drove past and collected his dog.

Paul was excited when he saw the brolgas. He was happy they had come back to his farm. Paul waved to Bronte and pointed towards the water storage. He and his dog were trying to tell them they had fixed the problem.

The brolgas walked on and received the surprise of their lives. Their old water storage home had turned into a dam and was full! They were extremely excited about their home having enough water again.

At that very second the farmer drove past and grinned. Paul had released water to make sure the broлга habitat was healthy and didn't dry out.





That night the brolgas celebrated by inviting Ben and his family to their water storage.

Ben proposed to Bronte. She of course said, "Yes."





The next morning they made their way among the reeds. Bronte and Ben decided there was plenty of water and food for everyone so they would start a family of their own.





Emma Hawkins  
Narrabri Public School, Grade 5 2013



**Australian Government**  
**Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation**



**Catchment Management  
Authority**  
Border Rivers-Gwydir



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