

Brushy the Squirrel Glider



Sophie Cox
The Scots School, Bathurst



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

Brushy the Squirrel Glider

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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

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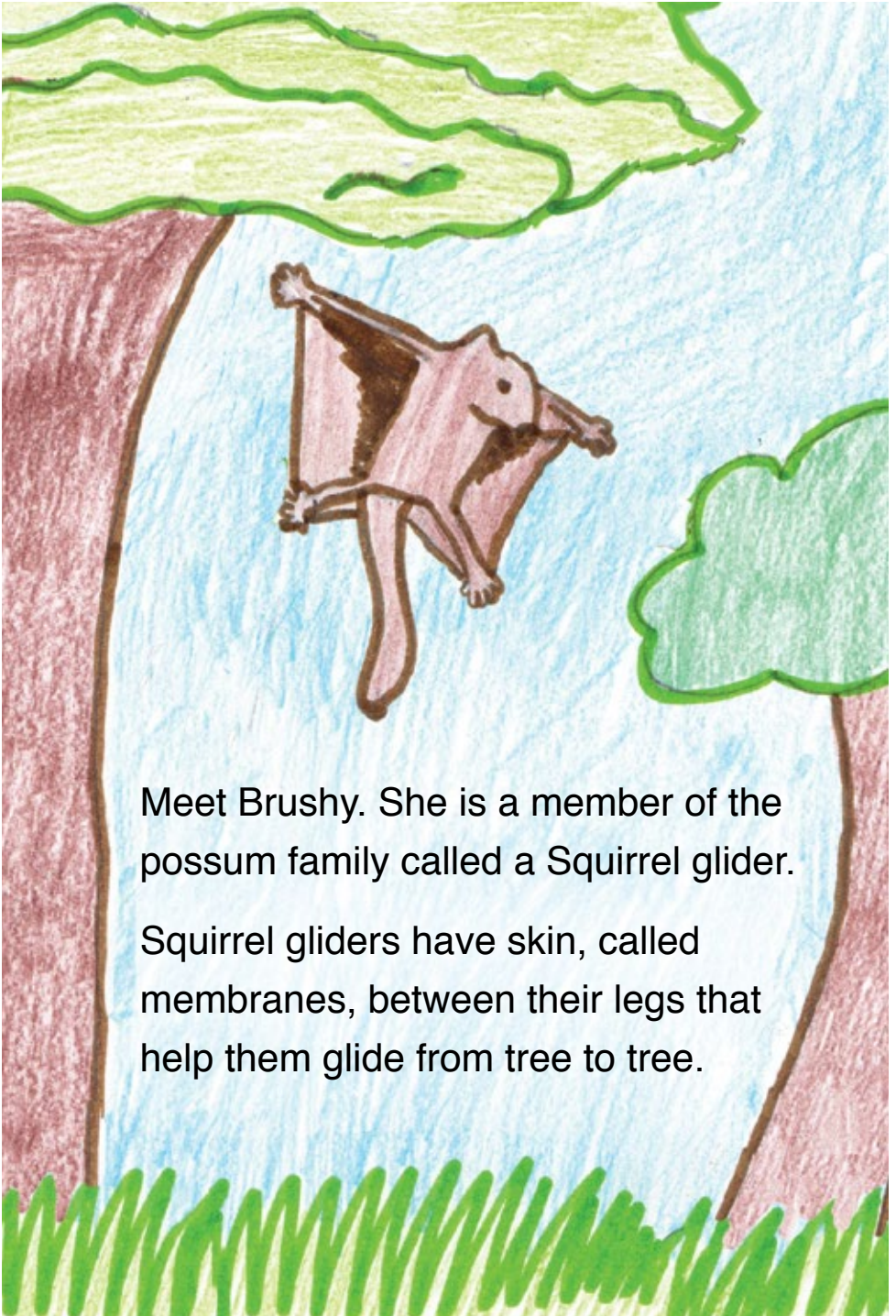
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Meet Brushy. She is a member of the possum family called a Squirrel glider.

Squirrel gliders have skin, called membranes, between their legs that help them glide from tree to tree.

Brushy lives in the Ganguddy bushland, which is near Dunns Swamp. Her home is high up in the trees.





Brushy eats crunchy insects and the nectar from flowers, but her favourite is tree sap or amber.

Her predators include goannas, pythons, owls, cats and kookaburras. She has excellent eyesight, a super nose and clawed feet.



One sunny day in autumn Brushy's cousin, Pepper the Sugar glider, came racing into the hollow of Brushy's tree.

"Monster! A monster came along and ate up my tree!" she yelled.

Squirrel gliders are nocturnal, so they sleep in the day.

“Go back to sleep Pepper,” replied Brushy, who was very cross about being woken up. She squinted under the hot glare of the sun and she sleepily said, “Monsters don’t exist.”

Pepper screamed back at her, “Yes, they do! Look, my tree is gone.”



Brushy was getting very cross about all the fuss. She stuck her head out of her hollow and saw a huge, yellow monster with flashing red eyes and a terrible growl.

Brushy shot out of the tree, terrified.





Brushy spread herself out and took flight and saw many more monsters. She was angry to see her beautiful home becoming burnt and ugly. She saw all her friends running, crawling and flying away in terror.





Brushy and the other squirrel gliders felt safer in the air with the birds. They glided from tree to tree keeping ahead of the monsters.

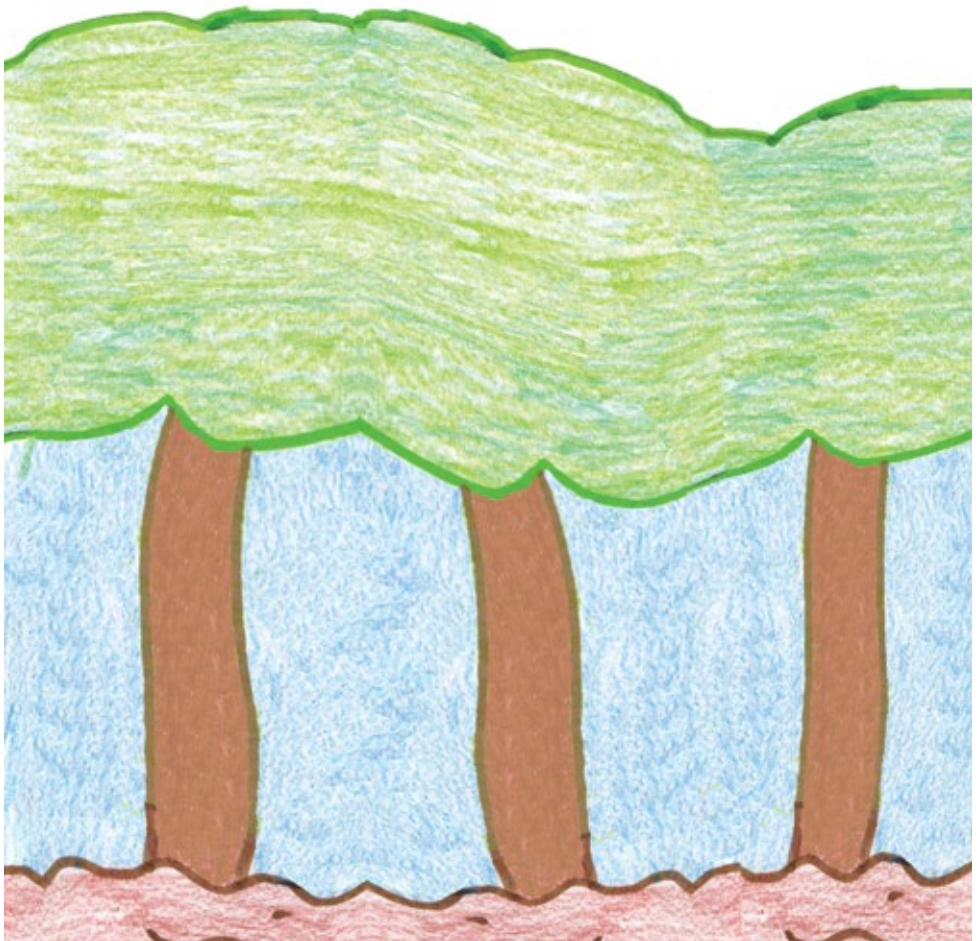
Down below she could see all the other animals running for their lives away from the blazing inferno.

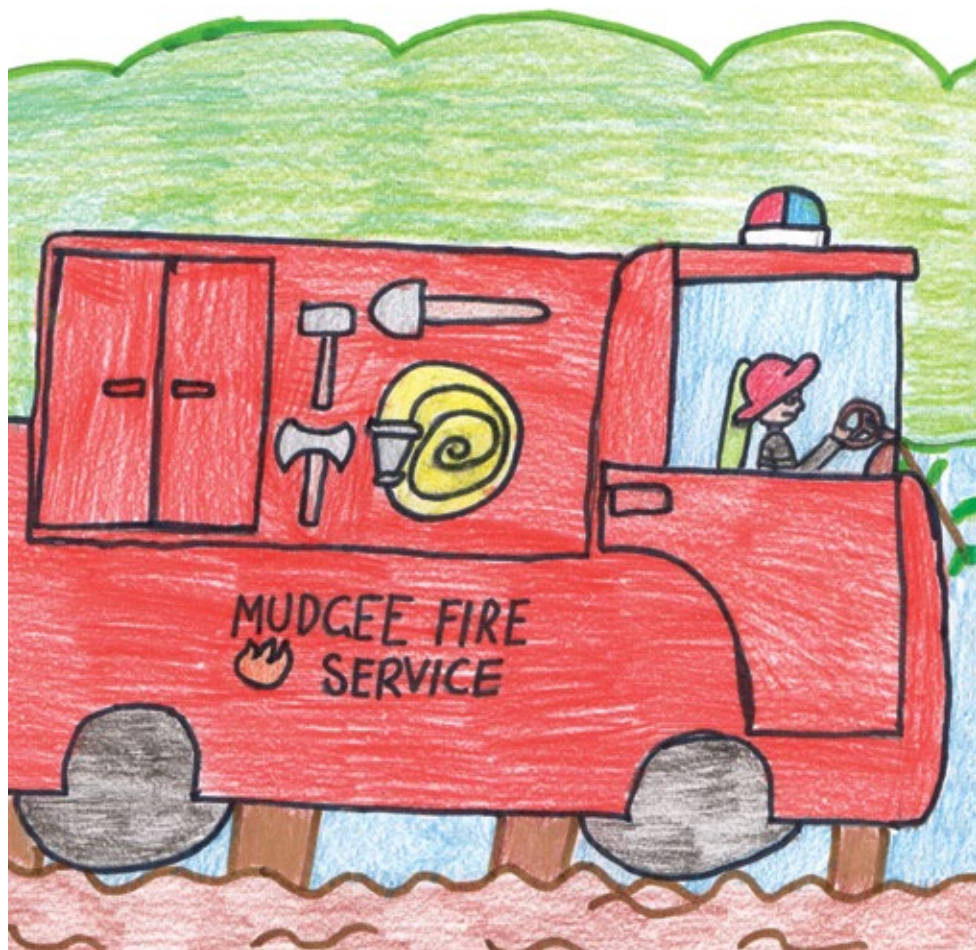
Luckily, a park ranger named Mac Hartley drove past. He was horrified to see so many animals at risk from the burning, blazing bushfire.

Mac pulled out his phone at once and dialed 000 to call the NSW Rural Fire Service. He hoped they could save all the animals and their habitats.

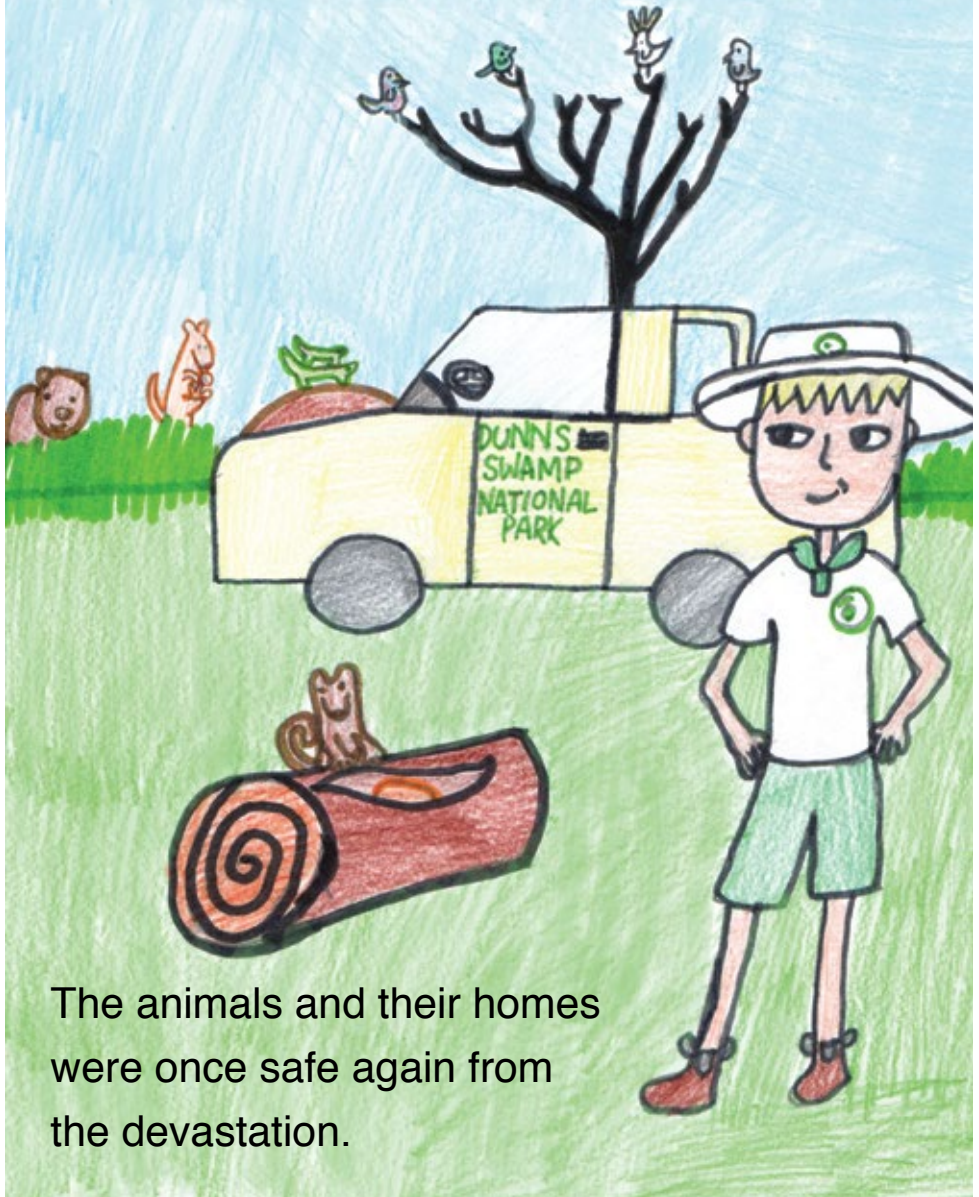


Soon after, sirens could be heard and fire trucks arrived. The bush firefighters turned on their hoses and sprayed torrents of water over the fire. Slowly the flames died down and they put out the fire.



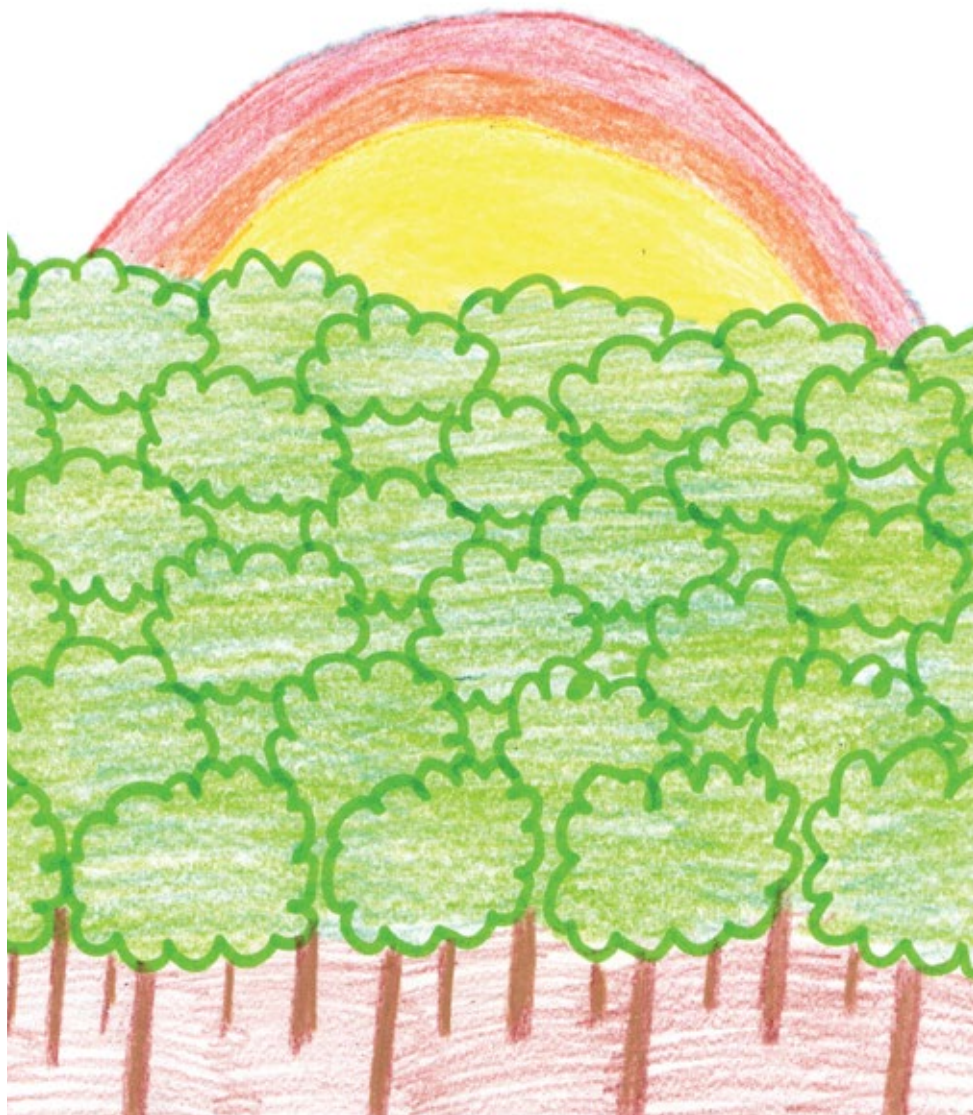


Brushy felt so thankful, that she tore open a log and placed a large, shiny piece of amber at Mac's feet.



The animals and their homes were once safe again from the devastation.

A new dawn rose over Ganguddy
and it was no longer a fireplace,
but a beautiful, lively bushland.





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The Scots School Bathurst, Grade 4 2013



Catchment Management
Authority
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