

# Save Our Friends



Julia Taberner & Justice Robinson  
Borenore 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 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](http://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](http://www.lachlan.cma.nsw.gov.au)

# Save Our Friends

Author: Julia Taberner & Justice Robinson

Teacher: Carol Smithers

School: Borenore Public School

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: 978-0-7313-3622-7

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

Graphic design by PeeKdesigns, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au)

Printed by Greenridge Press, [www.greenridgepress.com.au](http://www.greenridgepress.com.au)

Copyright © 2013 Central West Catchment Management Authority, [www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au)

Citation: Taberner, J. and Robinson, J. 2013. *Save Our Friends*. Central West Catchment Management Authority, NSW.



This book is about the Eastern pygmy possum and the Diamond firetail, which are two very special native Australian animals. We found out they were threatened species and decided we would like to learn about them.

We hope you like our report and find it very interesting.

# Eastern pygmy possum



The Eastern pygmy possum has reddish brown hair, a white belly and a short pointed face with big ears and eyes. It has soft fur all over its body but has a naked tail.

These possums are very agile and can easily move around on small, thin branches. They make a noise that sounds like a high-pitched whistle.



# Eastern pygmy possum



## Habitat

The Eastern pygmy possum is found in south eastern Australia including Tasmania. They prefer to live in dry sclerophyll forests made up of woody types of plants like eucalypts and wattles.

They shelter in hollow trees, which they line with leaves. Sometimes they also sleep in abandoned bird's nests.

# Eastern pygmy possum

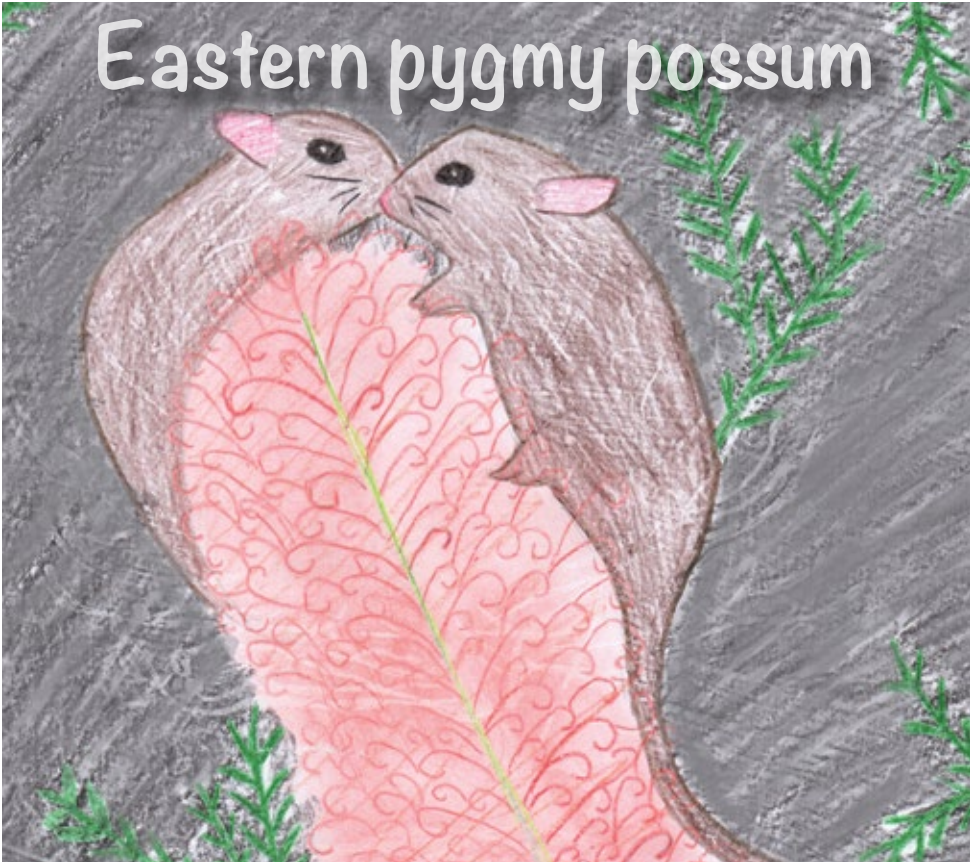


## Diet

The Eastern pygmy possum is a nocturnal feeder. This means that they are active at night and sleep during the day.

They eat small invertebrates (insects), nectar, fruit and pollen.

# Eastern pygmy possum



## Breeding

Eastern pygmy possums breed during the spring and summer months. They usually have two litters a year but sometimes have three if food is plentiful.

They usually produce four young. The babies mature at about six weeks and can survive after this on their own.



# Eastern pygmy possum



## Threats

The main threat to the Eastern pygmy possum is loss of habitat. This happens through urbanisation (spreading cities and towns), forestry and clearing lands for farming.

Introduced animals like feral cats and foxes are also a major threat to these possums bringing them closer to extinction.



## What is being done to help?

- Research on the known population groups
- Monitoring of these populations
- Protecting known habitat areas
- Educating the community and making them aware of ways to preserve their environment

# Diamond firetail



The Diamond firetail is a special bird that is a threatened species. They are a beautiful black, red and white bird that is a type of finch.





## Description

The Diamond firetail's can grow to a length of 10 to 12 centimetres and weighs around 17 grams.

They have a small orange beak, pure red eyes and a grey to brown back and wings. A thick black stripe with white dots is found down their sides and they have a beautiful red and navy blue tail.



# Diamond firetail



## Habitat

The Diamond firetail's natural habitat is in the grassy eucalyptus, box gum and snow gum woodlands often in the areas near rivers and creeks. They are found in south eastern Australia, central Queensland and New South Wales.

# Diamond firetail



## Breeding

The Diamond firetail's meet up together in a flock of 6 to 40 individuals during breeding season. They make nests and normally have 3 to 6 young. Their main time to breed is between August and January.

# Diamond firetail



## Diet

The Diamond firetail feeds on things near the ground. The mainly like to eat partly ripe grass, some seeds, green leaves and insects.



# Diamond firetail



## Threats

The main threat to the Diamond firetail finch is the clearing of the native plants and woodlands that make up their habitats.

Weeds, grazing stock and bushfires can severely damage their habitat. Predators, like Pied currawongs, eat their eggs and young.



# Diamond firetail



## What is being done to help?

- Planting more native trees and grasses
- Fencing off habitat areas from grazing stock
- Protecting known habitat sites
- Monitoring and researching populations
- Increasing community awareness



This is the end of our information report. We hope you have learned about these two threatened species and decide to help and support these wonderful creatures.





Julia Taberner & Justice Robinson  
Borenore Public School, Grade 6 & 5 2013



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Central West



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Lachlan