

Sophie the Bandicoot



Montana Carlile, Emma Foster
and Phoebe Oates
Boomi 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 Diving Range. The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will become Local Land Services in January 2014.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Sophie the Bandicoot

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School: Boomi 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

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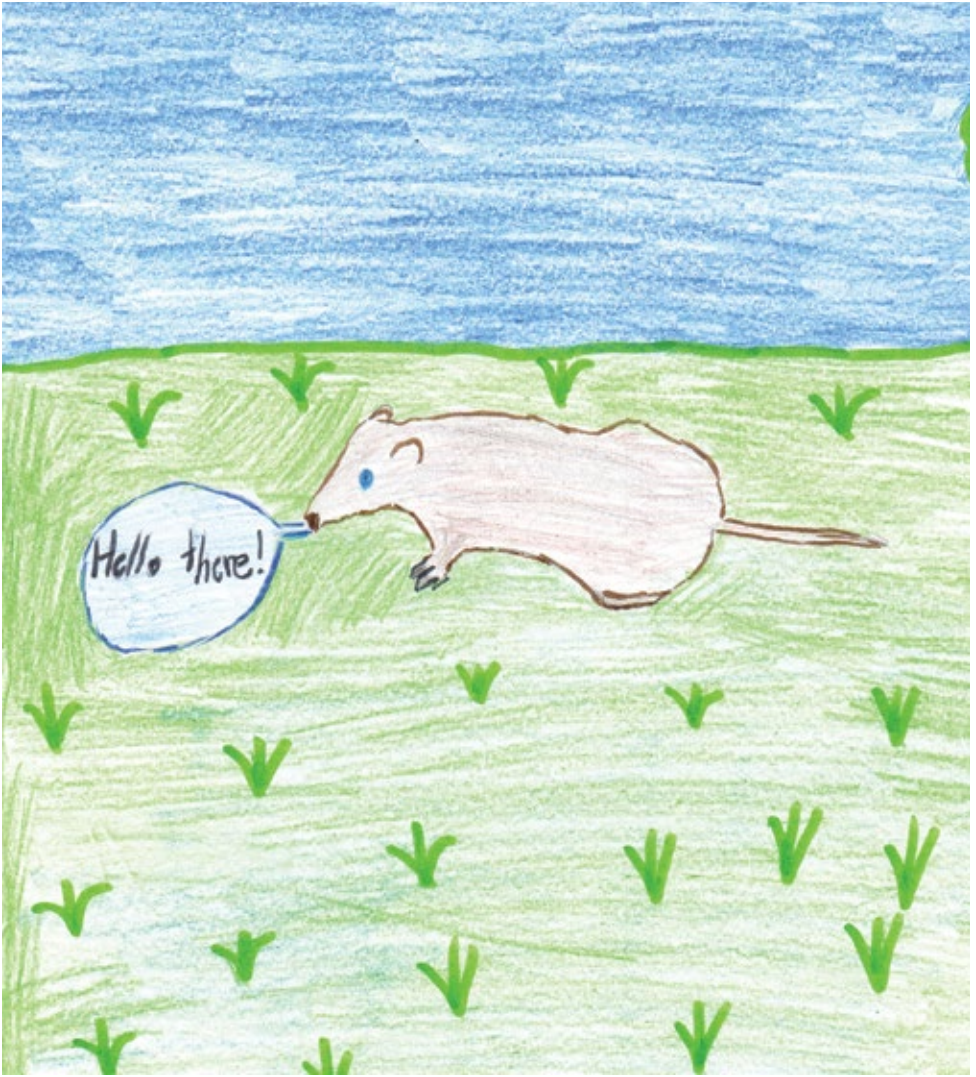
The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

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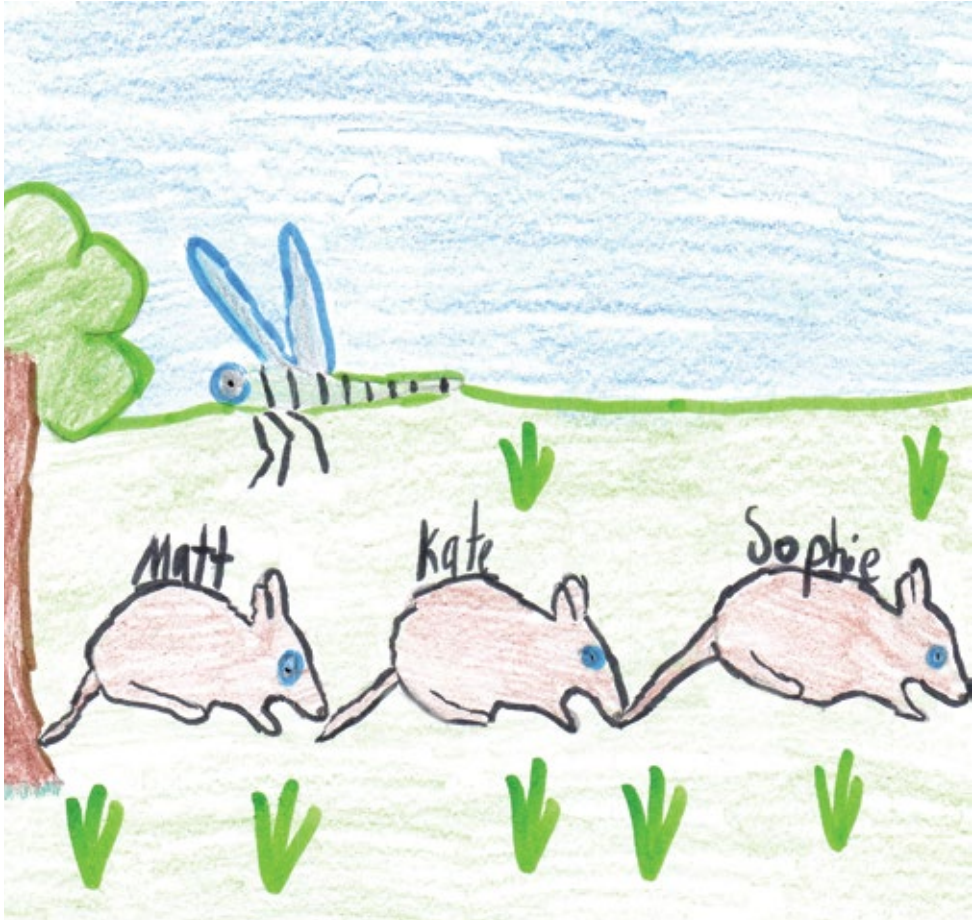
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Hi my name is Sophie. I am a Southern Brown Bandicoot. I am native to Australia and I am endangered.



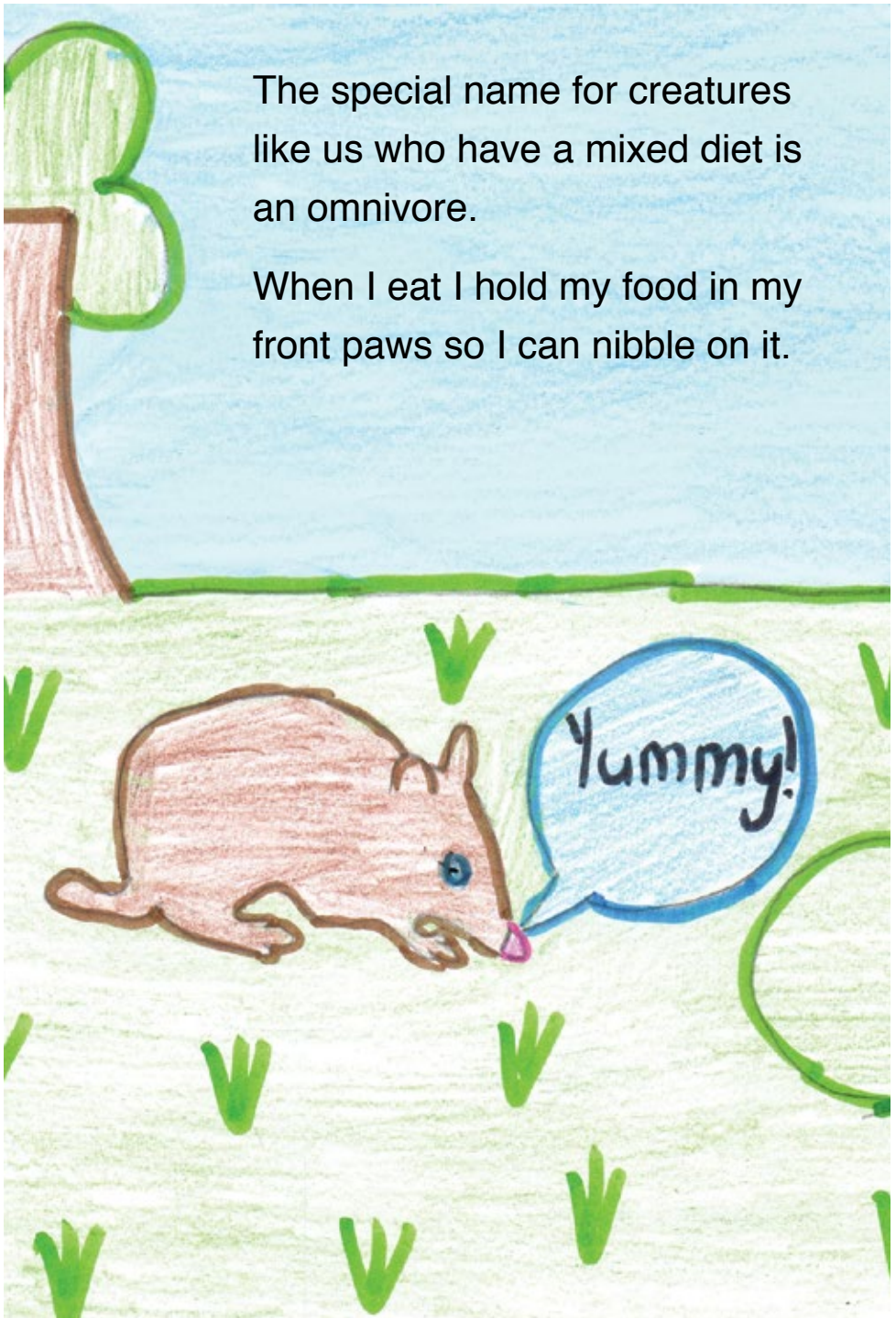
I was abandoned when I was young because an introduced species called a fox killed my mother. Foxes and cats are terrible for the environment because they hunt and kill lots of my species.



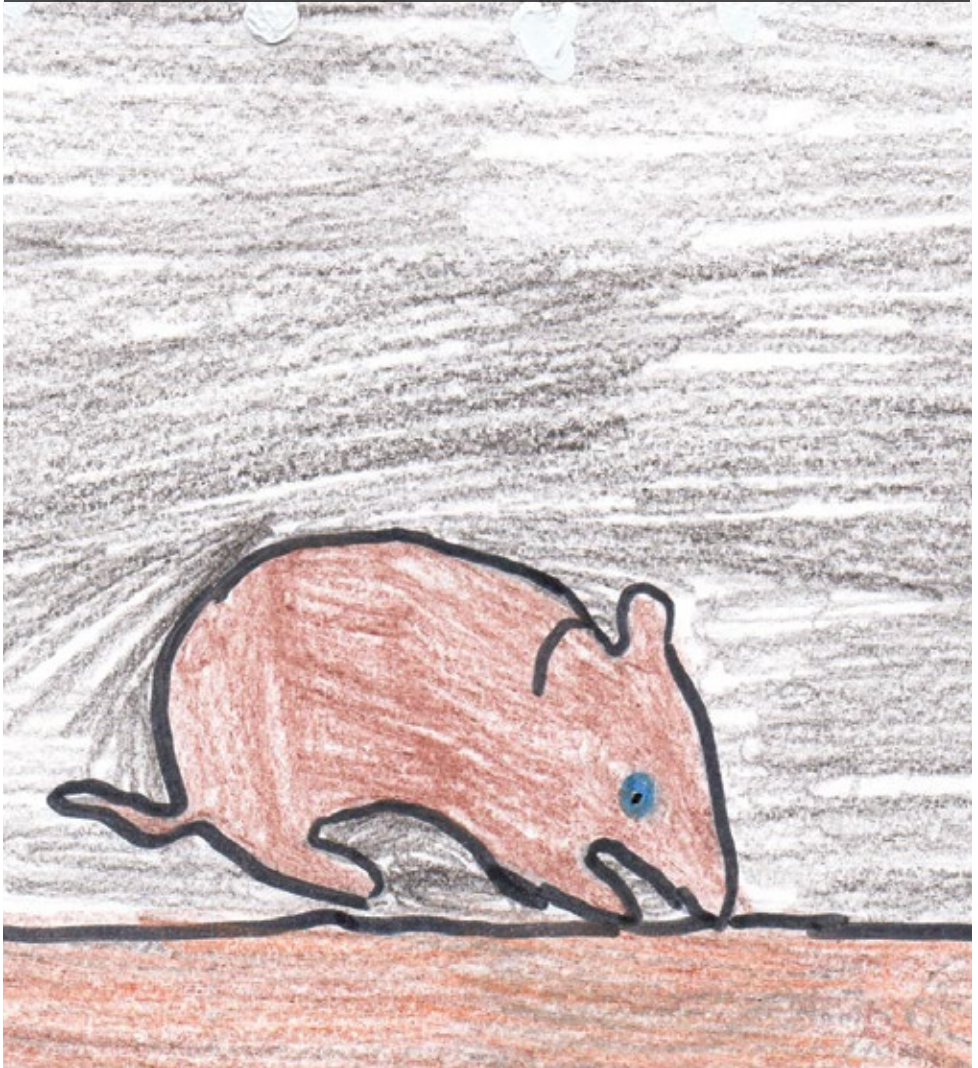
Lucky for me my cousins Matt and Kate have come to live with and take care of me. We enjoy going out and looking for insects, spiders, berries, fungi and juicy earthworms. When looking for food we dig the soil and rummage in fallen leaves.

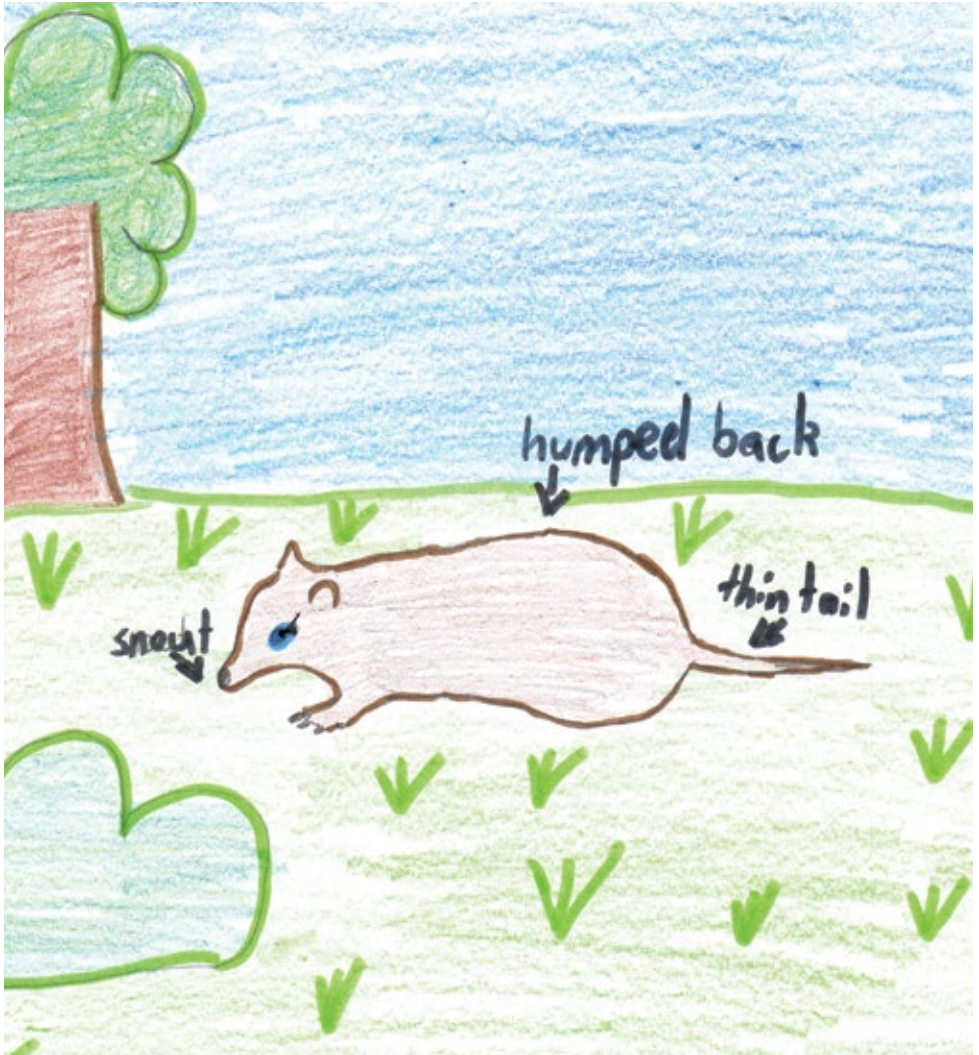
The special name for creatures like us who have a mixed diet is an omnivore.

When I eat I hold my food in my front paws so I can nibble on it.



We are mostly active at night. During the day we usually shelter in our nests that are made up of piles of leaf litter scratched up into a big heap.



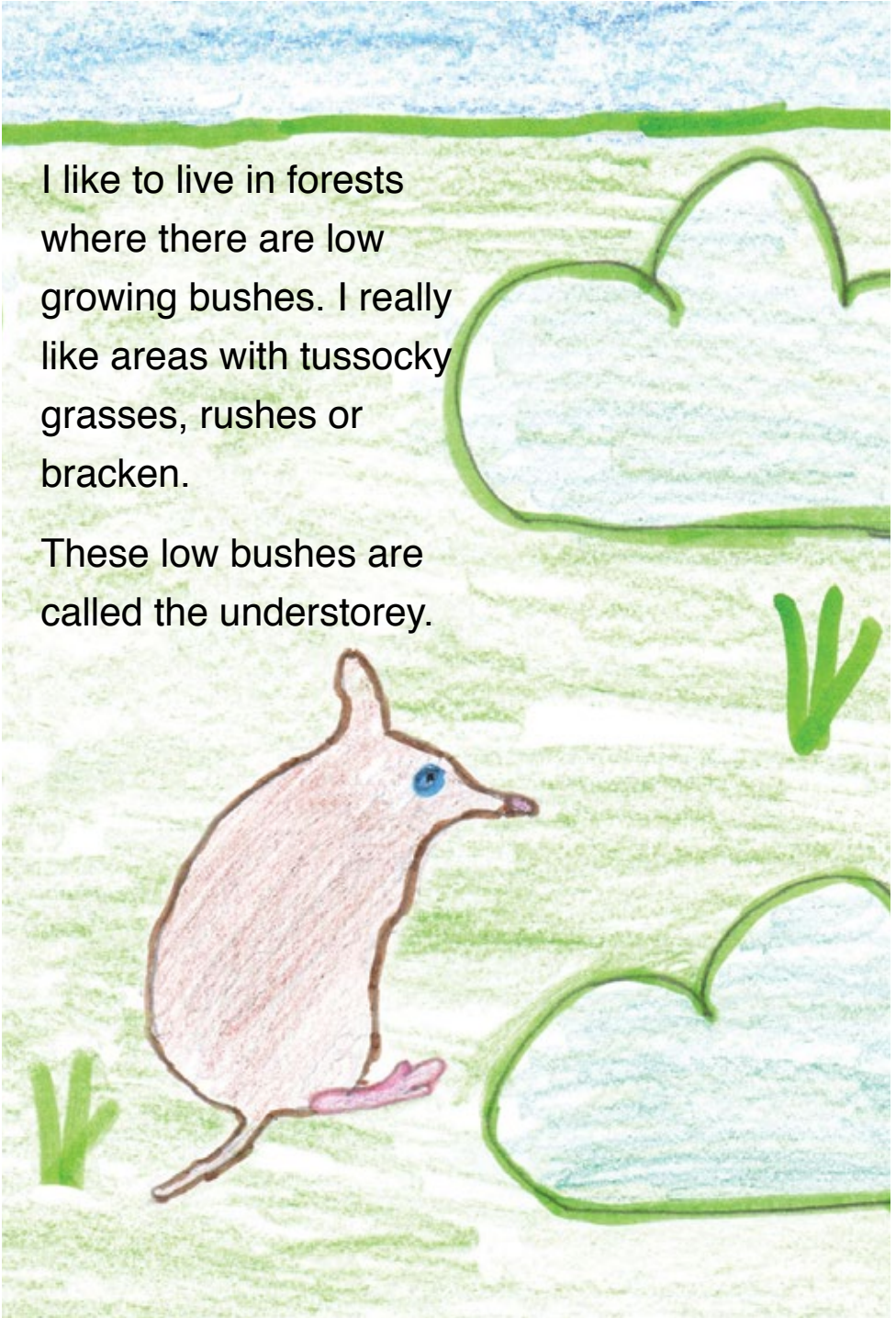


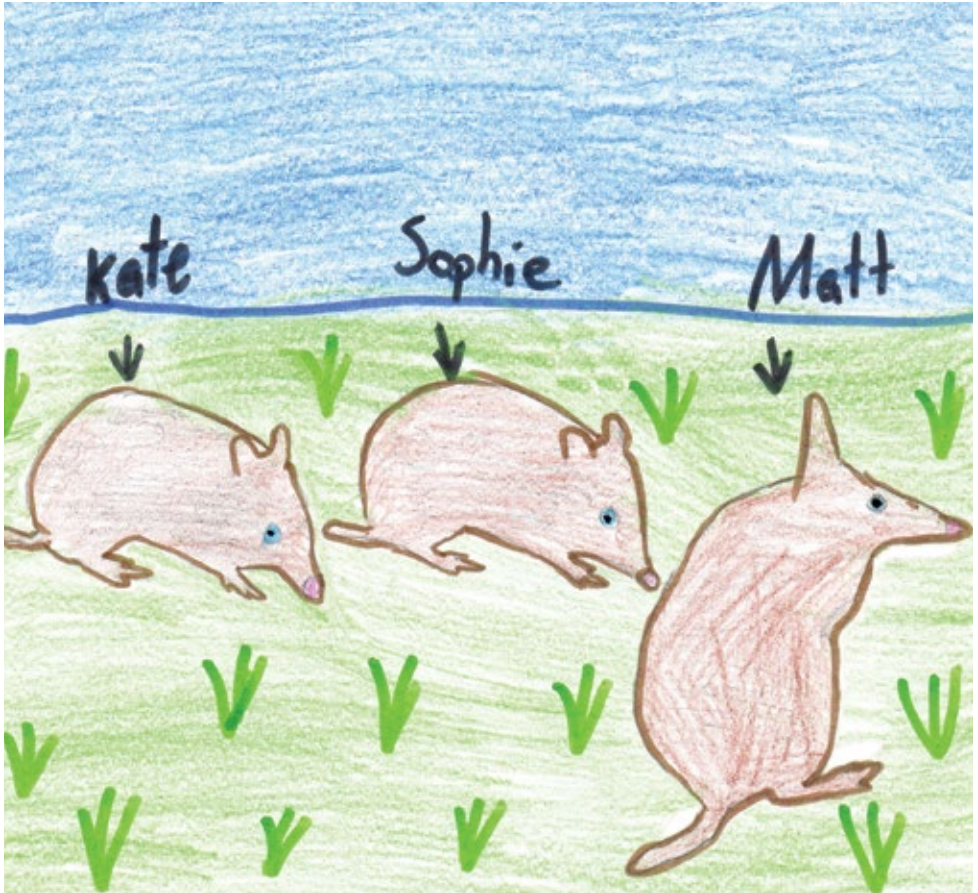
Southern Brown Bandicoots are about the size of a small cat.

We have a pointy snout, humped back and thin tail.

I like to live in forests where there are low growing bushes. I really like areas with tussocky grasses, rushes or bracken.

These low bushes are called the understorey.





A male bandicoot can weigh up to 1850 grams and be 33 centimetres long.

Females can weigh up to 1200 grams and be 30 centimetres long.

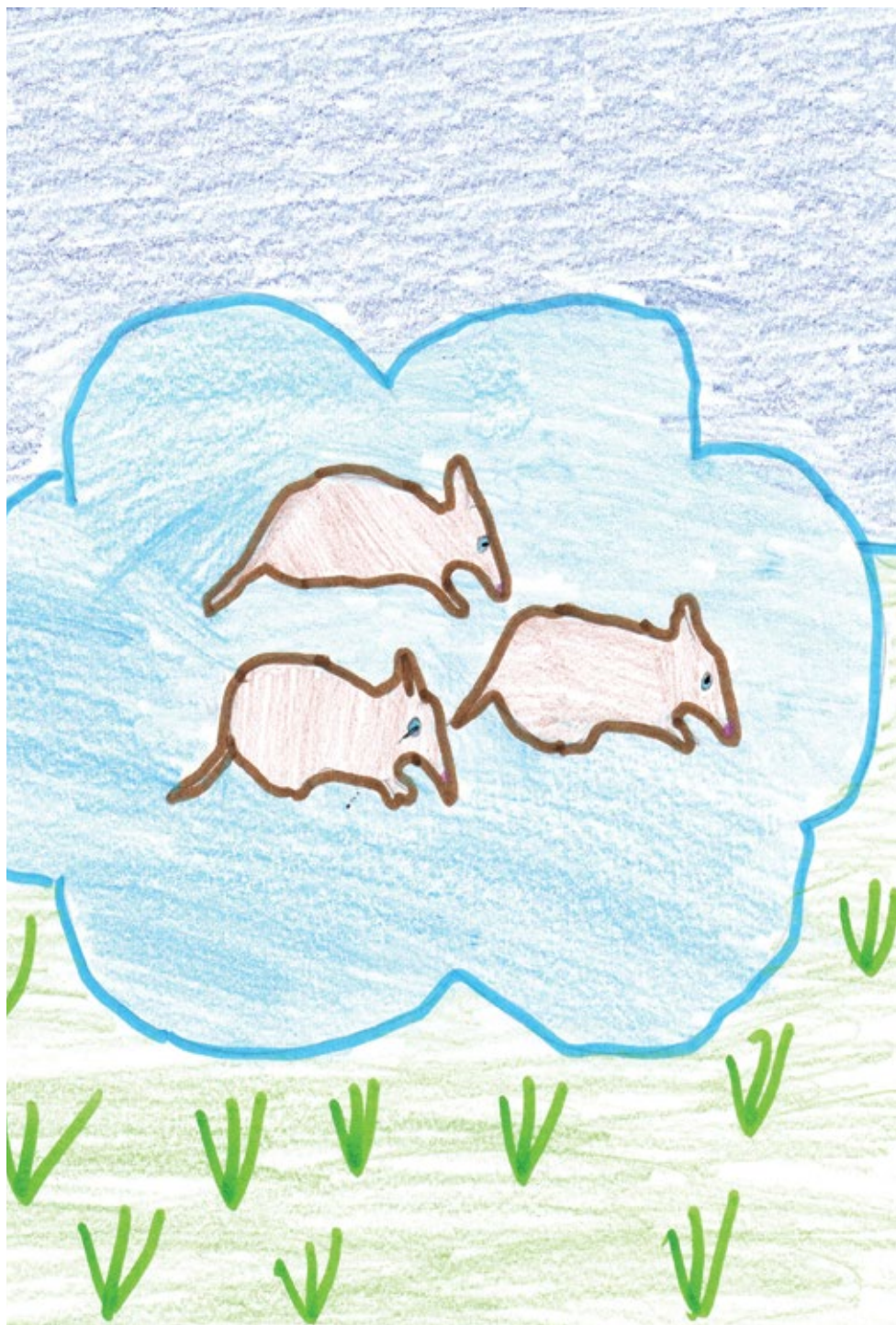
This means that Kate and I will be very small and Matt will be bigger because he is a male.

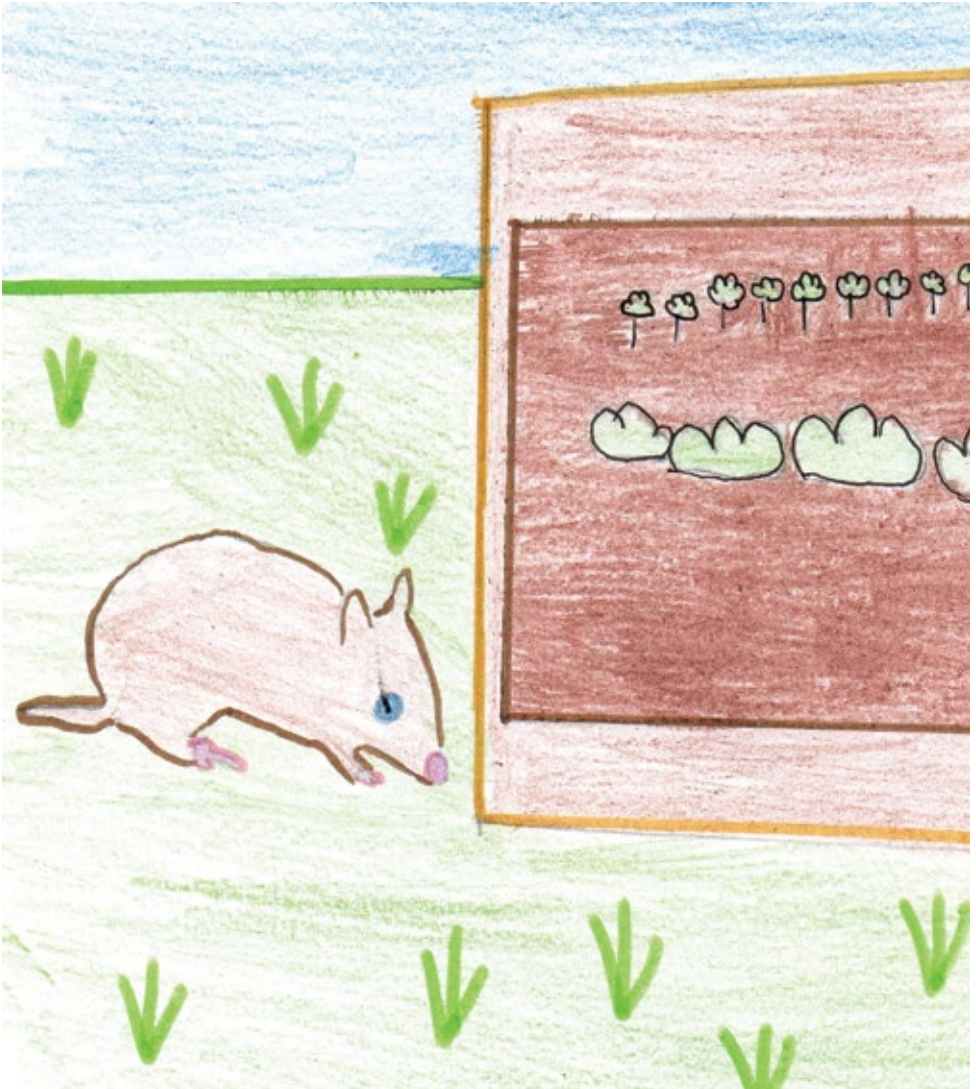
When I get older I will breed from June all the way to December. During this season I might have two or three litters of joeys.

New born baby bandicoots move into the mother's pouch to grow. This means we belong to a family known as marsupials.

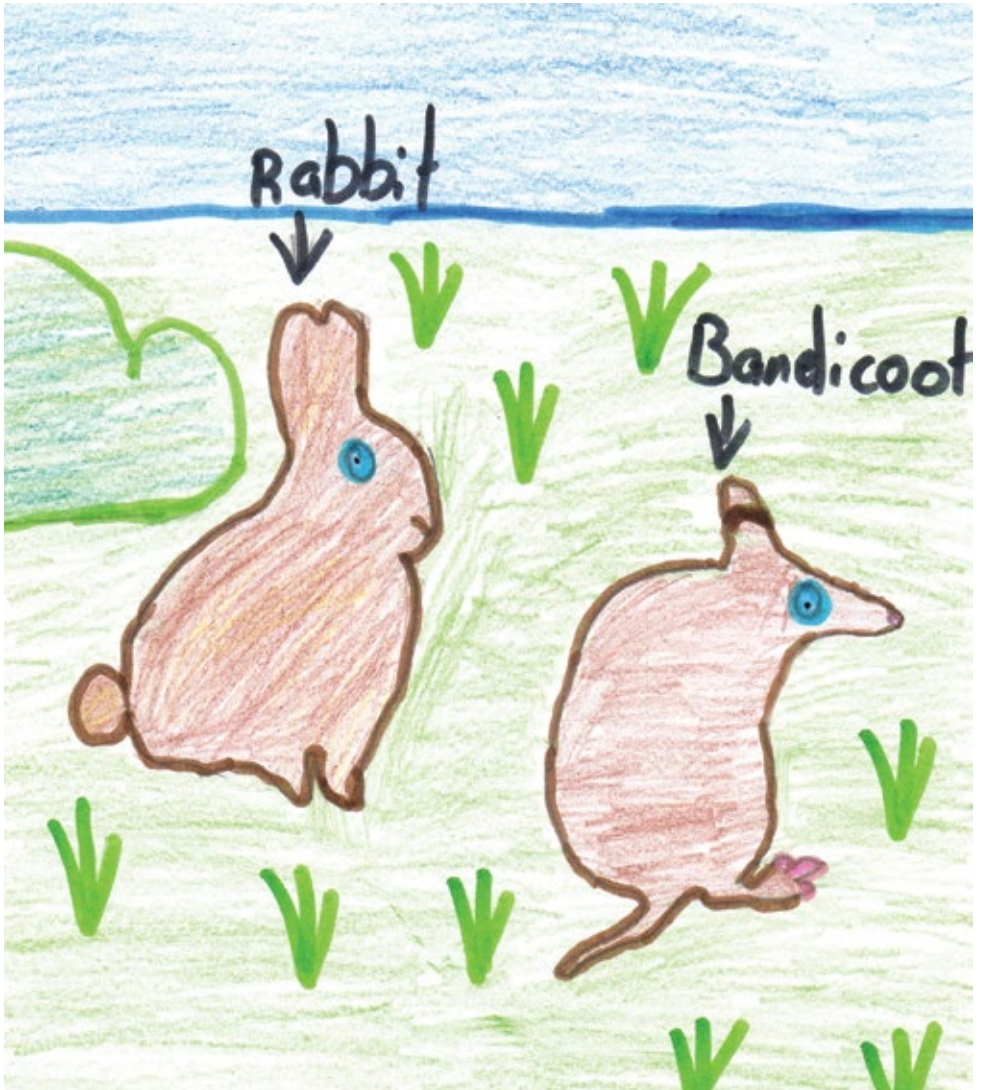
How silly am I talking about that as I am only young so I don't have to worry about that for a while.







I sometimes visit people's gardens. When I hear people coming I bound and gallop. I then head back home so the scary people don't find me.

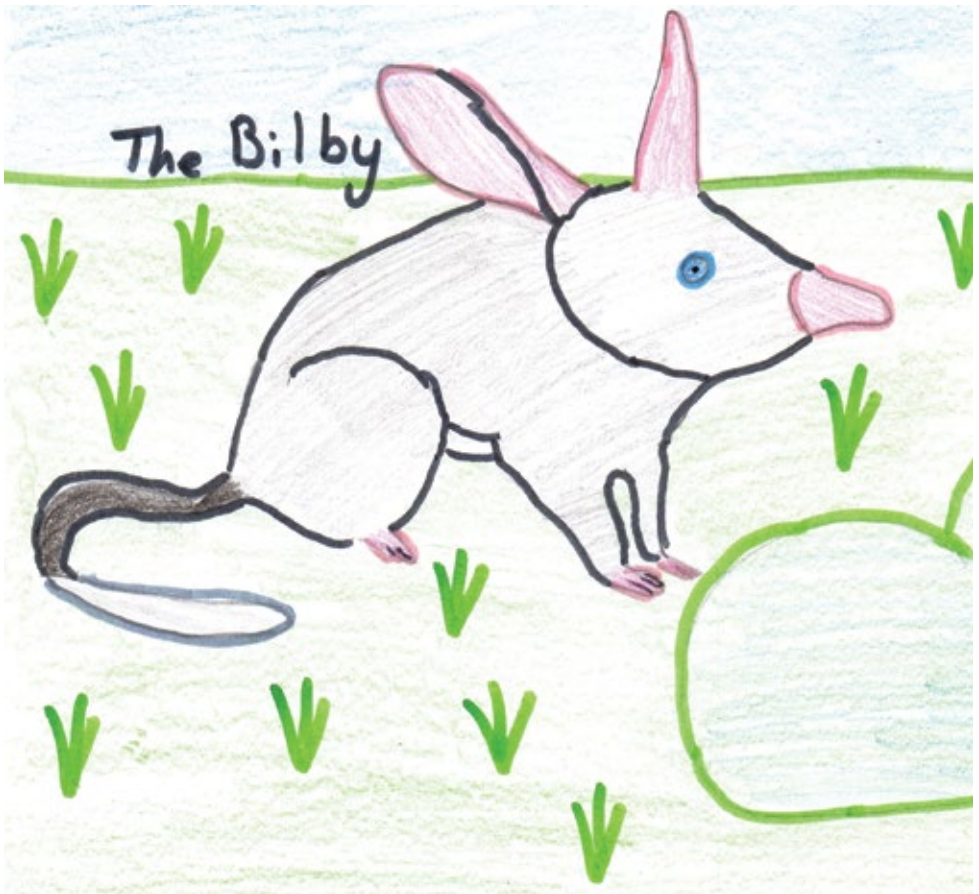


I am mistaken sometimes for a large rat or rabbit.

Kind people are putting up signs to educate and ask people to care for my species.

I have lots of cousins! These include the Eastern Bandicoot, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Western Bandicoot and Rabbit-eared Bandicoot, also known as the Bilby.

I am proud to be a Southern Brown Bandicoot.



I am threatened by feral foxes, cats, cars and clearing of vegetation.

The ways people can me help is to:

- control fox populations,
- lock up your cat and never abandon them,
- be careful when you drive,
- do not clear native vegetation near areas where I am known to live.





I hope you have enjoyed my story. This might convince you to help prevent my species, the Southern Brown Bandicoot, from becoming extinct.



Montana Carlile, Phoebe Oates and Emma Foster
Boomi Public School, Grade 3 & 4 2013



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**



**Catchment Management
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Border Rivers-Gwydir

