

The Adventures of Squirt



Grade 4/5L
Parkes East 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 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

The Adventures of Squirt

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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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Once upon a time there lived two Malleefowls named Mal and Lee. These two were soul mates and they lived near Tree 5, Mallee Tree Avenue, Bushland.



Mal and Lee Malleefowl decided it was time to think about having a family.

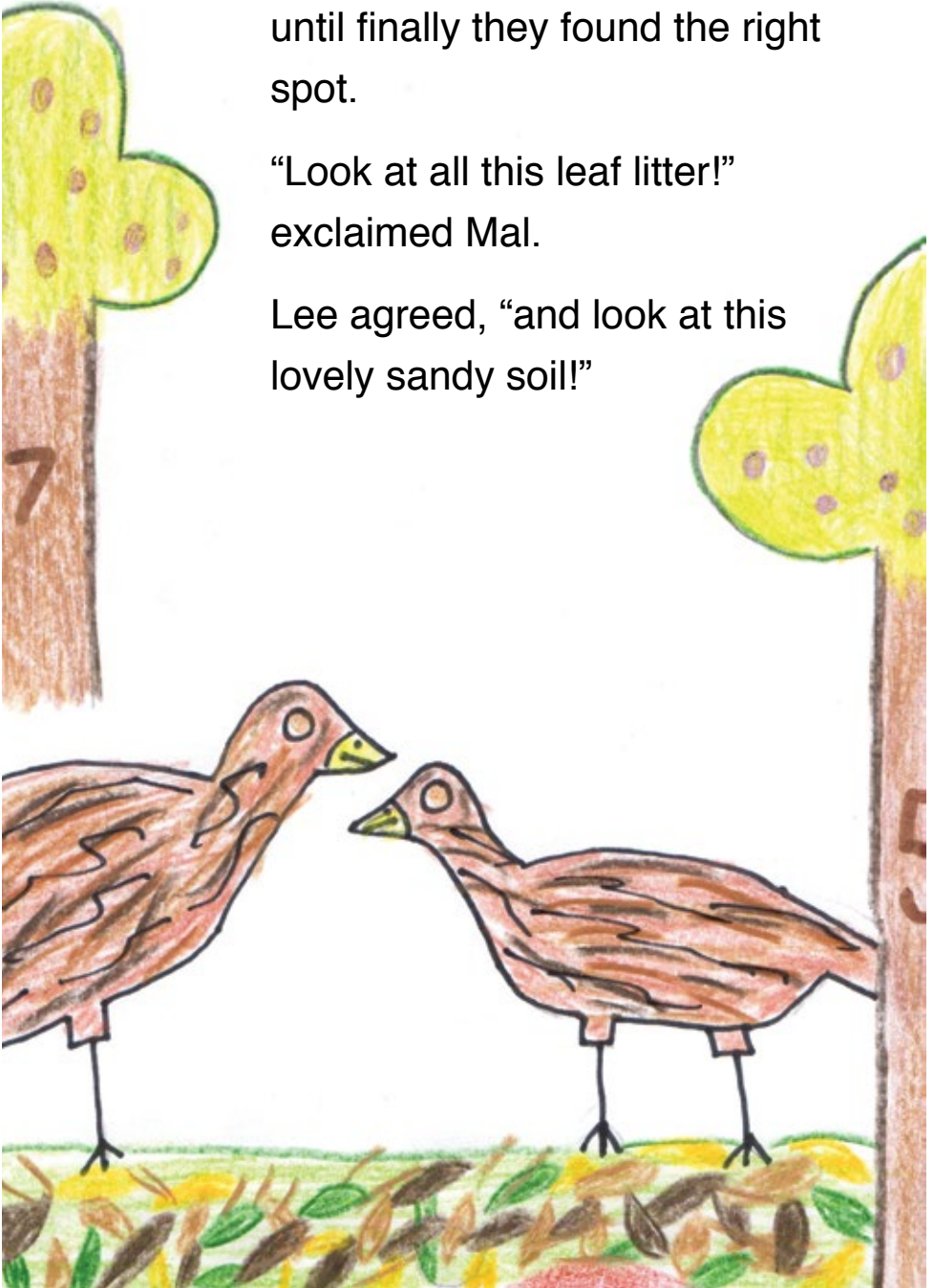
Firstly they needed the perfect spot to build their mound.



They wandered through the bush until finally they found the right spot.

“Look at all this leaf litter!”
exclaimed Mal.

Lee agreed, “and look at this lovely sandy soil!”





So in this ideal spot, Mal set to work to build their mound. Several months later, after exhausting constant digging and building, their mound was ready.

Lee was ready to lay her eggs and returned to find Mal had finished their mound.

“Dearest,” cried Mal, “this has been such tiring work. Lay your eggs and let’s go on a holiday.”



A couple of months passed by and then deep down in the mound an egg cracked. A little chick forced his way out and began his long and tiring escape to the outside world.

When he emerged, he looked around and chirped, “My name is Squirt. Is anyone else here?”

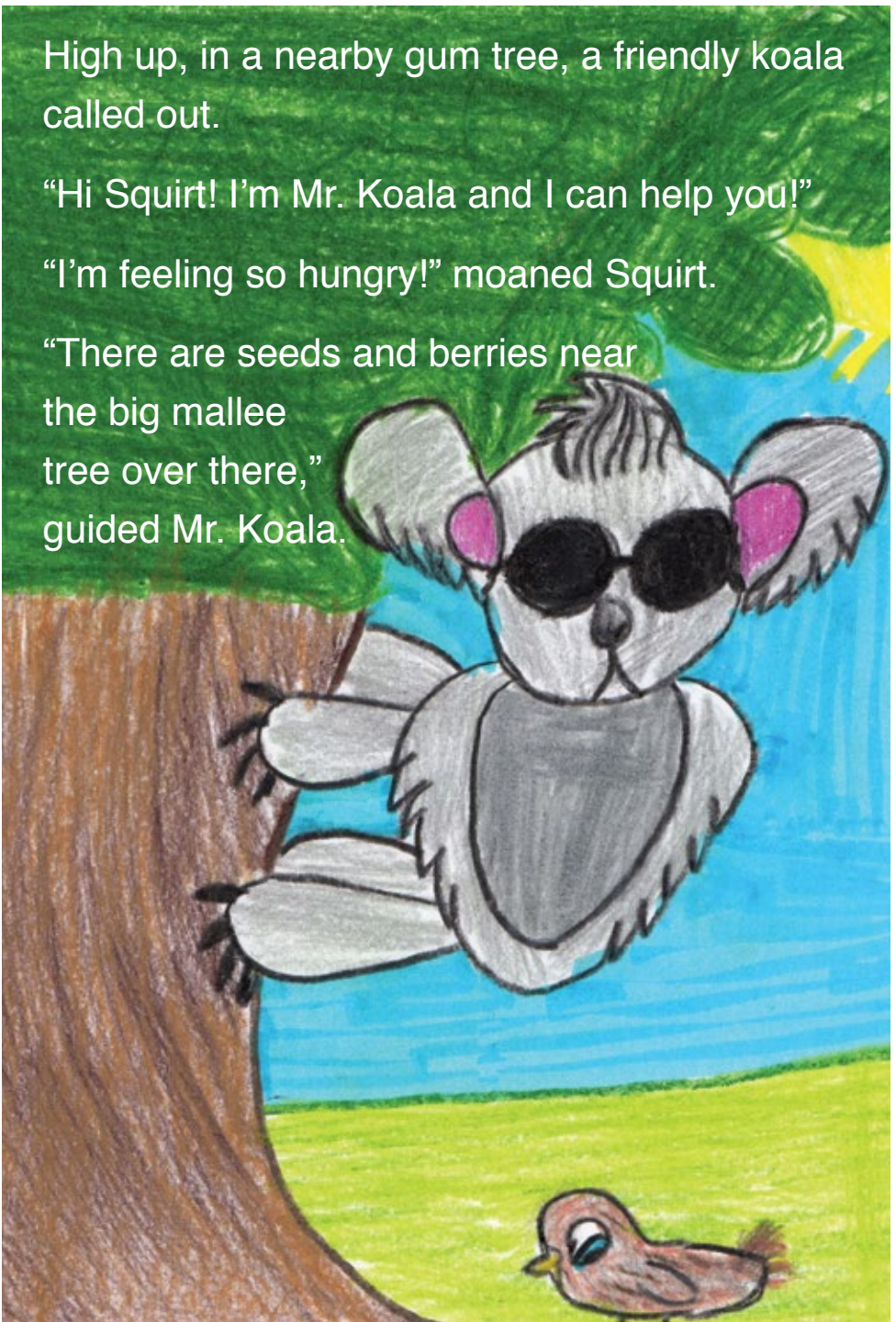


High up, in a nearby gum tree, a friendly koala called out.

“Hi Squirt! I’m Mr. Koala and I can help you!”

“I’m feeling so hungry!” moaned Squirt.

“There are seeds and berries near the big mallee tree over there,” guided Mr. Koala.



As Squirt fluttered along, he came face to face with Mr. Fox.

“Yummy, yummy for my tummy,” smiled Mr. Fox.

“Please let me pass,” begged Squirt.



“Only if you beat me in a game!” Mr. Fox told him.

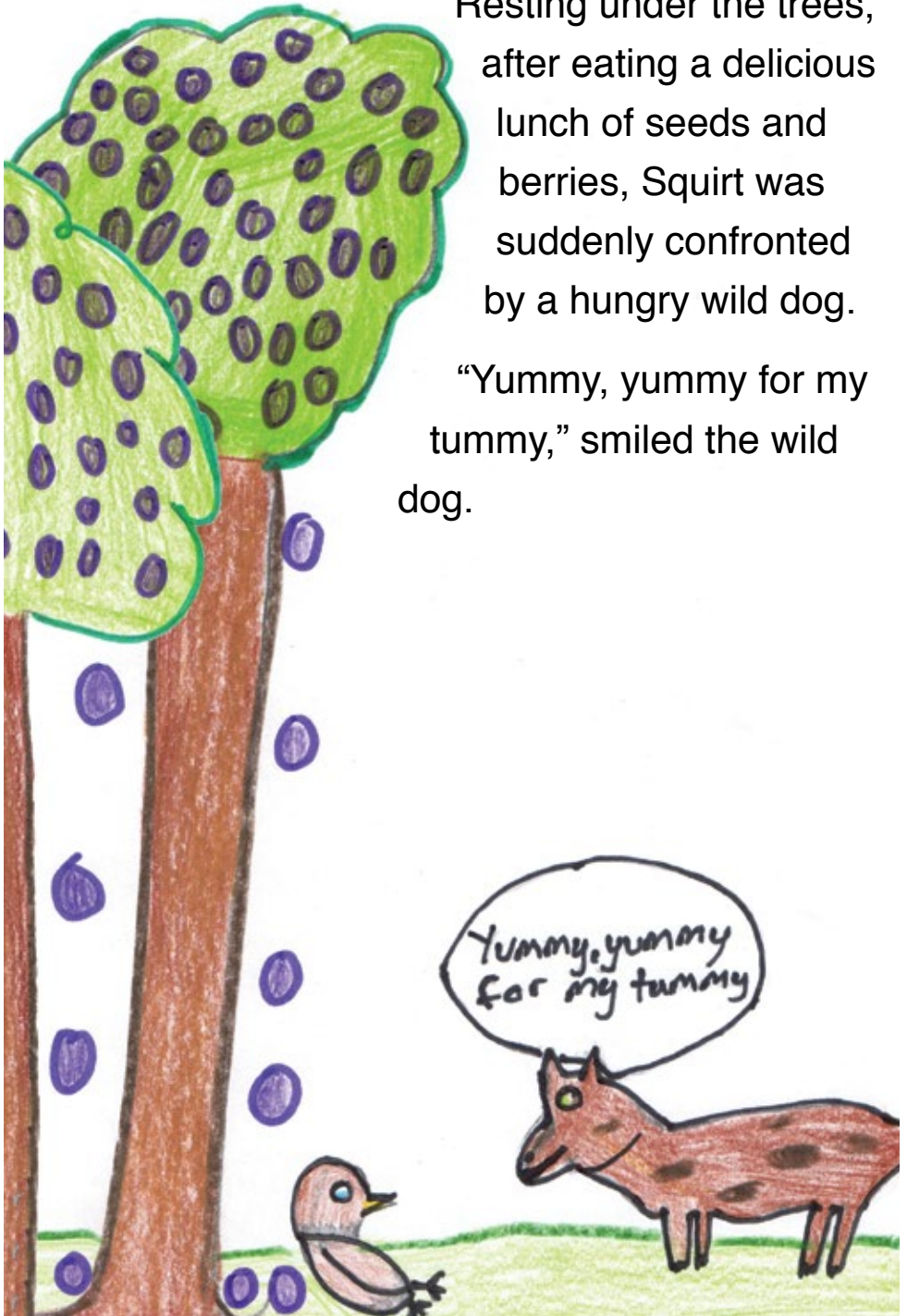
“Well, let’s play Red Rover Cross Over,” stuttered Squirt.

Before Mr. Fox could react, Squirt darted between his legs. Mr. Fox tripped over his own feet trying to catch him and Squirt scurried away.



Resting under the trees, after eating a delicious lunch of seeds and berries, Squirt was suddenly confronted by a hungry wild dog.

“Yummy, yummy for my tummy,” smiled the wild dog.



“Please Sir, let me play one last game before you eat me,” whispered Squirt. The wild dog looked at him curiously.

“I know! Let’s play Piñata!!” Squirt chuckled pointing to the beehive hanging from the tree. “It’s full of sweets.”

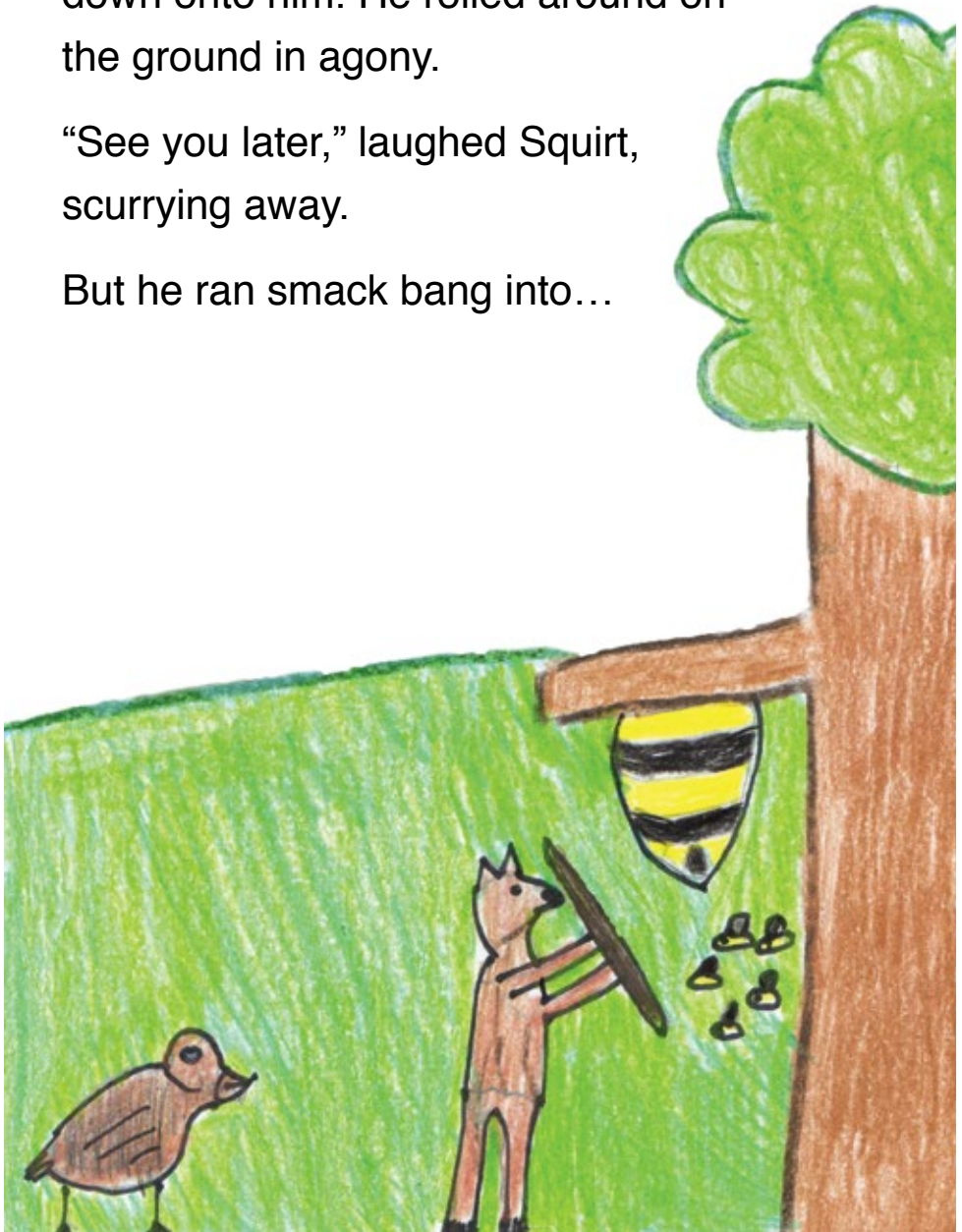
“I’m first!” snarled the wild dog, snatching up a stick from the ground.



As soon as the wild dog wacked the hive, a swarm of angry bees swooped down onto him. He rolled around on the ground in agony.

“See you later,” laughed Squirt, scurrying away.

But he ran smack bang into...



...Mrs. Feral Cat.

“Yummy, yummy for my tummy,” smiled Mrs. Feral Cat.

“Boy am I in trouble!” declared Squirt. “Wait, please Ma’am, let me play one last game before you eat me. Ahhh...hide and seek.”

Mrs. Feral Cat exclaimed, “Oh yes! I love games.”

Squirt told her, “Okay, you hide and I will seek.”

Mrs. Feral Cat ran and hid in the bushes while our tricky little hero bolted for his life.

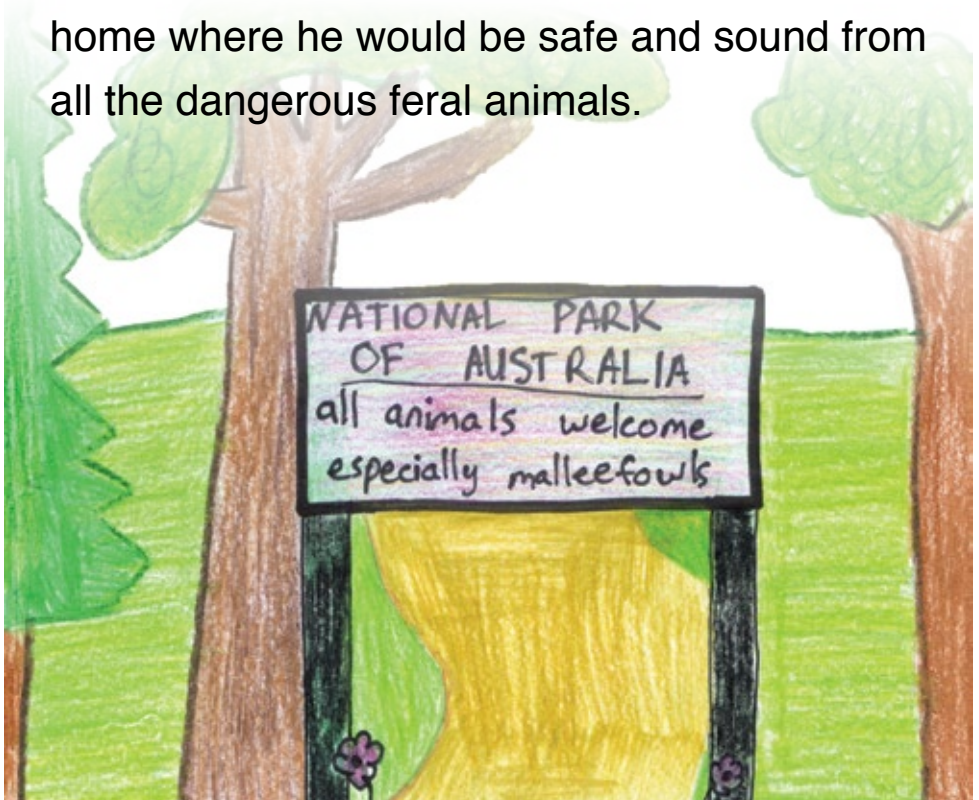


As he was scampering along, Squirt suddenly realised, his feet weren't on the ground. He was flying!

Squirt flew high into the air, searching for a suitable habitat where he would be safe.

Eventually, he spotted a sign: *Native Reserve - All native animals welcome especially Malleefowls. You will be protected!*

At last, Squirt knew he had found a good home where he would be safe and sound from all the dangerous feral animals.



What we can do to preserve these very shy and endangered Malleefowls:

- Control feral animals
- Protect suitable habitat from clearing, fragmentation and fires
- Use environmentally friendly agricultural products
- Keep grazing domestic animals out of Malleefowl habitat
- Educate people
- Support your local Landcare group

Let us do our best to ensure that the Malleefowl never becomes extinct.





Grade 4/5L
Parkes East Public School, 2013



Catchment Management
Authority
Central West



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