

The Journey to Safety



Isabella Malcolm
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

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 Dividing Range. The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will become Local Land Services in January 2014.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

The Journey to Safety

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School: Narrabri 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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On a cool spring morning my family were happily playing a game in the woodland where we lived. My adopted family was a mixed family made up of a menagerie of endangered wildlife. My Mum and brother Elmo are Koalas; Dad and Nibbles are Greater Bilbies; Tammy is a Brown Treecreeper and I am Ricco, a Tusked Frog.





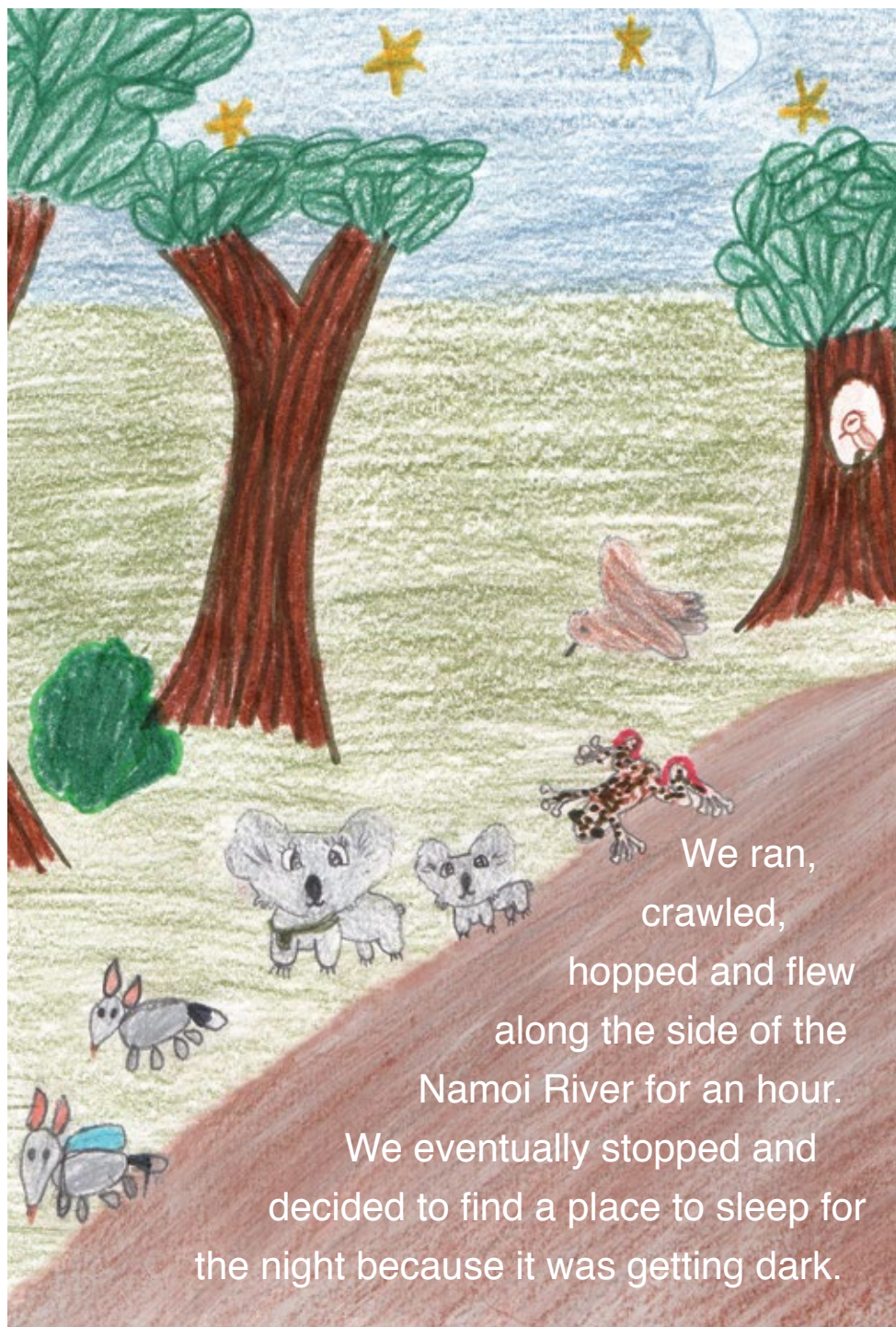
Mum, Elmo and Tammy live in the canopy of a giant eucalyptus tree which is on the bank of the Namoi River. Dad and Nibbles live in a burrow at the bottom of the tree. I live amongst the rocks and reeds on the river bank.

During the afternoon my whole family jumped when we heard a terrible crashing noise. We carefully went to investigate but no one could see what had made the noise. Cautiously Mum told us not to worry and we all went back to play around our home.



The following day I heard the terrible noise again. Tammy flew out to take a look and came back screaming that the trees were collapsing all around our home. We gathered our valuables and left frightened for our lives.







I woke up to the peaceful sound of birds singing. I looked down at the river to see a beautiful blue butterfly hovering above the water which was glistening in the sunlight.

I became very hopeful that the danger had passed.

That all changed in an instant and the trees near us began to collapse. I woke the rest of my family but no matter how loud we yelled we couldn't wake Elmo or Mum. Then suddenly Elmo woke startled at what was happening.





Dad told us to go while he tried to wake Mum. Reluctantly Tammy flew, Nibbles and Elmo crawled and I hopped until we couldn't hear the terrible sound.

Exhausted, we stopped and burst into tears thinking that we might not see our parents again.



Suddenly out of the bush bounded a feral cat. He licked his lips and leered at us with his cold, black eyes. The cat started circling us not taking his eyes off Nibbles. He pounced, sinking his teeth into Nibbles' grey and brownish back and disappeared with him back into the bush.



After the cat had left with Nibbles we all started to cry. We cried and cried and it looked like streams were running down our faces.

Our minds were racing about what had happened and what would happen next.



We found a deserted burrow that was hidden away to stay in. Tammy bravely flew out to try and find some food.

I could hear a strange noise and poked my head out of the burrow. I was relieved when I saw Tammy, the beautiful Brown Treecreeper, scratching and searching through the leaf litter.



Tammy brought back some juicy eucalyptus leaves for Elmo and some insects for me and herself. I couldn't eat them because I kept thinking about how they were Nibbles favourite food. Tammy comforted me by wrapping her wing over my brown and white speckled back.

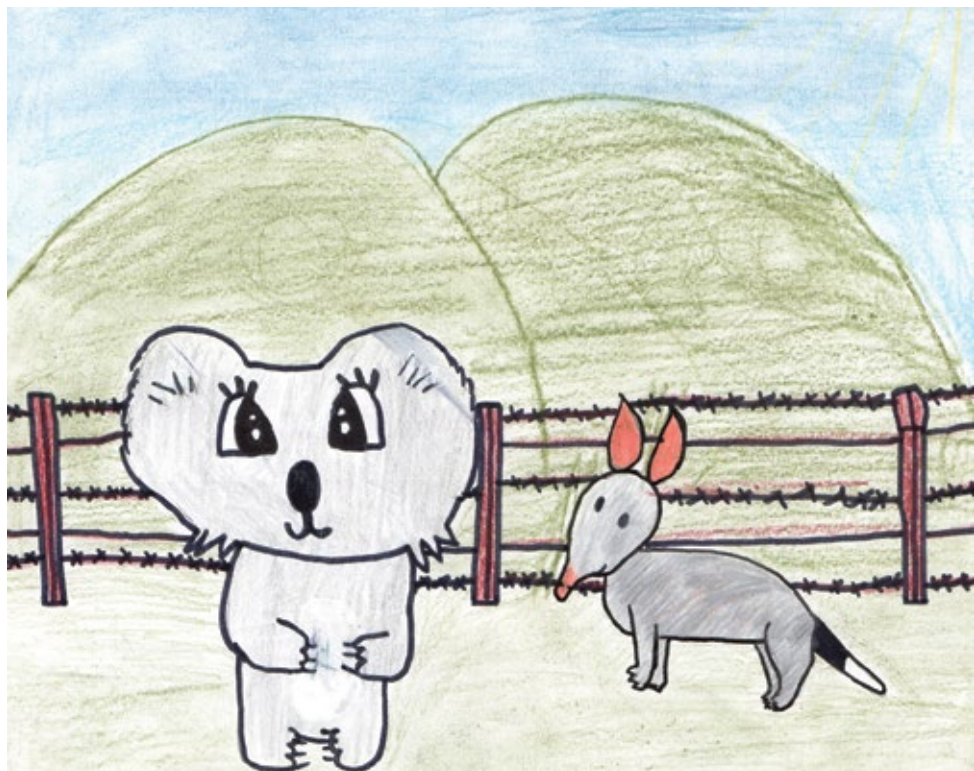


In the morning we struggled on searching for our parents. We had to cross the river and a road because the things that were tearing the trees down were coming after us.

Elmo was very scared because he had heard that these big, yellow, scary things had caused a lot of koalas to die.

After we struggled across the road we were so exhausted we were nearly about to give up. I heard shouting and looked up. Mum and Dad were running towards us with big smiles on their faces. They hugged us closely and assured us that we were safe again.

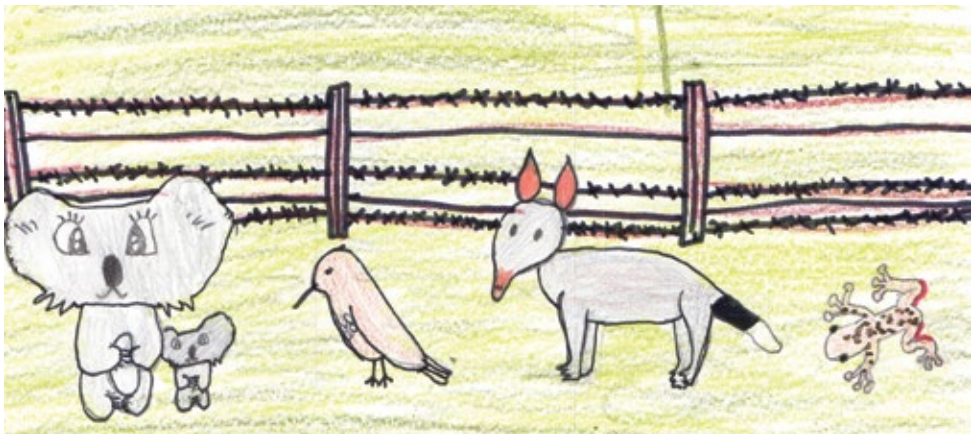
Dad asked about Nibbles. Instantly, tears flooded as I told him about the feral cat.



We all shared stories about our escapes. Wiping tears from her eyes, Mum explained the tragic impact feral cats have on the native wildlife. She told us how we must stay away from them at all costs. Dad warned us that the yellow tree eating things destroy our habitat and have contributed to all of our species being threatened.

Mum and Dad comforted us by telling us that we will find a new safer home in the wildlife reserve.

Even with these challenges our menagerie family still lives together, protecting each other in the reserve today.





Isabella Malcolm
Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2013



Australian Government
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation



Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir

