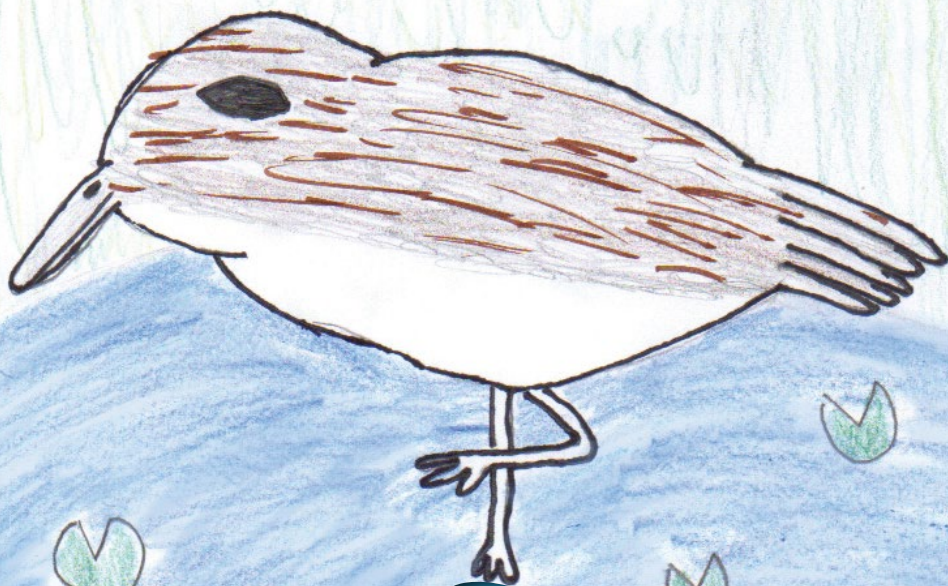


Clumsy's Journey

Year 5

Bairnsdale West Primary School



Love Our Lakes

Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Gippsland Lakes are precious; we need to protect them and pass them on to future generations. 'Love our Lakes' is about a shared responsibility to participate in caring for the Lakes and catchment. The Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee has an important role in assisting the Victorian Government and the community to Love Our Lakes. www.loveourlakes.net.au

Victorian Association of Environmental Education

The Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) is an independent professional association whose purpose has energised educators from all sectors to contribute their time and expertise to ensuring that environmental education and education for sustainability continue to be valued. www.vae.vic.edu.au

James Yeates Printing

James Yeates Printing are a family company and produce commercial printing from simple flyers, business stationery and cards, to books and full color promotional brochures. James Yeates Printing have kindly supported this Enviro-Stories program. www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au



Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area. www.envirostories.com.au

Clumsy's Journey

Authors: Year 5

Teacher: Jacqueline Simpson

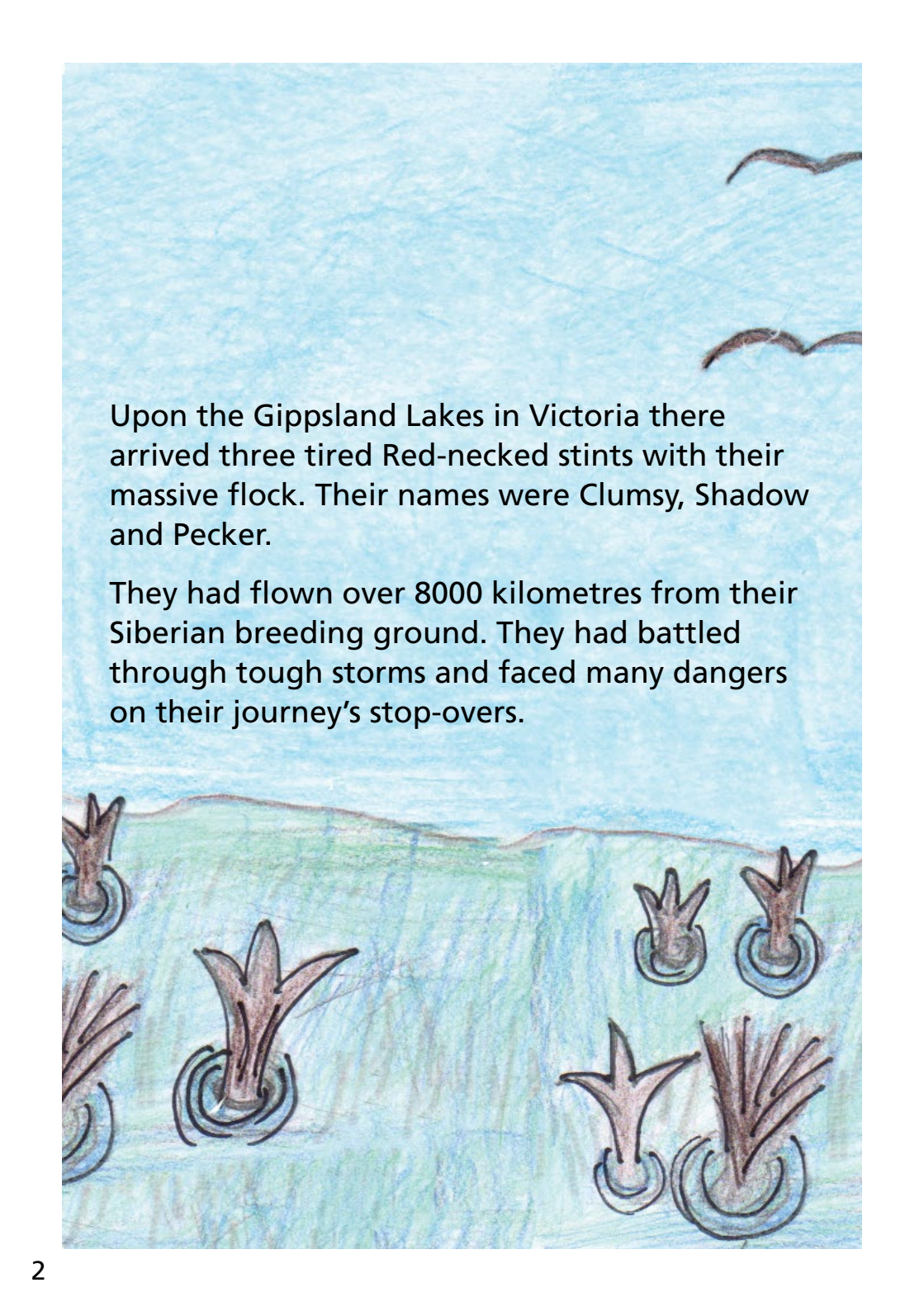
School: Bairnsdale West Primary School



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Upon the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria there arrived three tired Red-necked stints with their massive flock. Their names were Clumsy, Shadow and Pecker.

They had flown over 8000 kilometres from their Siberian breeding ground. They had battled through tough storms and faced many dangers on their journey's stop-overs.

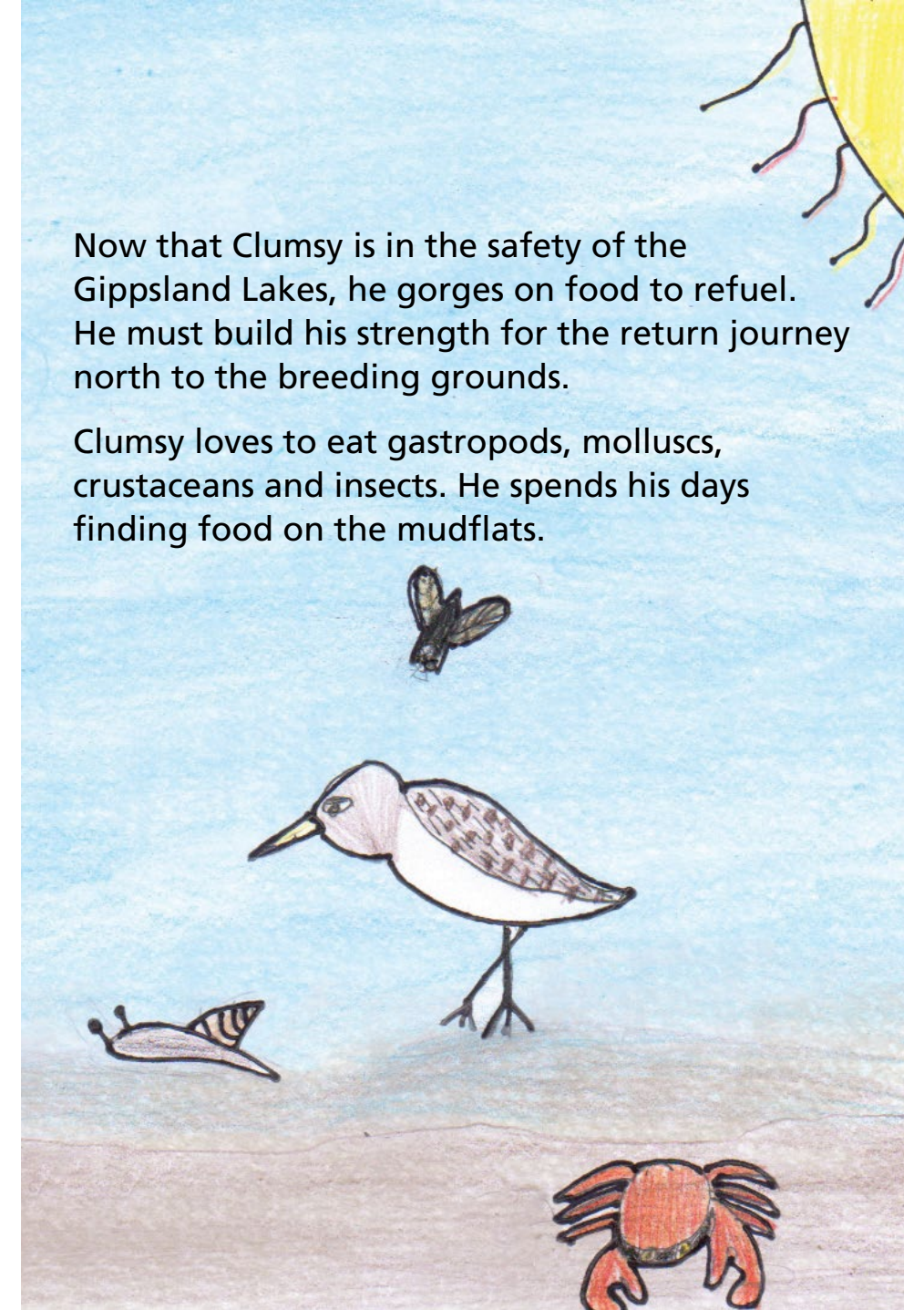


Clumsy is a small little fellow with short legs and a straight beak. He is mottled grey, brown and white in colour. During the breeding season he has a reddish tinge around his neck and head. Clumsy weighs about the same as a match box. Shadow and Pecker look very similar.



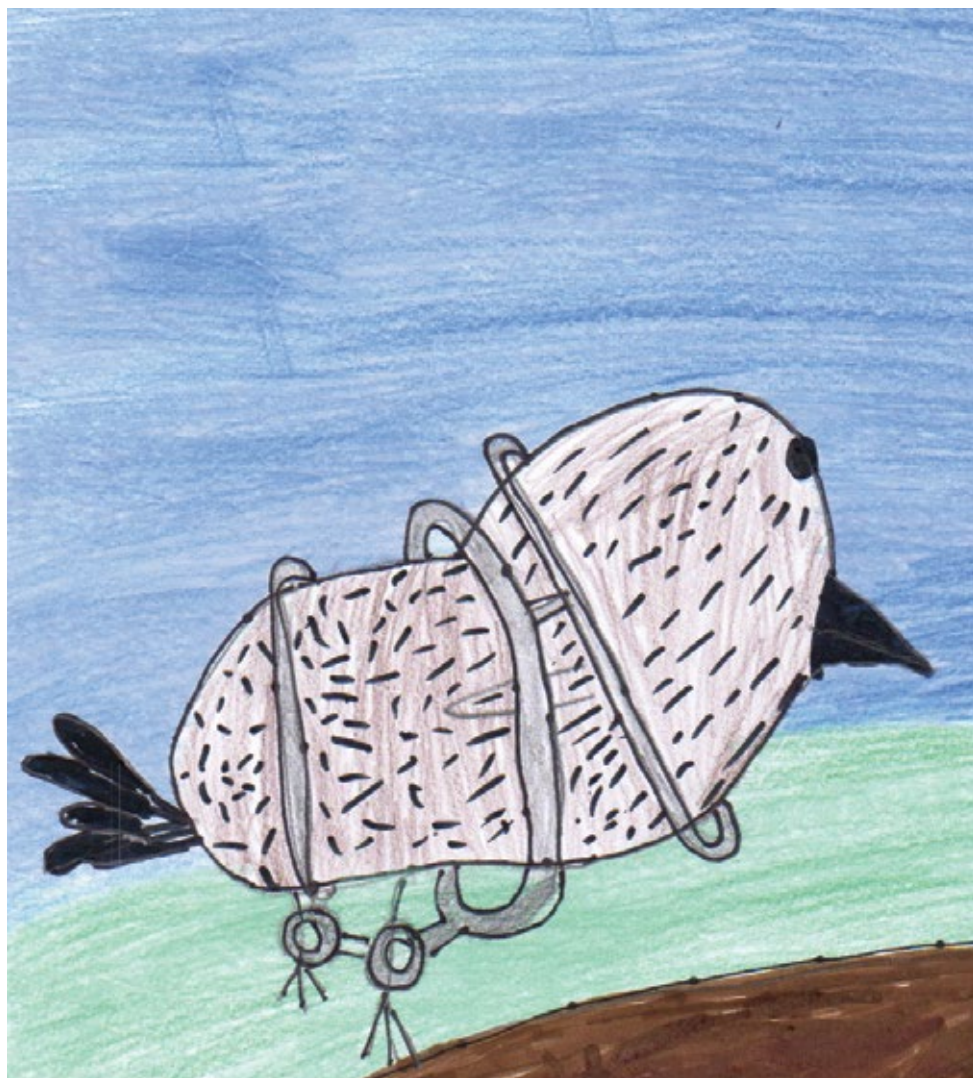
On a beautiful spring day, Clumsy and his two mates were wading through the mudflats. They were feeling sad from their journey. During the flight the flock encountered a severe storm. The winds were harsh and many of the flock were swept off course. They wondered if they would ever see their lost friends again.



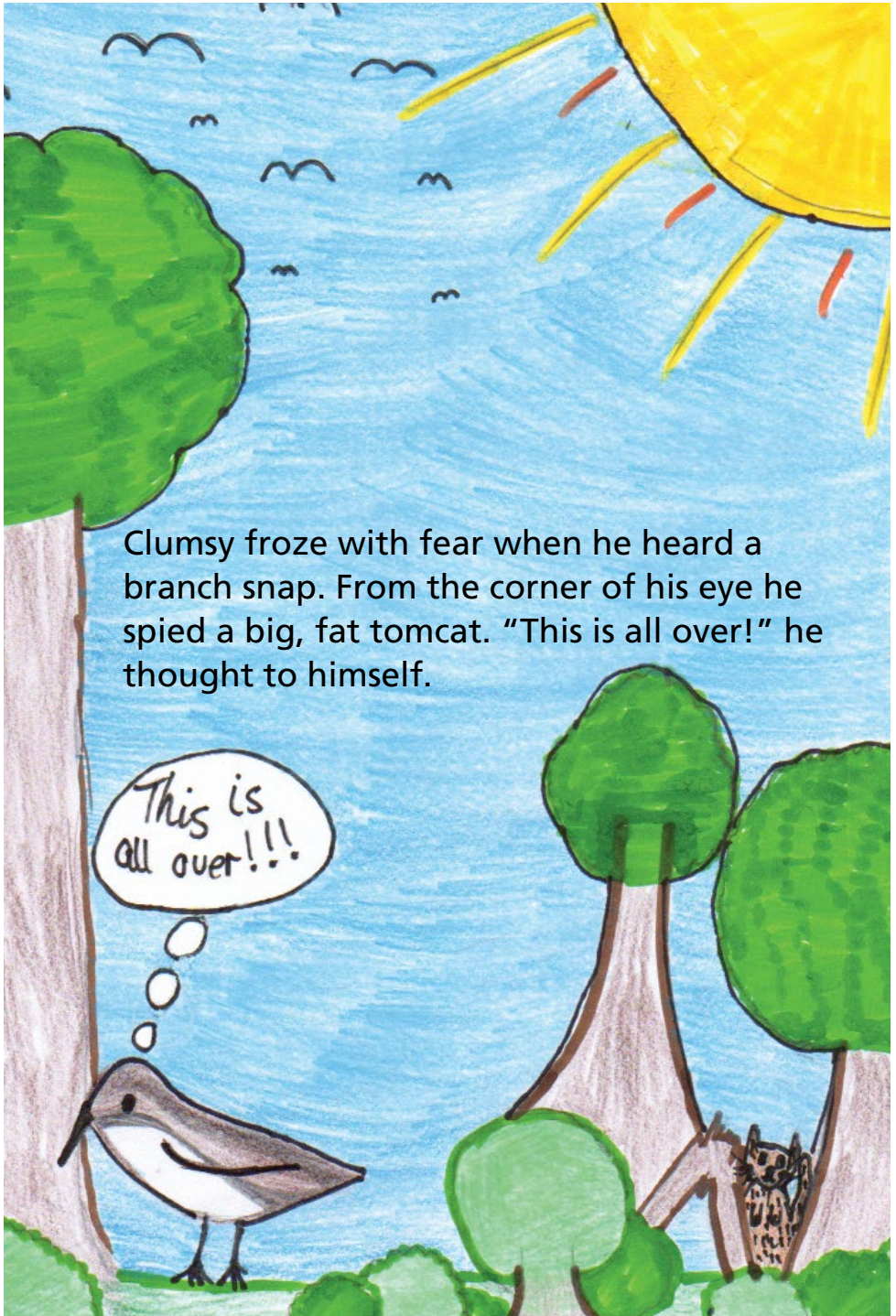


Now that Clumsy is in the safety of the Gippsland Lakes, he gorges on food to refuel. He must build his strength for the return journey north to the breeding grounds.

Clumsy loves to eat gastropods, molluscs, crustaceans and insects. He spends his days finding food on the mudflats.



Mesmerised by all the food on the mudflats, Clumsy found himself tangled in plastic rings from a six pack. He tried to get himself out of it but the more he tried to get free, the tighter it became!



Clumsy froze with fear when he heard a branch snap. From the corner of his eye he spied a big, fat tomcat. "This is all over!" he thought to himself.

This is all over!!!



Along came a girl named Lily searching for her friend, Tomcat.

"Here puss, puss," cried Lily.

To Clumsy's surprise he was scooped into a warm human hand. Lily slowly and carefully untangled Clumsy, and took him back to his flock.

Lily found Tomcat and took him away from the gorgeous birds.

The next day Lily left Tomcat inside and returned to the mudflats with a plastic bag. She started to clean up the rubbish to try to protect the habitat of the Red-necked stints.



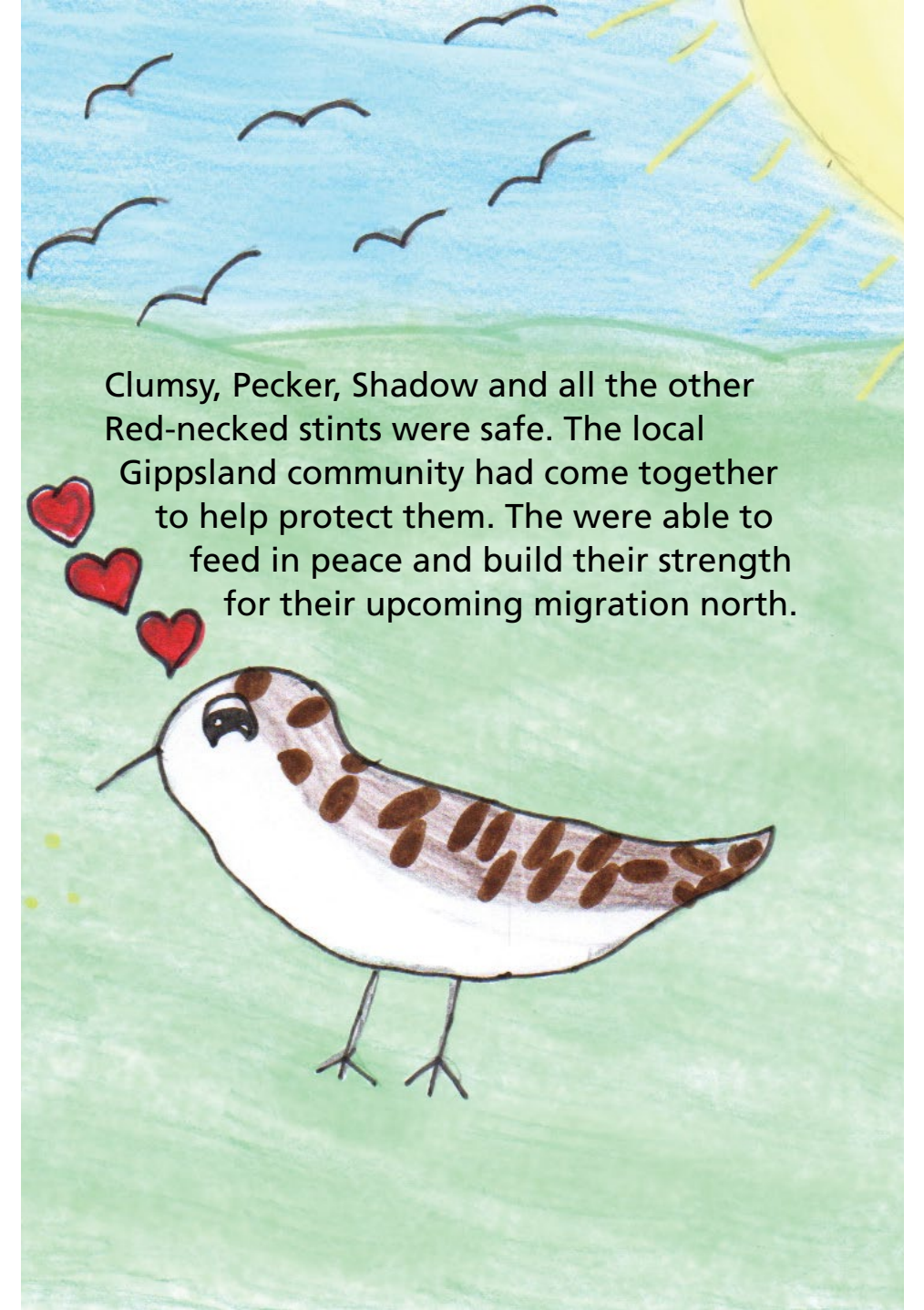
The following day Lily made a poster telling people how to protect the Red-necked stints.



After Lily had finished making the poster she walked down to where she found Clumsy and taped it to a tree. She wanted her whole neighbourhood to protect the Red-necked stints and other animals of the Gippsland Lakes.

Lily knew with a little effort everyone could help the local environment.





Clumsy, Pecker, Shadow and all the other Red-necked stints were safe. The local Gippsland community had come together to help protect them. They were able to feed in peace and build their strength for their upcoming migration north.





As the seasons changed and April arrived, Lily was outside in her backyard looking towards the sky. There he was! Clumsy was flying with his flock heading back to Siberia.

Lily smiled to herself. She had a very warm and fuzzy feeling about how she had helped these fantastic little birds.

CUMSY'S JOURNEY





2014 Year 5

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Love Our Lakes

www.loveourlakes.net.au

