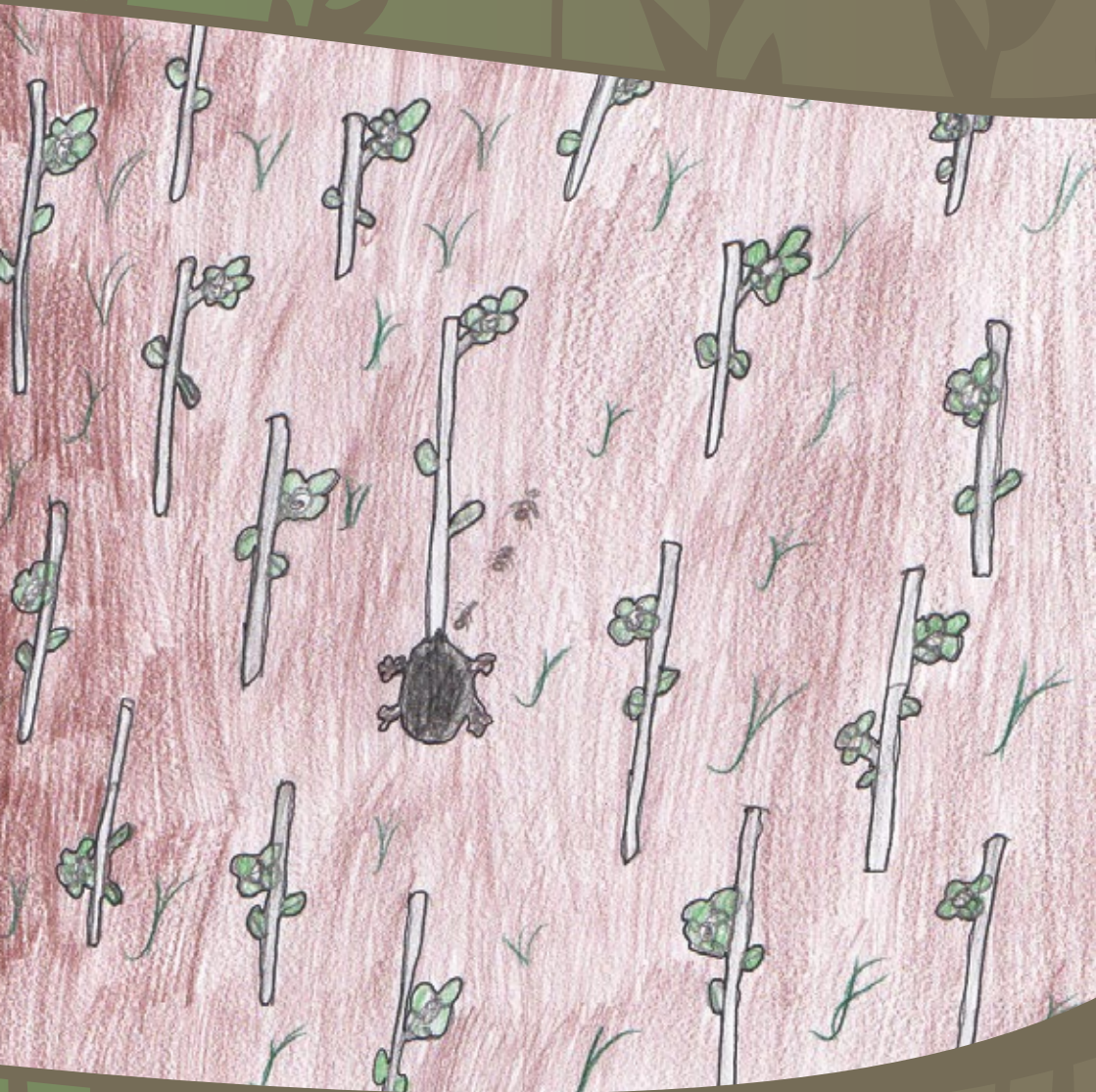


Eddie the Echidna



Charles Fawcett
Narrabri Public School



Enviro Stories

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

In 2014, the “Farming Families” Enviro-Stories program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about farming, farming communities and sustainable farming practices. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation, North West and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.

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

Local Land Services

Local Land Services delivers customer-focussed services to farmers, landholders and the community across rural and regional NSW. Local Land Services bring together agricultural production advice, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management into a single organisation. This program has been supported by both the North West Local Land Services and the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Eddie the Echidna

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School: Narrabri Public School

The “Farming Families” Enviro-Stories program has been proudly supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, North West Local Land Services and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services. This program was held in support of the United Nations 2014 International Year of Family Farming.



The “Farming Families” collection consists of the following books:

- A Farming Family
- Rearing Polly
- Eddie the Echidna
- Mystery in the Chicken Yard
- Mya and Jack’s Experience of Cotton
- Pest Troubles
- Farmer Matt Saves the Day
- A Sustainable Farm
- Going to the Cattle Yards

ISBN: 978-0-9941931-0-0

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

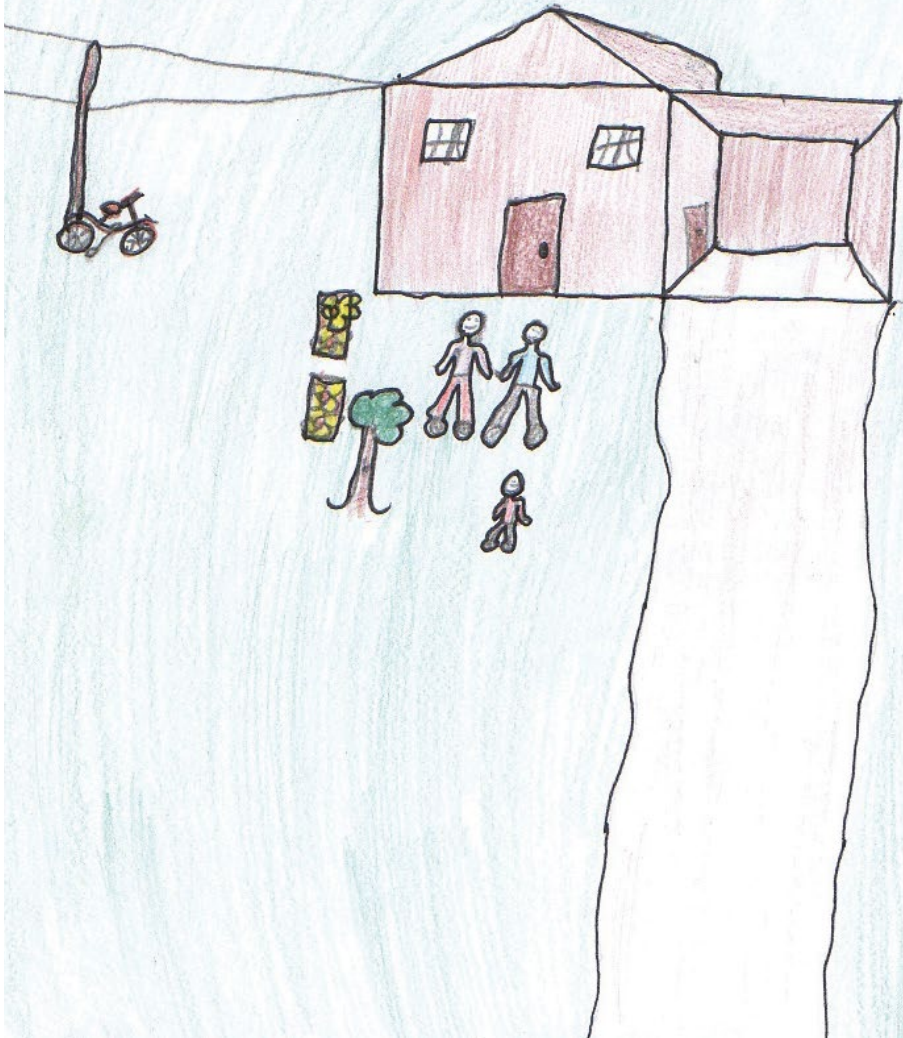
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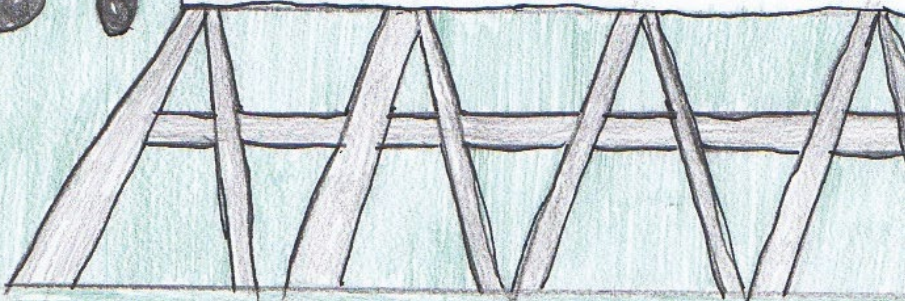
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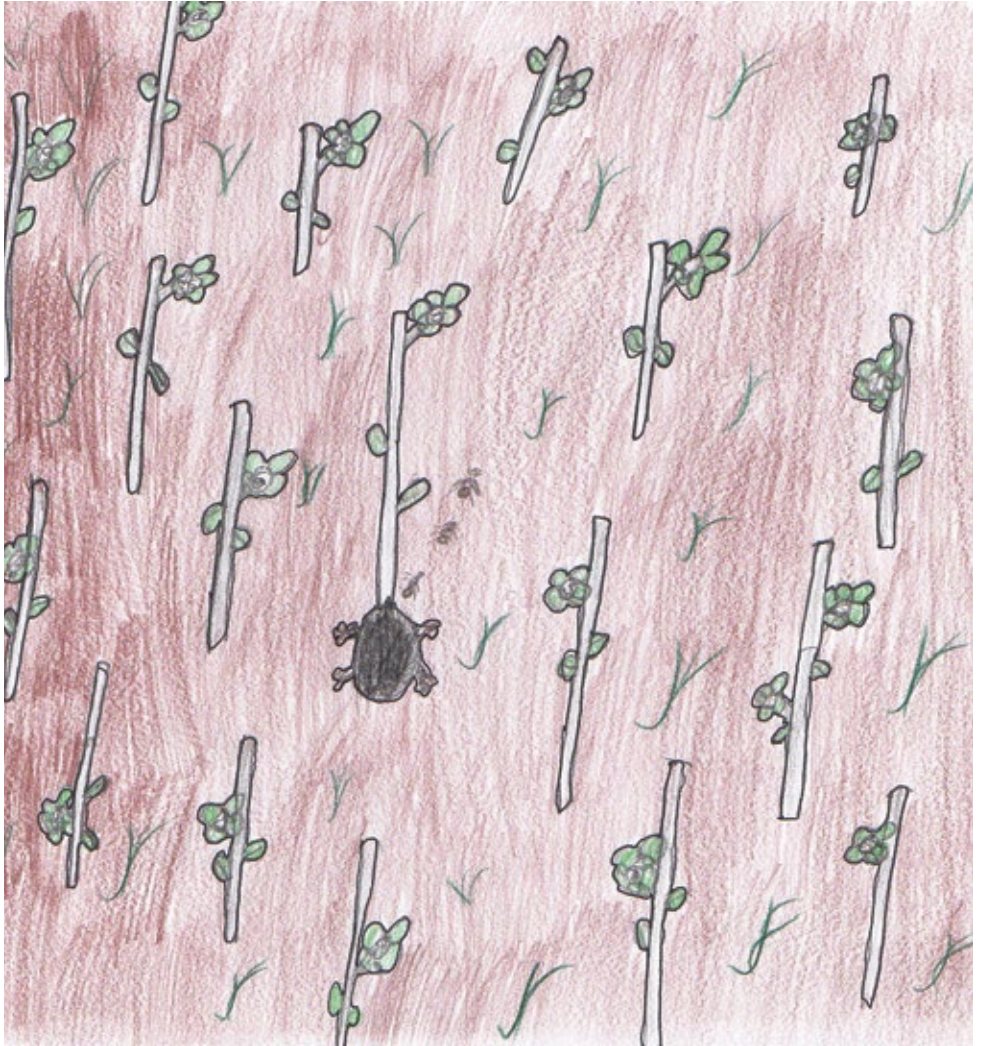
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One sunny morning, a farmer named Steven and his family walked out to their lush green garden to admire their beautiful farm. Steven loved his farm and his cotton.

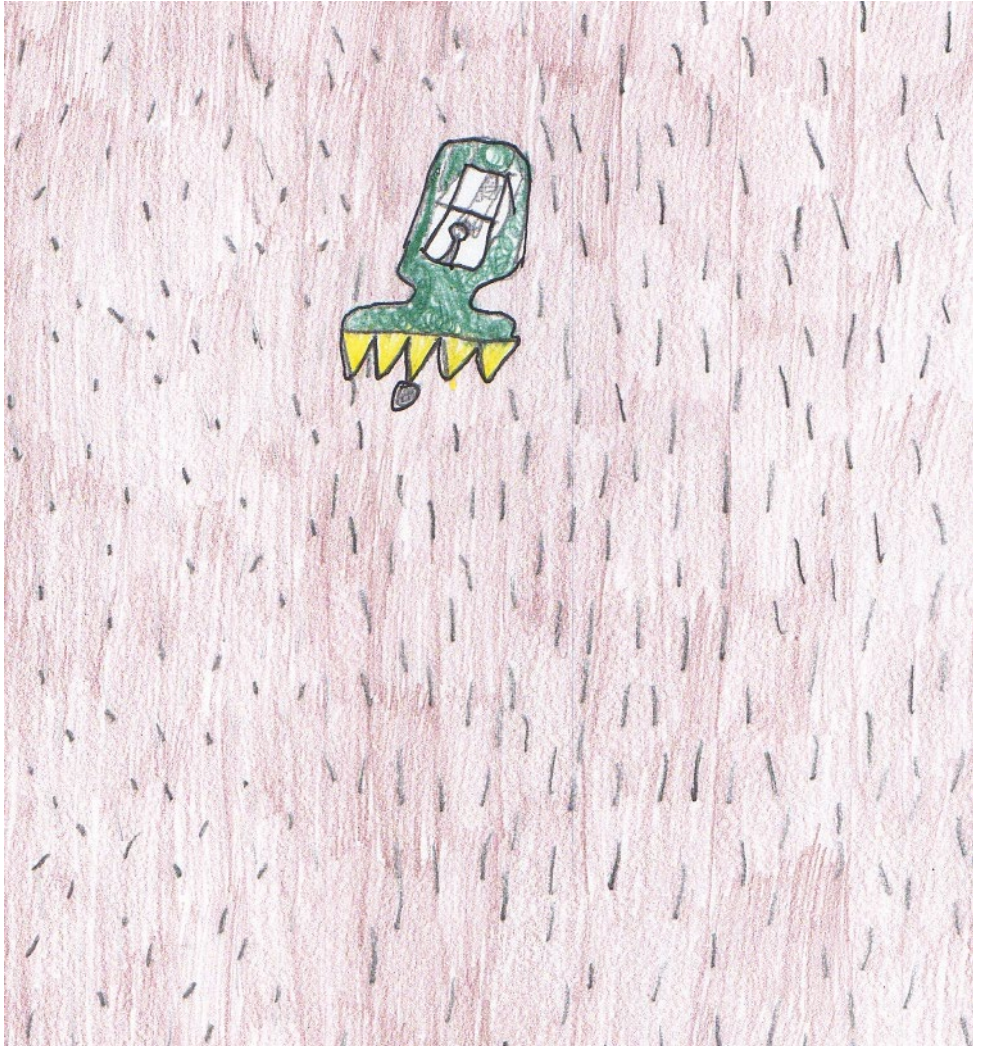


When the day of the cotton harvest rolled around, Steven was beside himself getting ready. He was prepping the harvester, putting chemicals onto the paddocks and cleaning the silos. He worked all morning until he had nothing left to do.





Meanwhile an extremely spiky and usually curious echidna named Eddie was peacefully making a burrow for himself. He was under a nice shady cotton plant, deep in farmer Steven's pristine cotton paddock.



Not long after Steven started his long awaited harvest, he saw the echidna right in front of the cotton picker. He was about to run it over.



Steven got out of his cotton picker to find that the echidna was inches away from the machine's brutally sharp spindles.

He looked around to see if there was anything else and he saw that there were wild birds, echidnas and emus living in his cotton field. He realised with astonishment that there was nowhere for them to live.

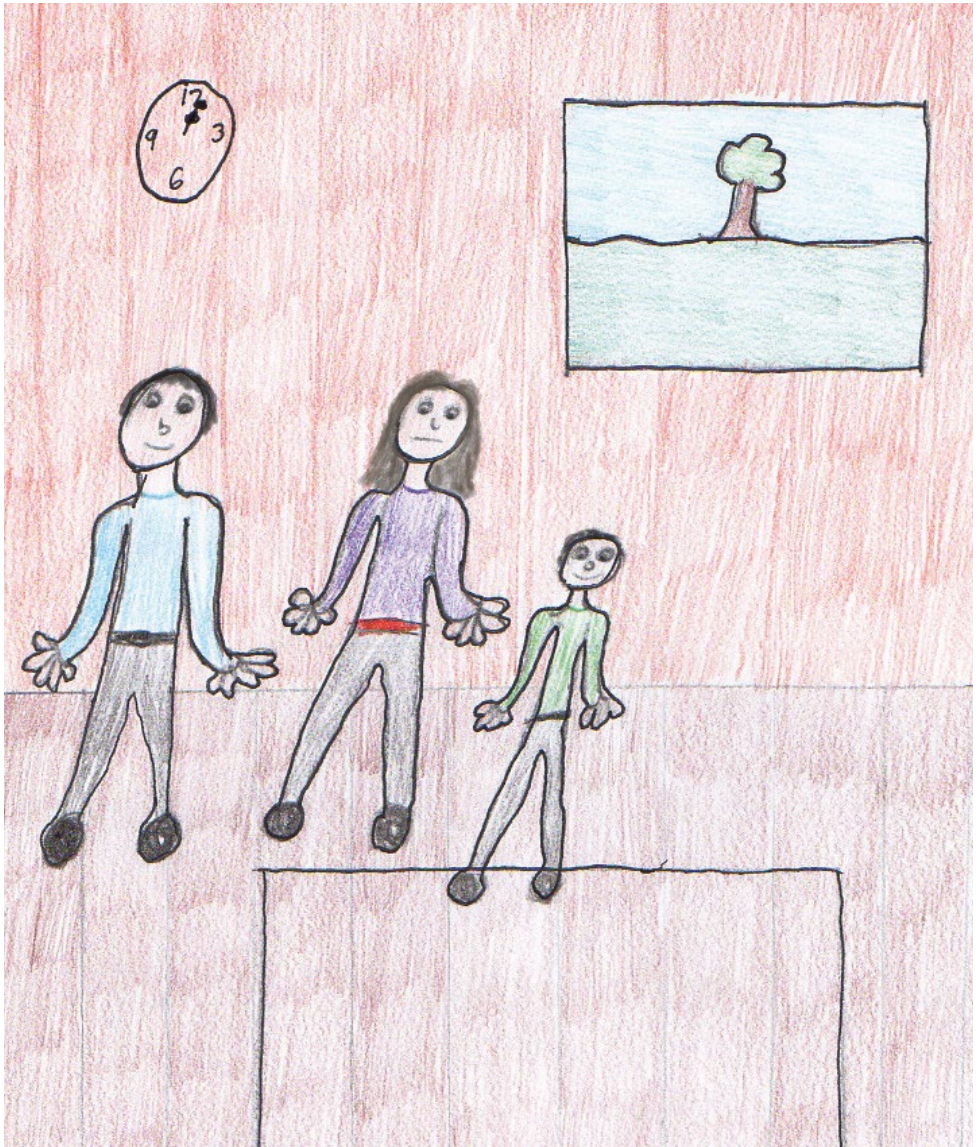


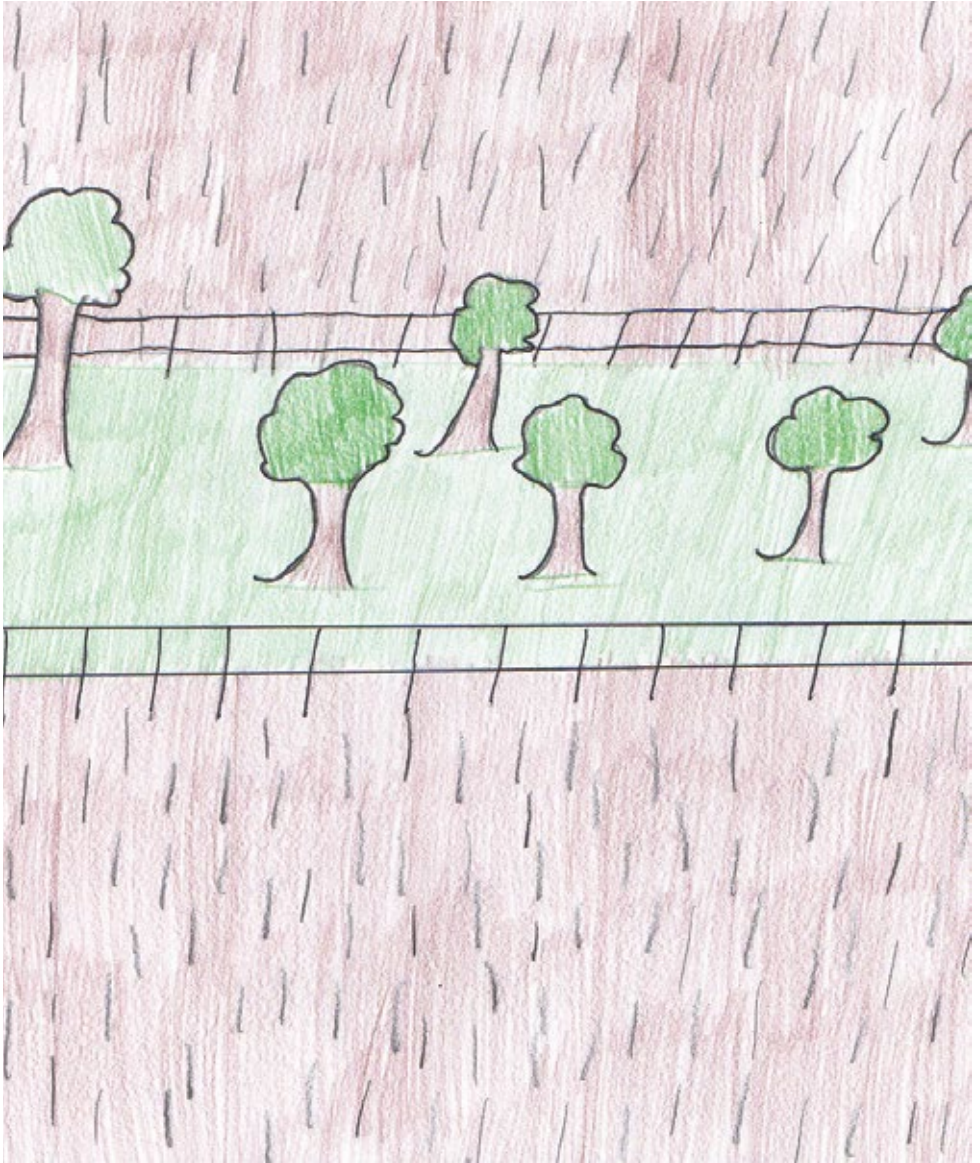




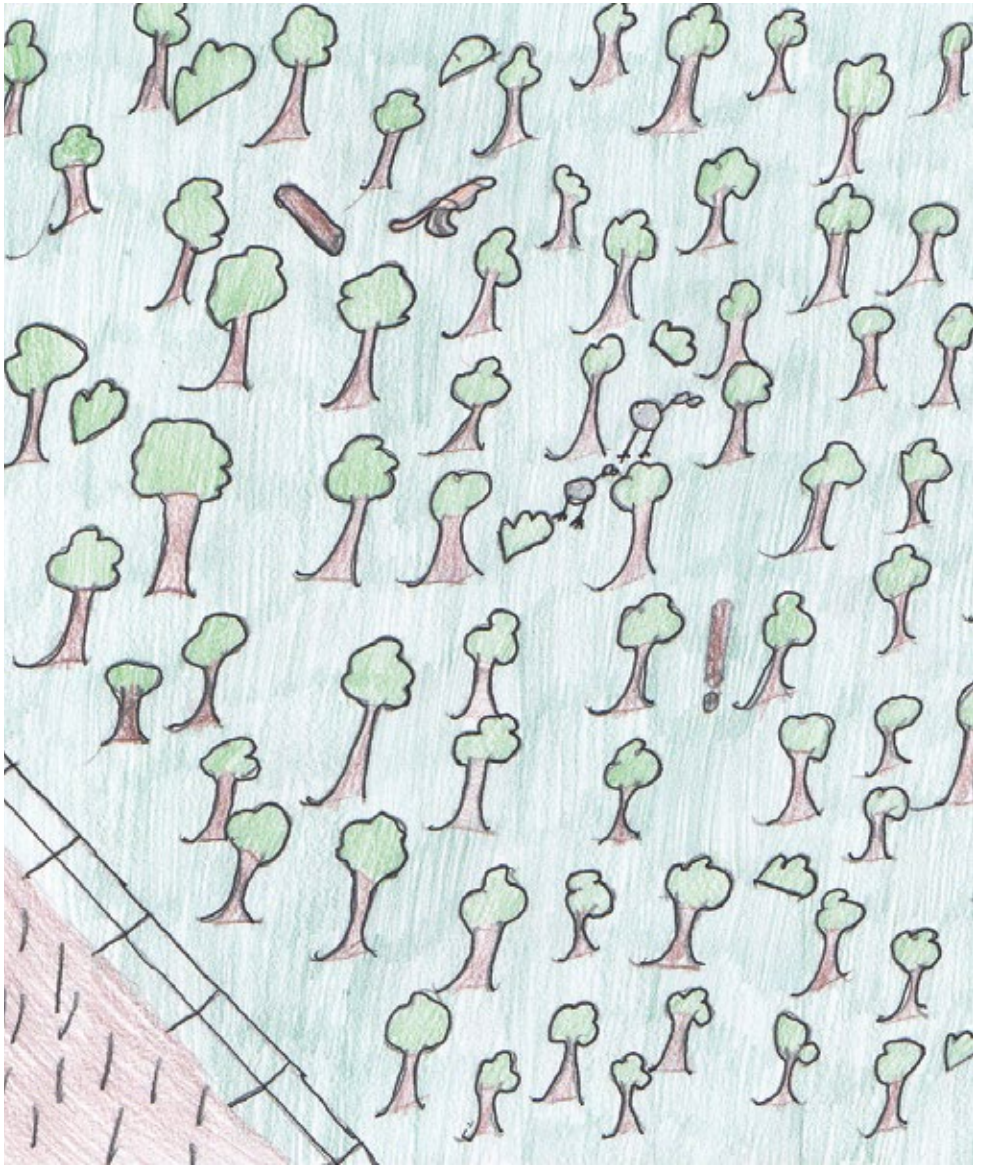
Steven was very disappointed in himself. He didn't realise that so many different types of wildlife lived on his farm. If he did not do something about it soon, there would be no native animals left.

The next day, Steven told his son and wife that he was going to make the farm a lot more sustainable. This would be good for them, the farm and the native animals that lived there.





Steven went outside to look at what he could do and made a plan. He would fence off a large area for wildlife corridors so that animals could roam freely throughout his farm.

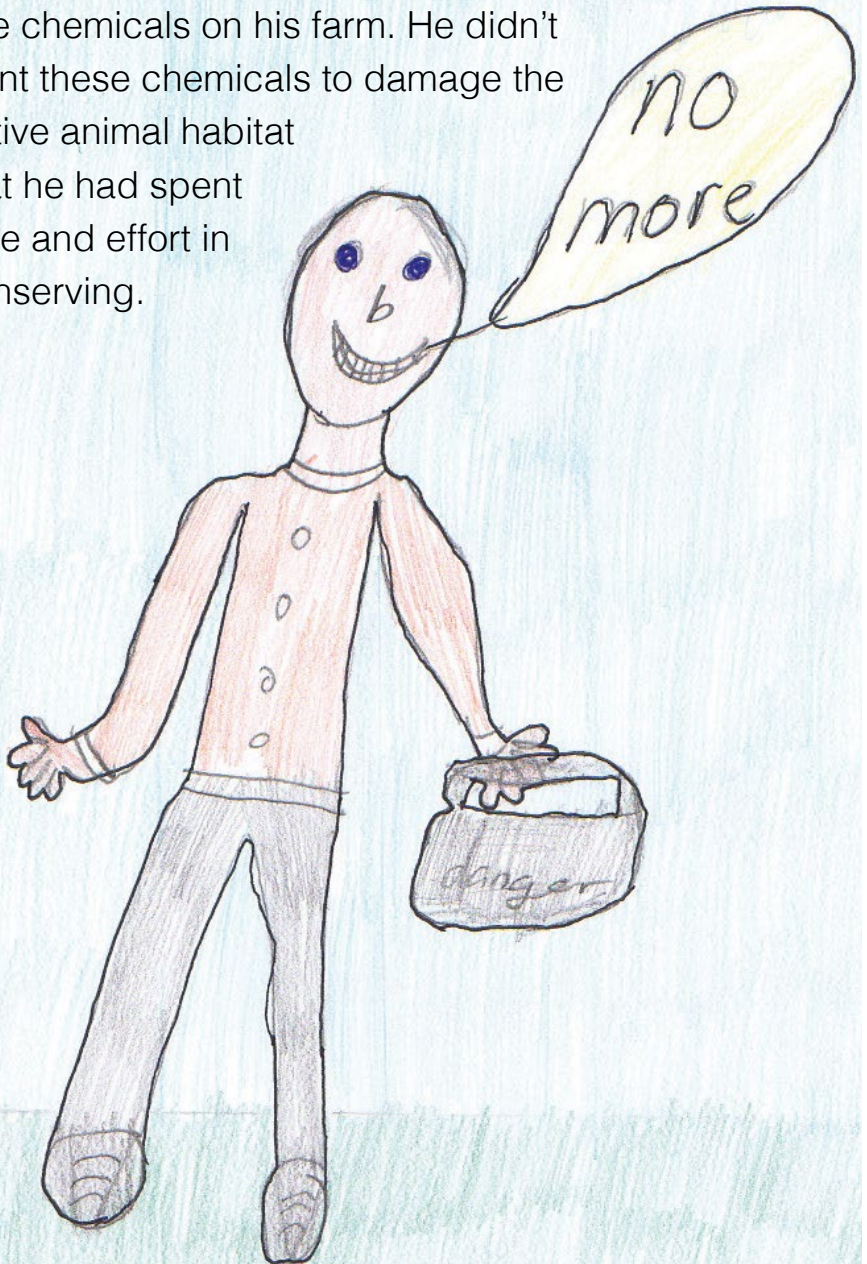


He would also fence off a large area of land that already had lots of trees and logs littered on the ground. It would be a wonderful spot for the animals to live in and they wouldn't get disturbed.



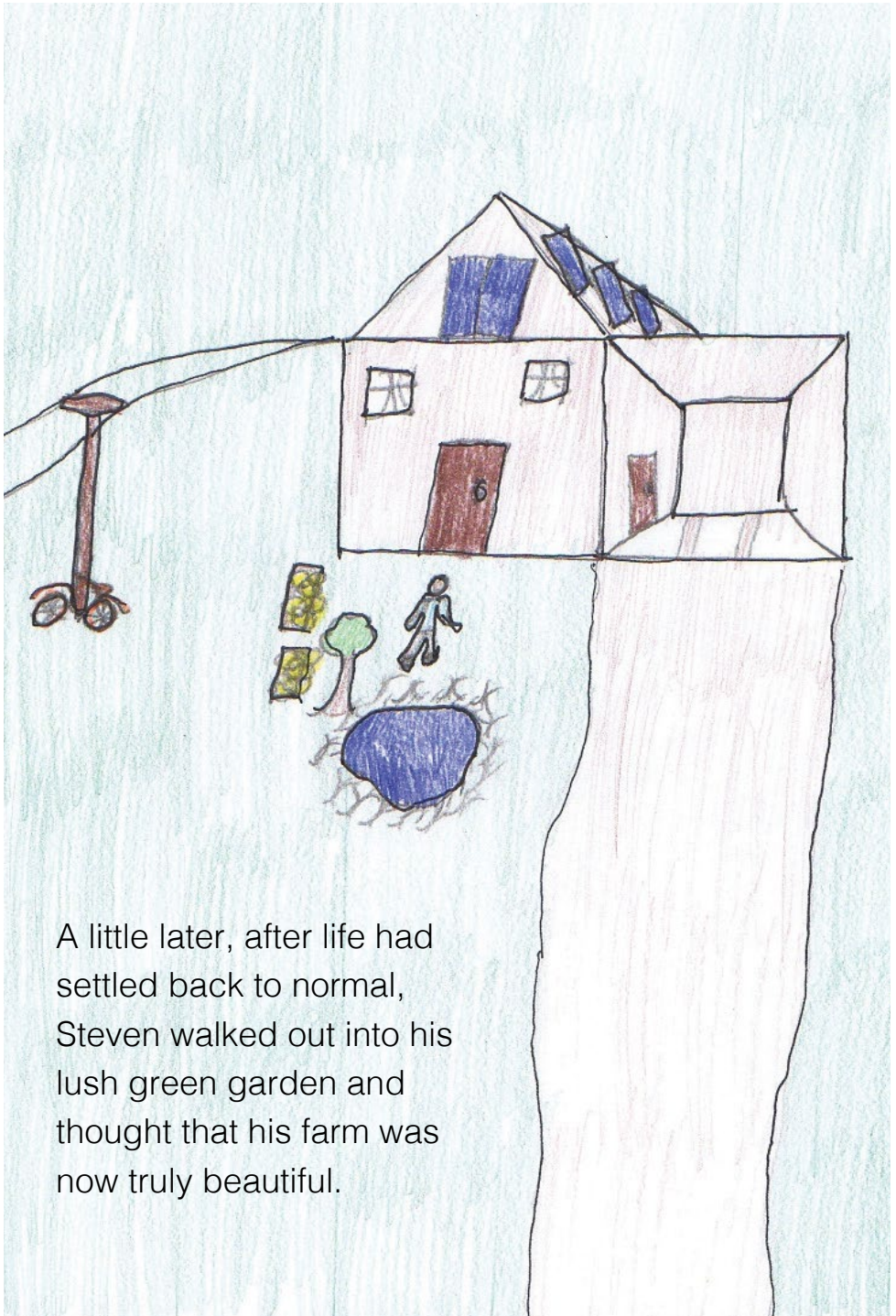
After fencing all the native wildlife habitat, Steven got solar panels put on the roof of his house. He made a lush dam that he stocked with yabbies and native fish. This provided water for local birds, but also meant that he and his family could go fishing whenever they wanted.

Steven decided that he would no longer use chemicals on his farm. He didn't want these chemicals to damage the native animal habitat that he had spent time and effort in conserving.



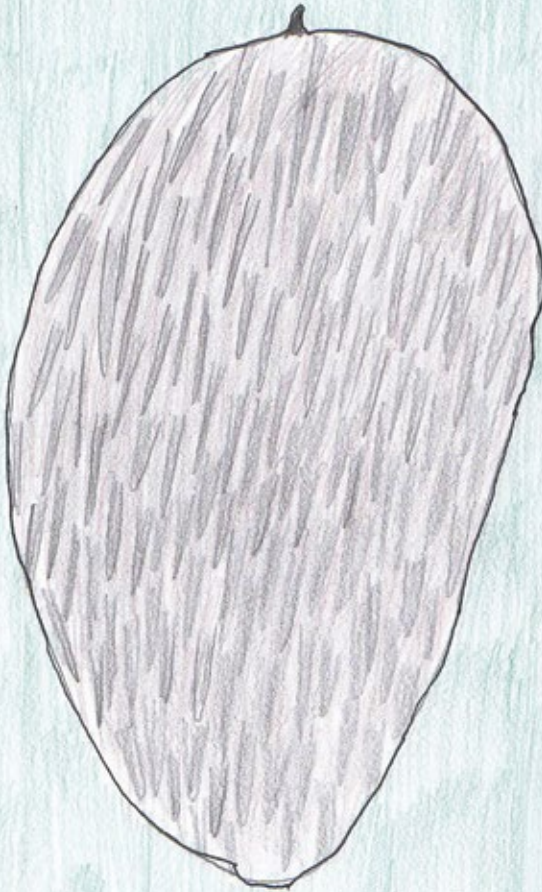
Steven knew that if he was going to go organic, then he would have to sell his old rickety sprayer. So, with much hesitation, he sold his beloved sprayer.





A little later, after life had settled back to normal, Steven walked out into his lush green garden and thought that his farm was now truly beautiful.

For the animals, it was a dream come true at last. Eddie was the hero and was to be known forever as the farm's saviour!





Charles Fawcett
Narrabri Public School, Year 6 2014



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**



**Local Land
Services**
North West



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Northern Tablelands