

Qweerk and the Feral Fox

Meckering Primary 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 “Feral Animals” Enviro-Stories program provided kids from five targeted schools around Australia with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about feral animals and their impacts on both biodiversity and agriculture. This program was sponsored by the Invasive Animals CRC with support from Wheatbelt NRM.

Invasive Animals CRC

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) is Australia’s largest integrated invasive animal research program. The Invasive Animals CRC creates new technologies and integrated strategies to reduce the impact of invasive animals on Australia’s economy, environment and people.

www.invasiveanimals.com

The Enviro-Stories ‘Feral Animals’ initiative has been initiated and supported by Jessica Marsh, the Invasive Animals CRC’s National NRM (Natural Resource Management) Facilitator. The initiative focuses on:

- Raising awareness in communities of the impacts pest animals have on the environment. Targeting kids in schools reaches not only the kids themselves, but their teachers, school staff, parents and other community members,
- Developing a refreshed primary education information pack that will value-add to the existing Invasive Animals CRC Pest Tales resource while incorporating PestSmart resources,
- Establishing stronger partnerships with NRM, Landcare, school communities, educators and regional groups to allow for future collaboration and information transfer to occur more effectively, and
- Promoting and implementing best practice management into key areas and helping to address key pest animal issues impacting on biodiversity and agricultural production.

www.pestsmart.org.au

Qweerk and the Feral Fox

Author: Meckering Primary School

Teacher: Peta Newbound

School: Meckering Primary School, WA

This book was prepared by students from Meckering Primary School with support from the Invasive Animals CRC and Wheatbelt NRM. Noongar language has been incorporated into this book and those words are identified on each page where they are used.

The “Feral Animals” Enviro-Stories collection consists of the following books:

- Qweerk and the Feral Fox, Western Australia
- Sad Little Town, Victoria
- Silly, Silly Fox, New South Wales
- The Indian Myna Bird: Major Pest, Queensland
- Carl the Pesky Camel, South Australia

Enviro-Stories is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

Design: PeeKdesigns, www.peekdesigns.com.au

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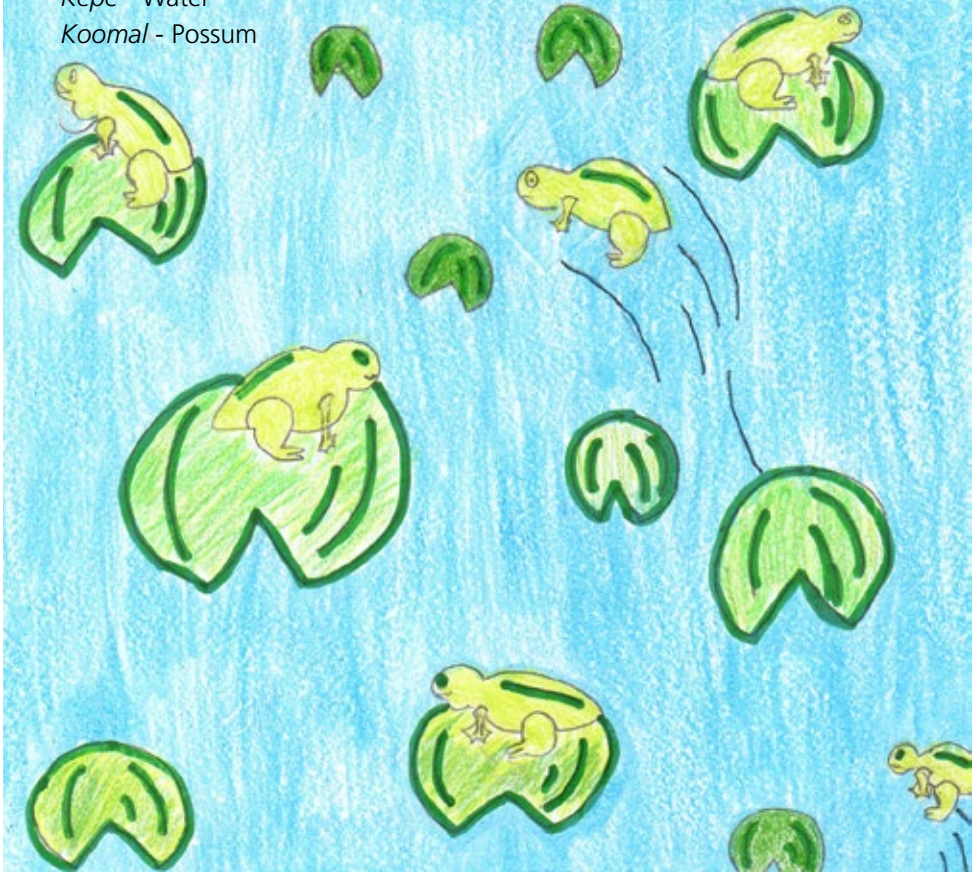
ISBN: 978-1-921777-82-0

Qweerk - Frog

Jipper joppying - Swimming

Kepe - Water

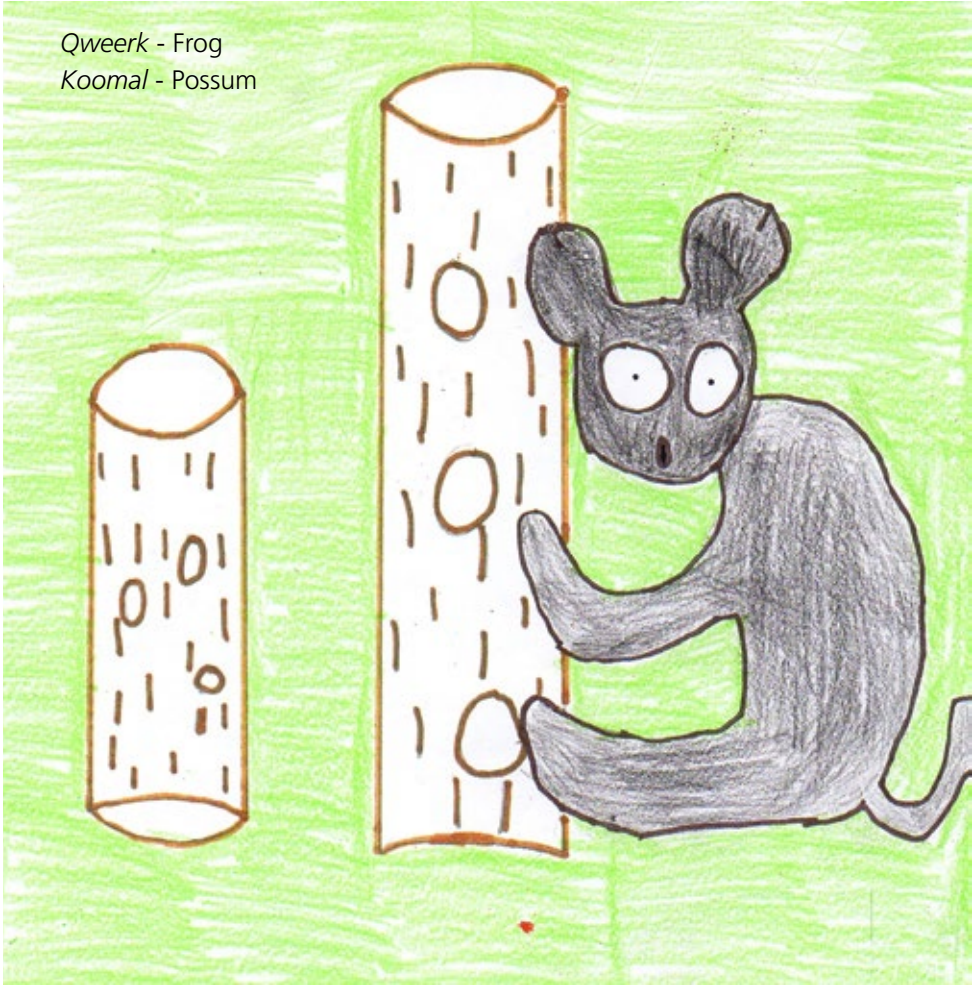
Koomal - Possum



A long time ago, but not so long ago, Qweerk the frog was jipper joppying in the kepe (swimming in the water). Suddenly he heard Koomal the possum crying.

“What’s wrong?” Qweerk asked Koomal.

Qweerk - Frog
Koomal - Possum



“I have nowhere safe to live now because the Feral Fox has his home under all my safe trees!” cried Koomal.

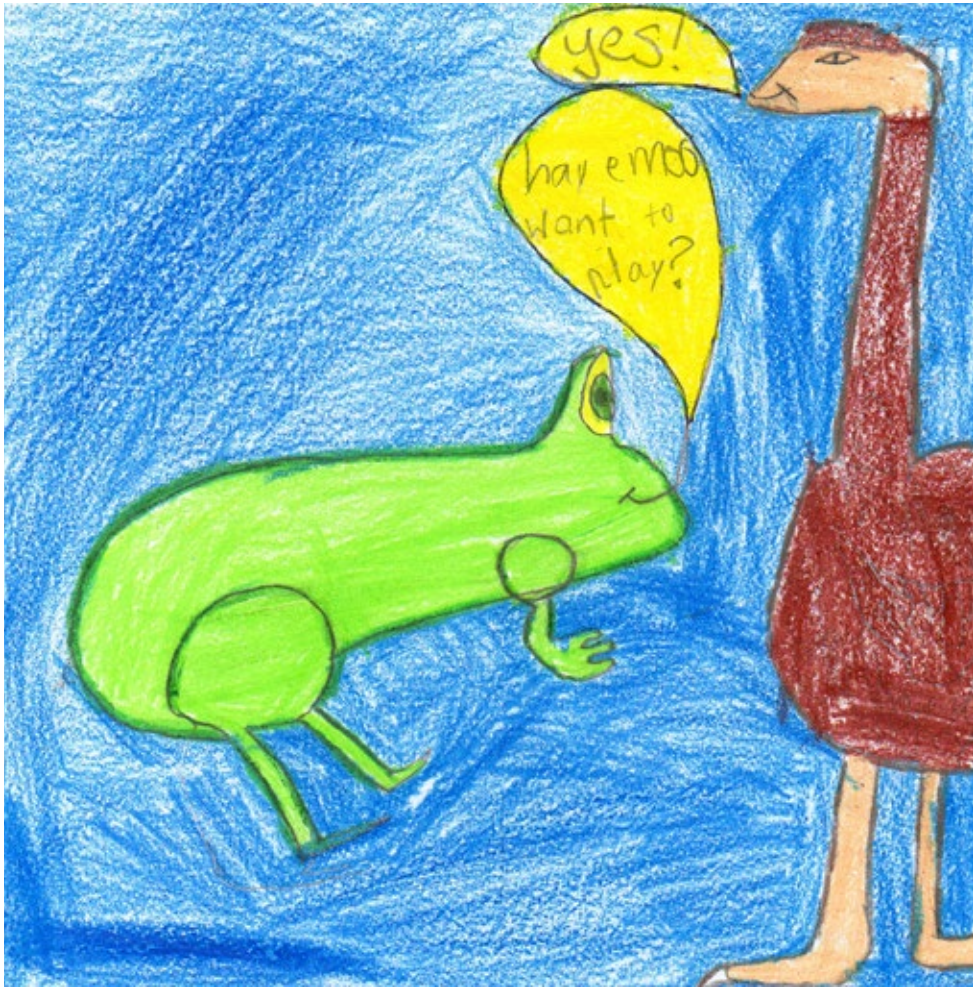
“I know! That Feral Fox can live anywhere - desert, snow or bush,” exclaimed Qweerk angrily.



All of a sudden Qweerk heard bawling. The sound came from Wetj.

“Feral Fox has taken my babies and eaten them up!” cried Wetj.

Qweerk - Frog
Wetj - Emu



“That Feral Fox can eat anything - reptiles, mammals, marsupials, birds and even amphibians!” despaired Qweerk.

Noorn slithered out of the rocks and said, "That Feral Fox, he has too many babies. Even when Man comes and poisons them, or shoots them, there are still too many!"

Noorn - Snake



“Feral Fox has eaten so many of my brothers and sisters,” said Woylie. “There are too few of me left and now I am endangered!”

Woylie - Brush-tailed bettong



Gugaa the Bobtail swung out from beneath a shady tree. "The problem is there are no predators to control the fox. No one eats the fox, but he eats everyone!"

Gugaa - Bobtail Lizard



“There are too many of them. We must get Man to help us,” said Qweerk. “Man is the only predator that the Feral Fox has!”

Qweerk - Frog





All the animals went to meet with Man.

“Will you help us Man?” asked the animals.

“We need to get rid of the Feral Fox!” they explained.



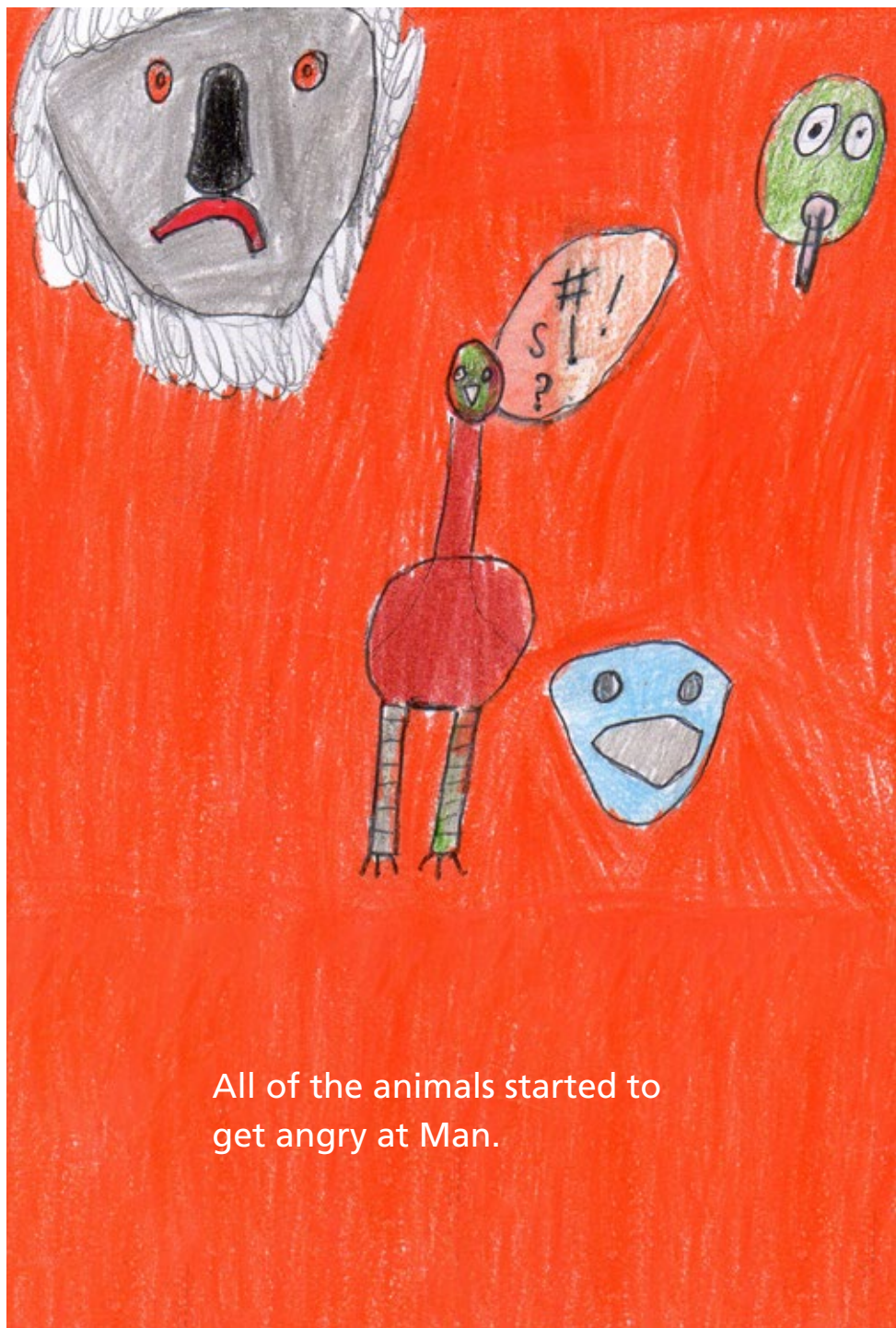
“Oh no, I don’t know if I can help you,” said Man. “I have tried baiting the Feral Fox, I have tried trapping the Feral Fox, I have tried shooting the Feral Fox and I have paid people money to kill the Feral Fox. What else can I do?”



All the animals and Man sat down and thought together for a long time. Suddenly Noorn got up, he was no friend of Man. "This is all you fault," he said. "You brought that blasted Feral Fox to our home!"



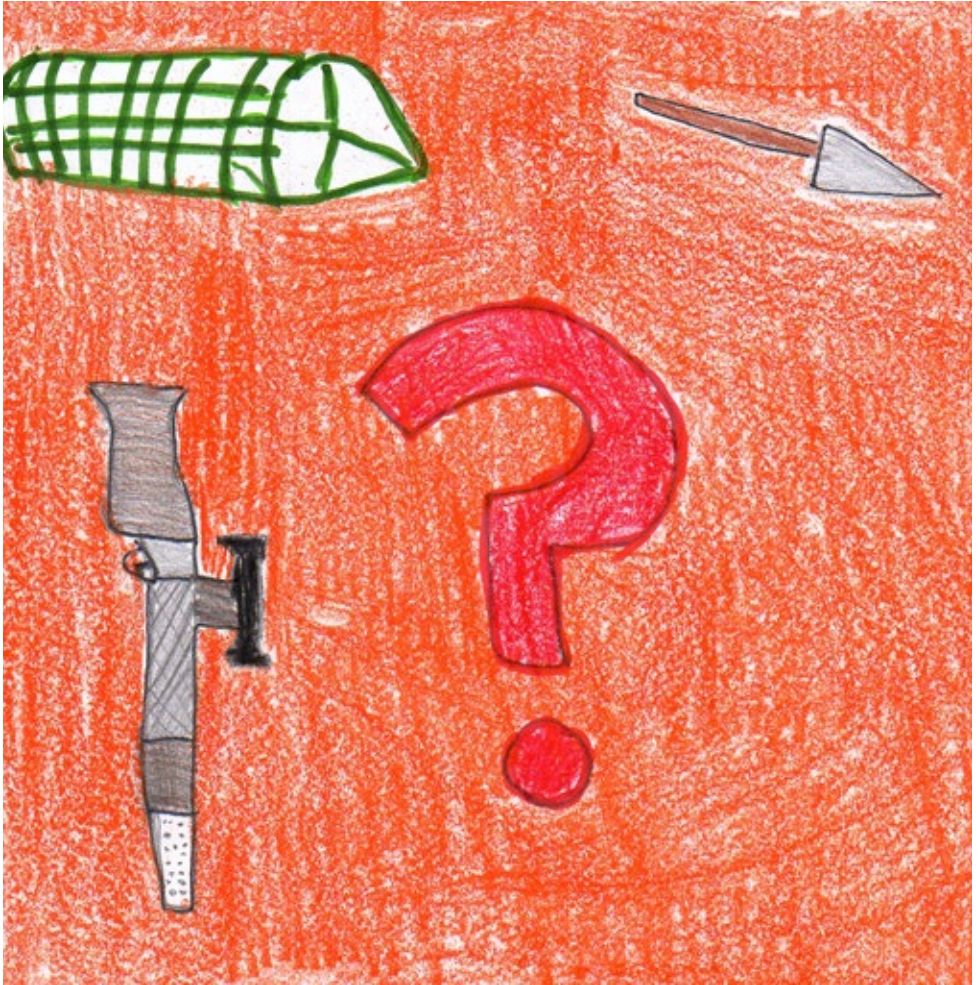
“I know I did,” said Man. “But I didn’t know he would cause harm. I thought he would be like the horse, cow and sheep who have done good things.” Man looked sorry about past decisions.



All of the animals started to
get angry at Man.



"Stop," said Qweerk. "This will never do. We cannot solve a problem by fighting. We need to work together to find a solution. No one individual or one strategy will work. We must all work together with lots of strategies."



Together the animals and Man came up with a list of strategies to try and control that wiley Feral Fox.

Today, Man is working hard to make these strategies work to protect the native animals.

We, the students from Meckering Primary School, would like to thank Mr. Rowan Hegglun from Wheatbelt NRM who helped us learn about the Feral Fox so we could write this book.

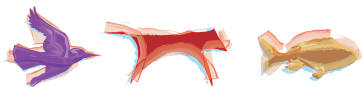
We would also like to thank Mrs. Pat Davis and Mrs. Charmaine Hayden who helped us with the Noongar language that we have used in this book.

Noongar words used in this book:

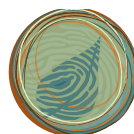
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Invasive Animals CRC



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