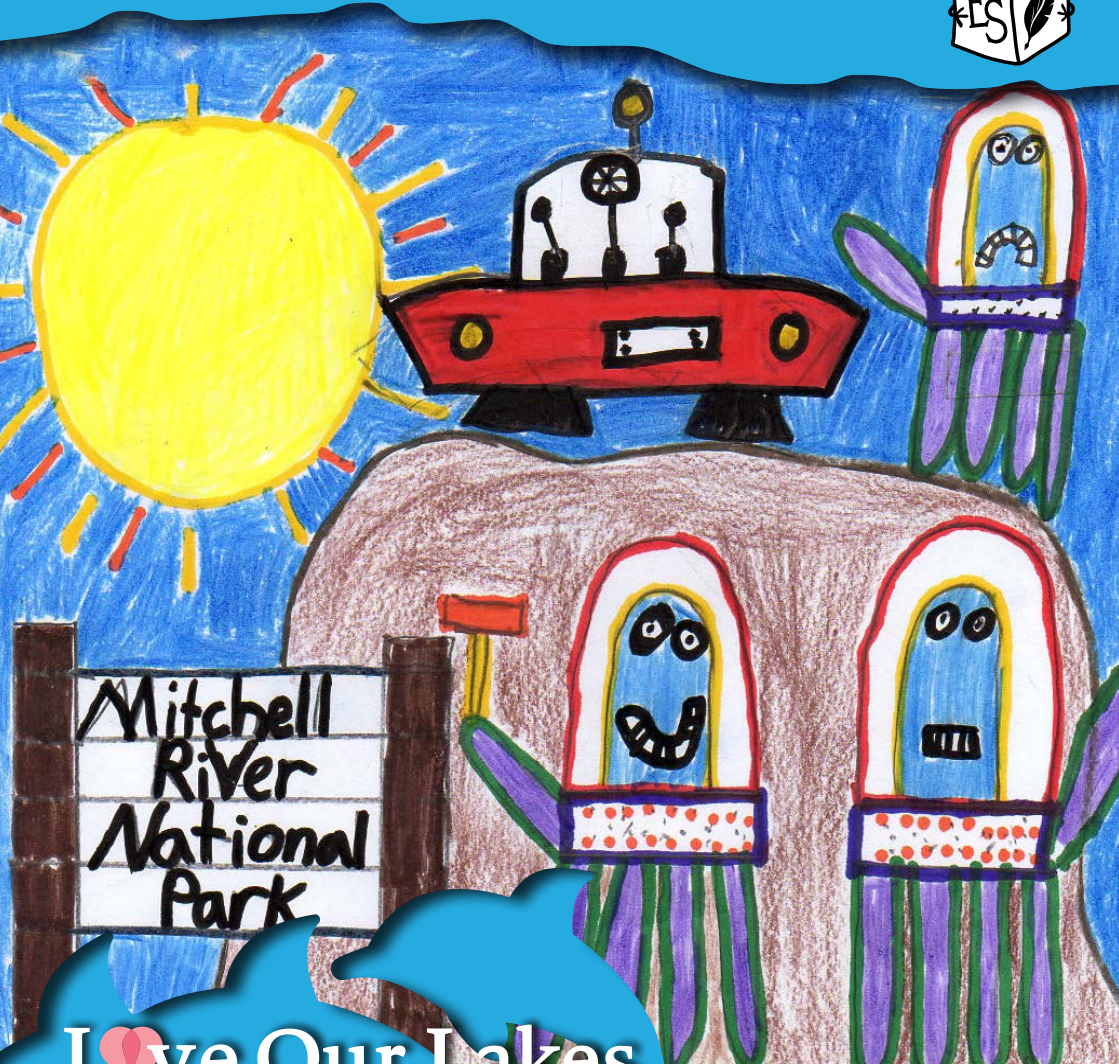


Octoparians crash land at the Mitchell River National Park

Year 4-6

Lindenow South Primary School



Love Our Lakes



*This book is dedicated to the
loving memory of Kaleb Smith.*

Octoparians crash land at the Mitchell River National Park

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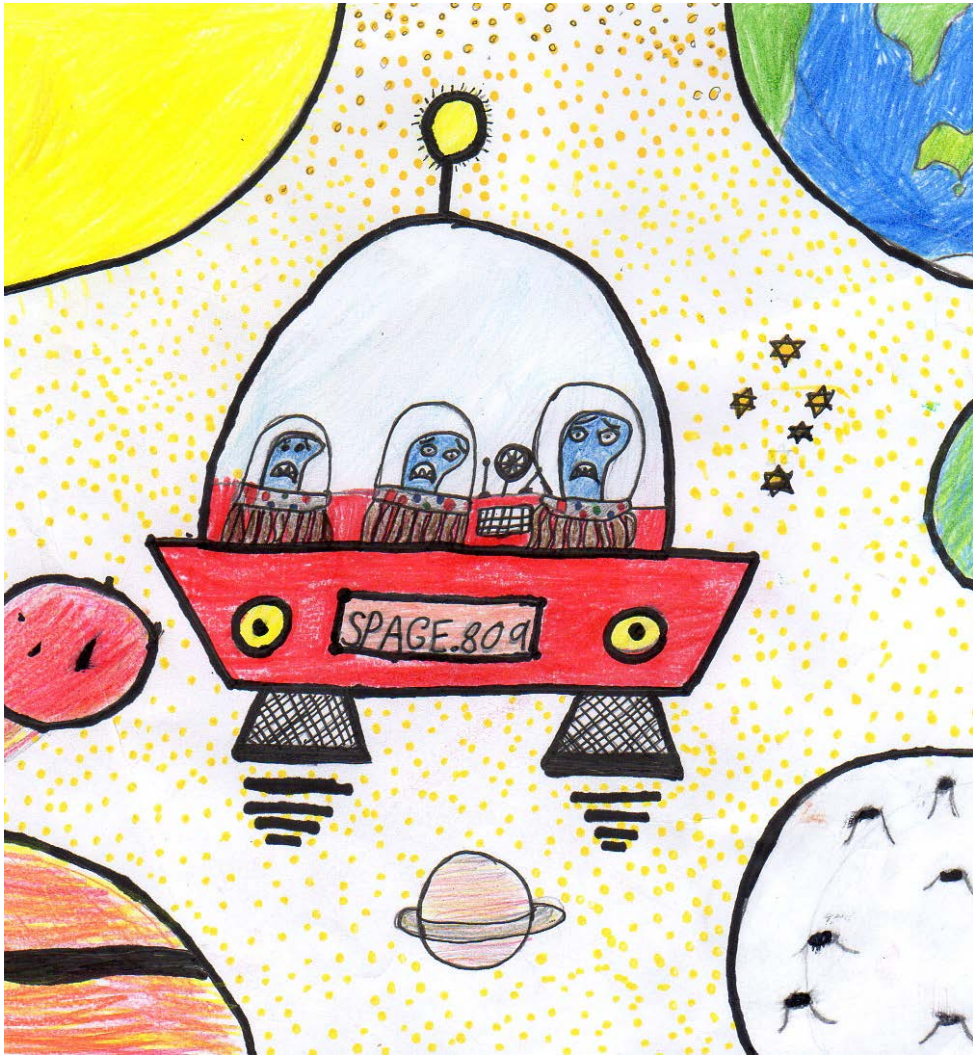
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Once upon a time out in space, a big flaming meteor burned through the stars. The meteor hit a gigantic red spaceship forcing it to land on the nearest planet.

It was a beautiful green and blue planet, that was full of life, named Earth. Inside the spaceship were some unknown creatures called Octoparians. They came from a planet far, far away named Octoparia.



The Octoparians guided their spaceship over a huge ocean, some long coastal lakes and towards an enormous forest near the mountains. They had no idea where on Earth they were.

Zuno screamed, "Quick have a look at that sign it says something about a N-a-t-i-o-n-a-l P-a-r-k!"

"It says Mitchell River National Park," said Zlatco as he wondered, "What's a National Park?"

"Let me see what my gazoo gadget universe translator says," whispered Kandue.

"On Earth, a National Park is a natural area where the humans protect native plants and wildlife," buzzed the gazoo gadget.

As the Octoparians approached their ship they realised a piece was missing from the bonnet. It must have come loose when they collided with the meteor. The missing part was the Piece of Resistance Power Model (PORPM). They knew that without it they would be trapped on planet Earth forever.



The three aliens decided to go and find the PORPM that was missing from their spaceship. They thought it would be best if they went towards the Mitchell River National Park to see if they could find it.



As Zuno turned around, he tripped over and almost stepped on a baby lizard. Kandue and Zlatco had to help get him up.

"Be careful of the wildlife Zuno," said Kandue. "This is our chance to observe and explore life on Earth and report our findings back to Octoparia."

When the Octoparians reached the Mitchell River they saw a prehistoric looking creature. The creature was brown and grey/green, with scales and a long tail. It was lounging in the water amongst rocks by the river.

"Wow, what sort of creature are you?" asked Kandue in amazement.

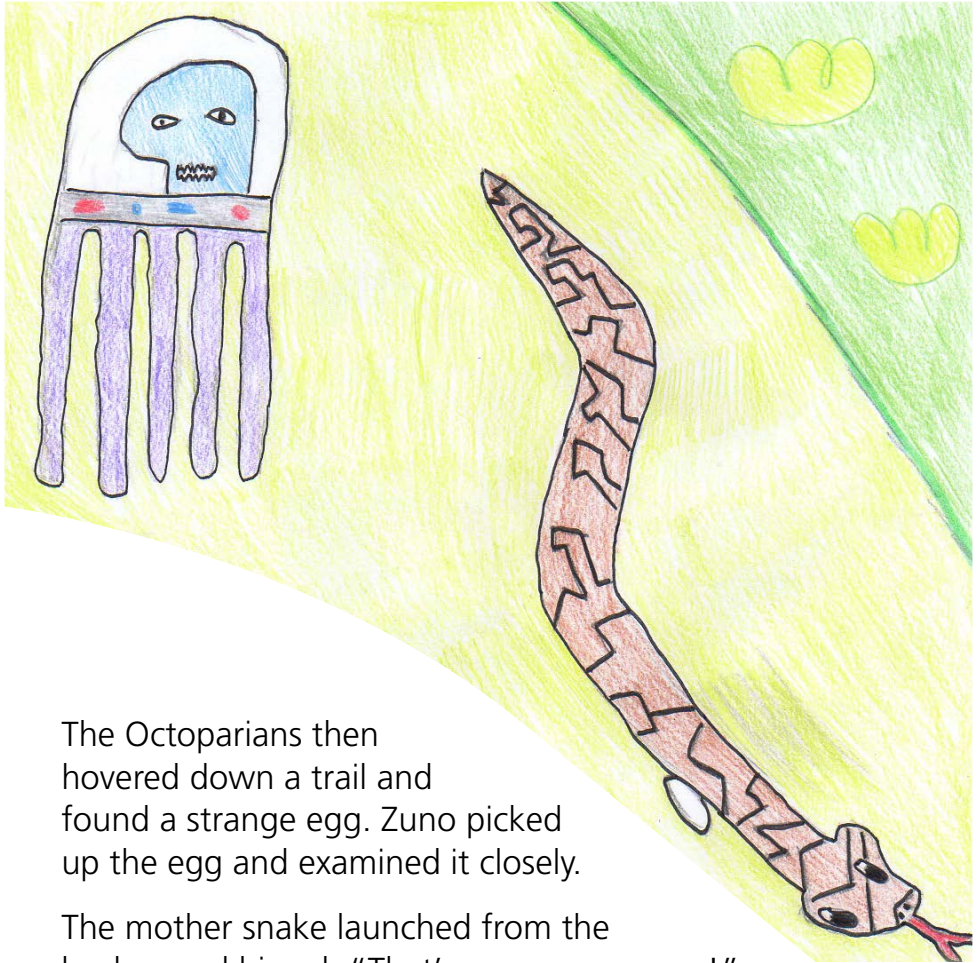
"I'm a Water Dragon," he grumbled. "Now, what do you want?"

Zlatco whispered, "We need to find our PORPM for the ship."

"I haven't seen one. Good luck. It's a big area to search," replied the Water Dragon.

So they said 'good-bye' and wandered off.





The Octoparians then hovered down a trail and found a strange egg. Zuno picked up the egg and examined it closely.

The mother snake launched from the bushes and hissed, "That'ssssss my eggsssss!"

Zuno passed her the egg and asked, "What sort of creature are you?"

"Thankssss! I'm-sssss a Brown Ssssssnake of course," then she picked up her egg and slithered off.

Zuno rushed off to tell Kandue and Zlatco about the creature and continue their search for the PORPM.

The Octoparians continued exploring, when out of the bushes bounded a furry creature that stood upright, had long ears and a long tail to balance itself.

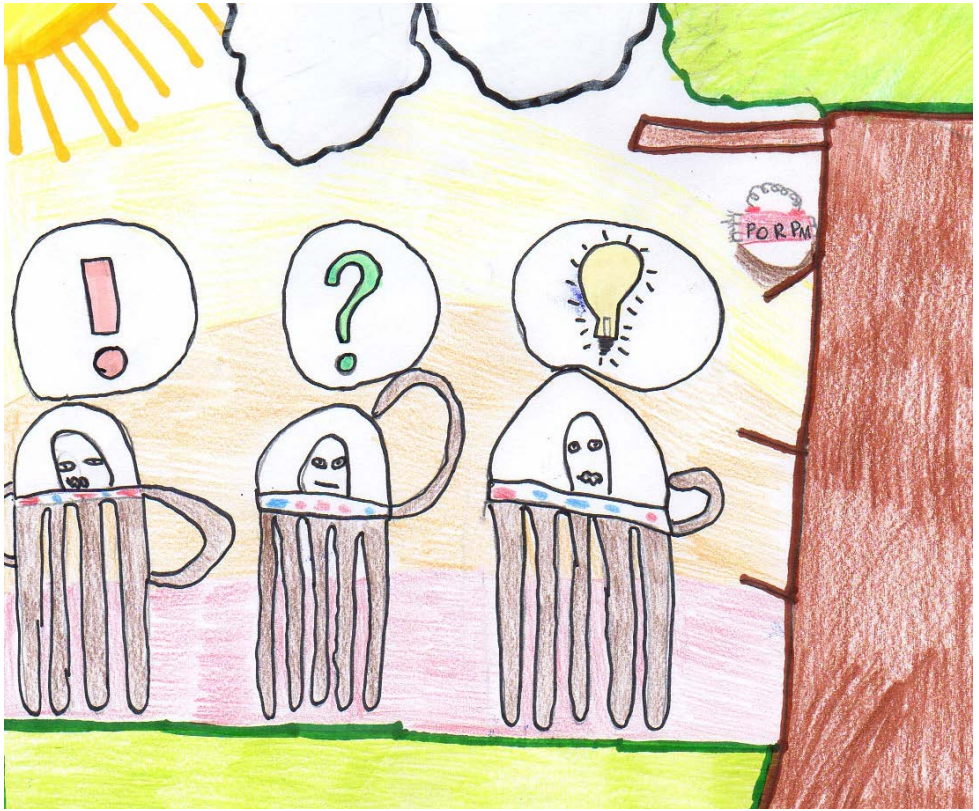
Zlatco couldn't believe this one, "You are fantastic!"

"I'm a Swamp Wallaby," the bouncing animal replied.

Astonished, they asked the Swamp Wallaby if it had seen the PORPM.

The swamp wallaby said, "A colorful bird flew off with the missing piece of your spaceship!"





They went in the direction the Swamp Wallaby pointed, looking for the colorful bird. The bird had taken the missing piece of the spaceship to an old blue gum tree, deep within its territory.

Zlatco saw the bird but, frightened by the strange Octoparians, it flew away with the PORPM.

“Should we chase the bird?” asked Kandue.

“I just want to go back to the spaceship to call for help,” replied Zuno.

Zlatco said, “No! We are going after that piece so we can fix our spaceship.”



The Octoparians chased the bird through the bush until it landed in its nest, high up in a gnarled stringybark tree.

They admired the beautiful bird as they approached. The bird had blue on its wings, green on its head and yellow on its stomach. It was very bright and colorful so they used the gazoo gadget to identify it.

"The bird is a Rainbow Bee-eater," buzzed the gadget.



The Octoparians carefully climbed the stringybark and found the missing part of their ship resting in the Bee-eater's nest.

The Rainbow Bee-eater was furious, swooping at the aliens because she was angry they were in her territory. This caused Kandue to get tangled in a branch. He held on tight to the PORPM not wanting to lose it again. The other Octoparians moved quickly to help him out.



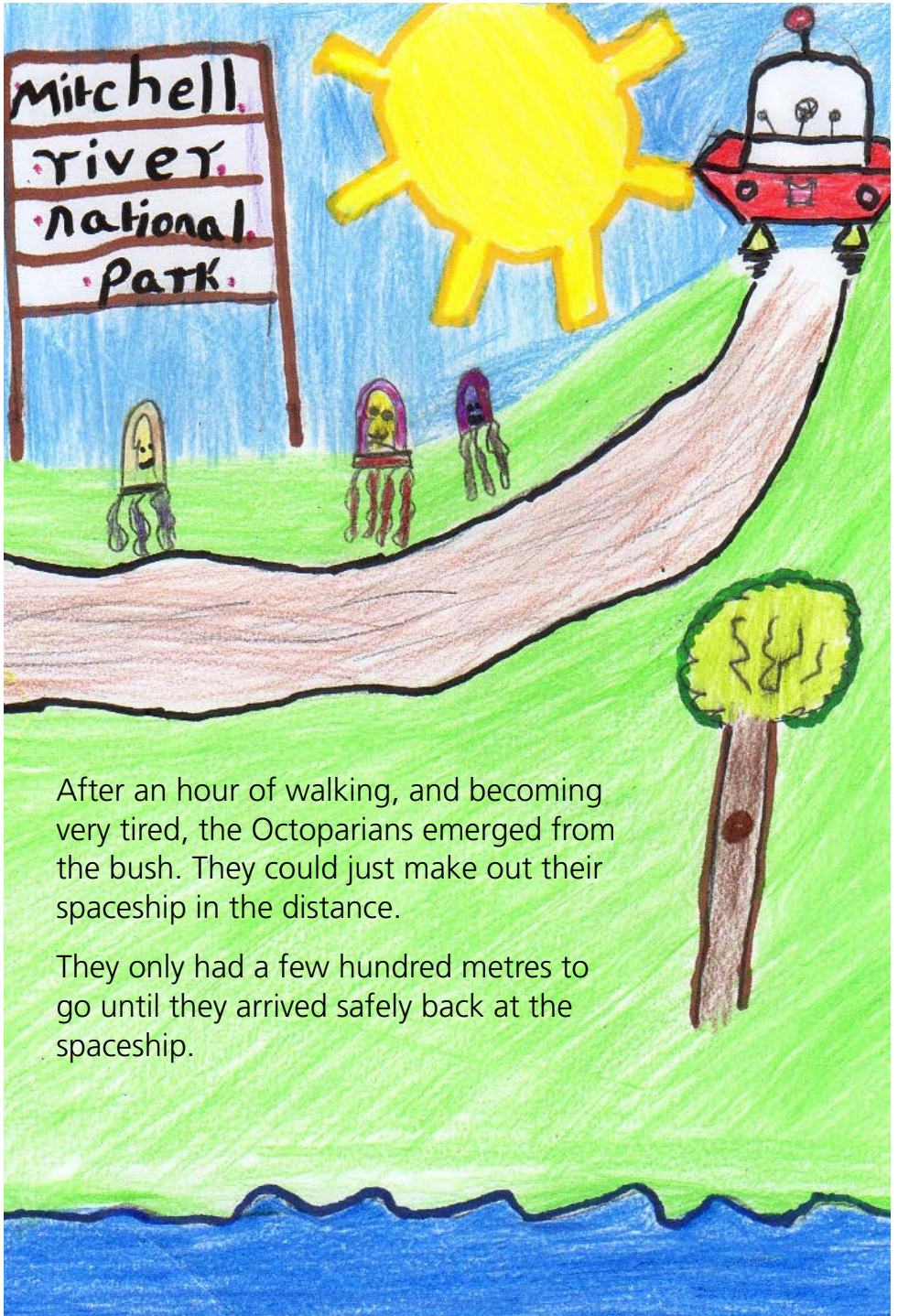
Zuno, Zlatco and Kandue got down from the gnarled stringybark tree. Finally, they had the missing part. Now they just had to find their way out of the National Park and back to their ship.

Zlatco accidentally stood on a tiger snake. Luckily it was friendly so they asked it for directions.

“You-ssss sssshould ssseeeee the ssssignssss,” the Tiger snake said as he pointed down the path.

The Octoparians followed the path and found a sign. The sign had a map that showed them the way to get out of the Mitchell River National Park. So they set off in that direction.





After an hour of walking, and becoming very tired, the Octoparians emerged from the bush. They could just make out their spaceship in the distance.

They only had a few hundred metres to go until they arrived safely back at the spaceship.



Zuno, Kandue and Zlatco put the Piece of Resistance Power Model (PORM) back in their ship. They used something they found that the Earthlings called 'Duct Tape' to fix it in position.

Kandue climbed a tall, grey gum tree next to the spaceship. He wanted to have one last look around to see if there was anybody or anything following them.



The Octoparians started their ship, finally ready to go home to their planet. They looked out across the Mitchell River National Park as they blasted through the sky. Zuno, Klandue and Zlatco were all excited to tell all the Octoparians about their adventure.

Zlatco reflected, "If all of Earth is as beautiful as this, then the humans are incredibly lucky people."

Enviro-Stories

This book has been published as part of the Enviro-Stories Education Program. 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.

Inspiring Local Literacy
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