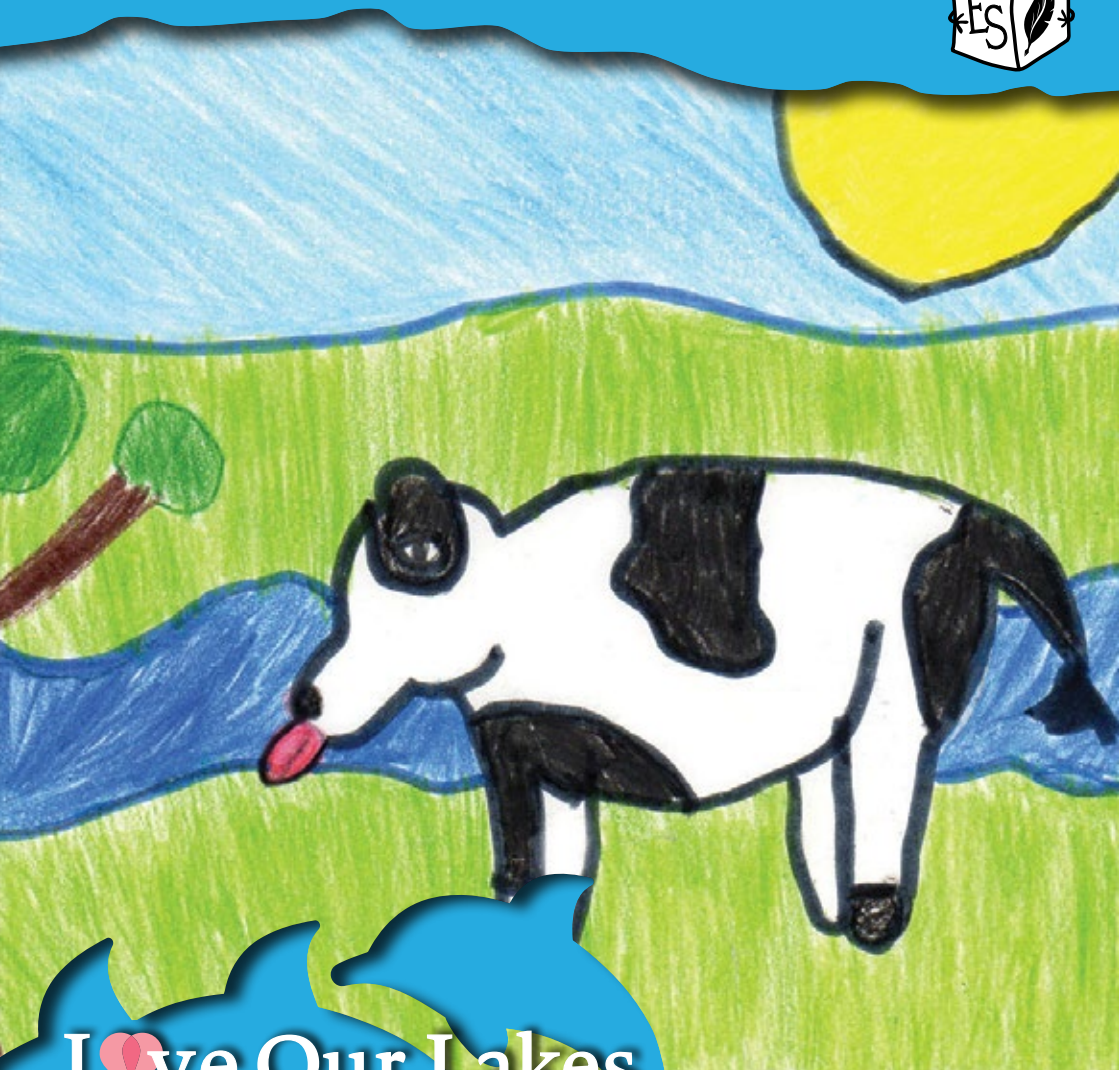


# The one that got away

Year 5/6  
Maffra Primary School



Love Our Lakes

# 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*

[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)



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Authors: Year 5/6

Teacher: Simone Allen

School: Maffra Primary School



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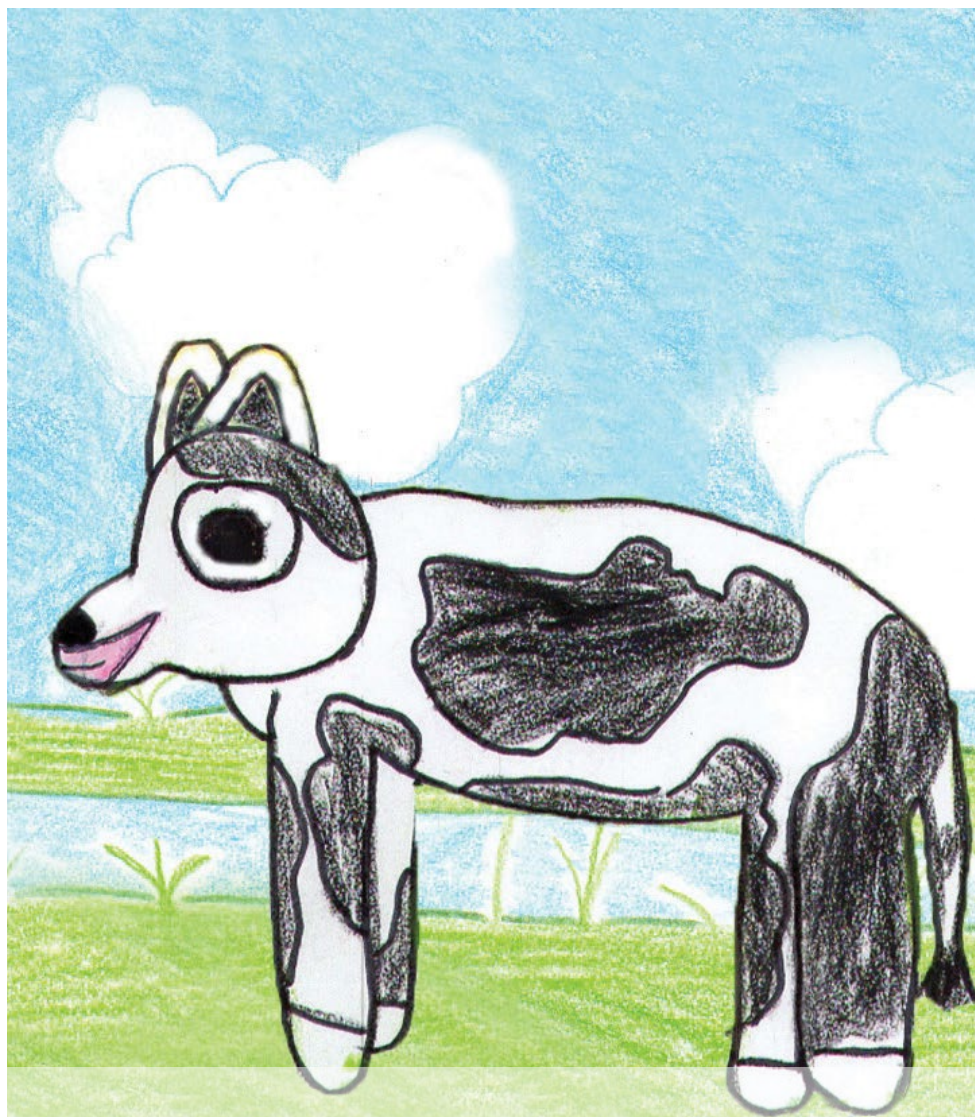
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Once upon a time, there was a farm at the base of the mountains near the small town of Maffra in Gippsland, Victoria. It was a thriving dairy farm nestled in amongst the bright green fields of the dairy country. On that farm there lived a Friesian cow named TC.





TC was bored with the routine on the farm. Every day was the same: wake up, chew grass, drink and be milked. TC longed to see the world outside of the farm.

One day, a new and inexperienced farmhand left the gate open when he rounded up the cows to be milked. He didn't realise that he had left one cow behind...TC.







TC saw the open gate and decided that now was her chance for an adventure. She quickly walked out the gate, excited that she was finally seeing new things. But she was also incredibly nervous as she didn't know what lay ahead of her.

The happy cow wandered down the road looking at all the neighbouring farms. She stopped for a bite to eat on the lush roadside grass.

Out of the corner of her eye, she noticed movement on the ground. TC spun around suddenly to see what it was.

"Snnn, Snnn, SNNNAKE!" TC screamed when she saw the creature slithering towards her.







TC turned and bolted, not caring where she was headed. She had to run as far away from the snake as possible.

She sped down the road, passed a milk tanker and onto a dirt track, until she finally calmed herself and slowed down. When TC gathered her senses she realised she had run straight onto another farm.



Tired and thirsty, TC wandered over towards a water channel to get a drink.

A large bull ran towards her and roared, "Come here baby and I will love you for *heifer* and *heifer*."

She backed away quickly, wanting to get away from the big, show-off bull, when another bull appeared from behind. Then another, and another, until the bulls totally surrounded her!

"Oh no!" she exclaimed as TC realised that she must be on a bull stud. She had to get out of here. All these bulls just meant trouble. So she jumped through the channel and sprinted out of the farm and away from the bulls.



TC had no idea where she was and no idea how to get home. She found herself walking very carefully through some bushland along the Macalister River.

Frightened by the snake, harassed by some bulls, this adventure was turning out more than any cow would bargain for.

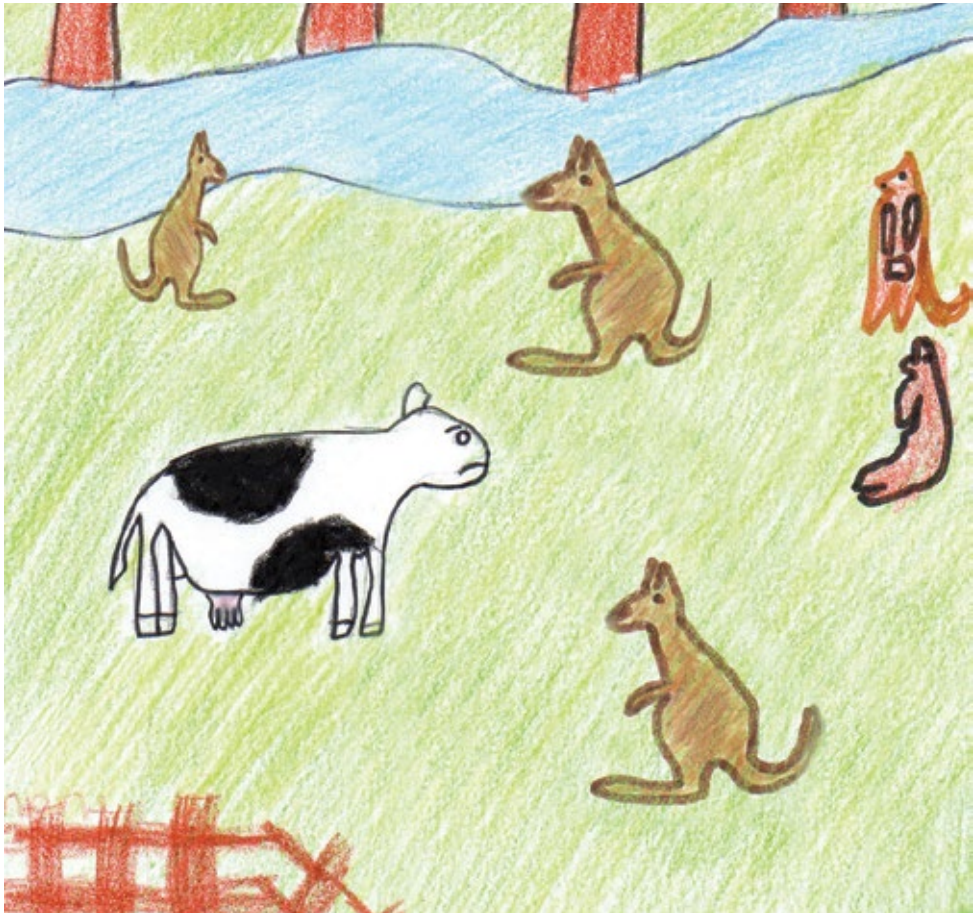


Out of the bushes hopped a mob of cheeky young joeys. They bounded around her, bouncing all over the place.

“Oi! Yeah you, get over here,” one joey called at her.

“Whoa! You’re a big one!” another said rudely.

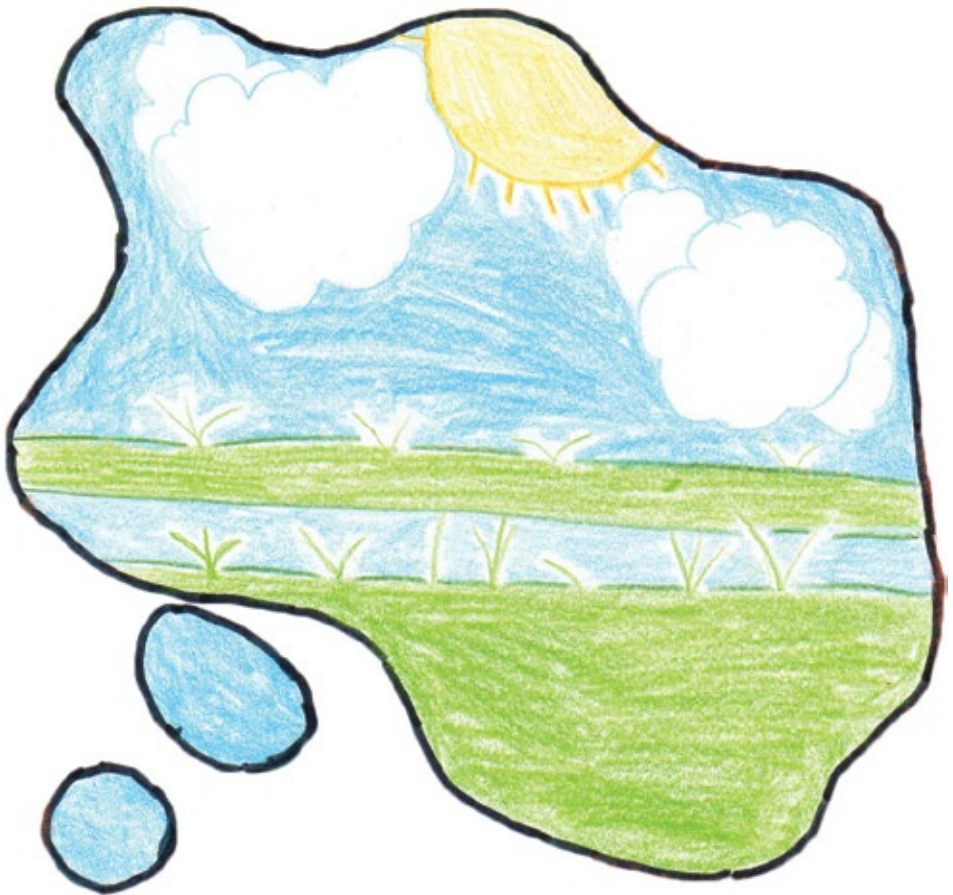
“Black and white are silly together, you look stupid,” teased a third joey.



TC stared at the joeys for a minute thinking they were very impolite. She walked away wondering where to go next.

"I want to go home," she said to herself. "I want my lovely green grass, my fresh water and my friends."

She walked slowly towards the sound of flowing water.





"Are you lost?" asked a friendly Kookaburra.

TC looked up and then nodded her head sadly. She told the Kookaburra about her adventure and that she really wanted to go home.

"You are a long way from home buddy," said the Kookaburra. Then he laughed and laughed and laughed!





TC turned to leave, upset about all the rude creatures.

"Sorry, I can't help laughing. It's in my nature," the Kookaburra sighed. "Just follow the river to the irrigation channel and then follow the channel back to your farm. You can't go wrong."

TC hoped this wasn't a joke and followed the flowing water.



TC followed the Macalister River until she discovered the irrigation channel. She knew that all the water from the channel helped the pasture and crops on all the farms.

Following the irrigation channel, she realised things were starting to look more familiar. Finally, she saw it. The most beautiful sight in the world...

"Thank goodness for the channel system," TC mooed in triumph as she ran through the open gate to home.







From that day on, TC was much more content with life on her Maffra dairy farm. She decided it was a good, relaxing life and she even began to take pride in her job of producing Gippsland's milk.





2015 Year 5/6

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