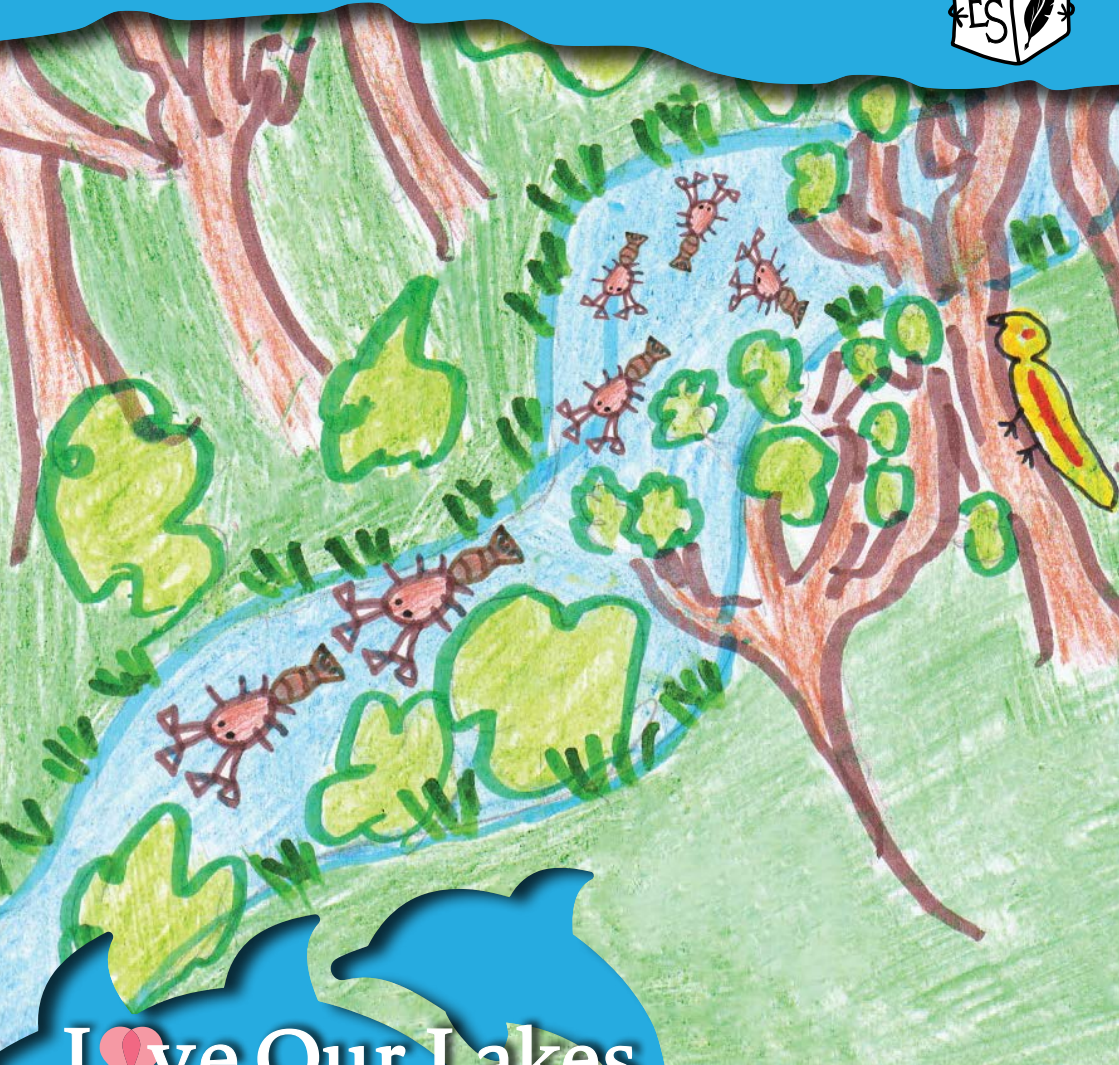


The Yabby family who couldn't find a home

Year 2/3

Swan Reach 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



The Yabby family who couldn't find a home

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This is a story about Lou and Lucy's search for a new home.

Once upon a time, there lived a Yabby called Lou. His wife was called Lucy, and they had four little yabby kids together.

One day Lou and his family decided to leave their home because it was no longer a nice place to live. It was not clean anymore and this was affecting their health.





We *can't* live here because there are no native trees on the banks. We need native trees because they drop leaves and branches all year round. They also keep the banks together and provide shade and shelter.

So they continued their search.



We **can't** live here because the water is so dirty that the seagrass is dying. Seagrass needs clean, clear water as it relies on sunlight to grow. Yabbies need seagrass to hide in and to find food.

So they continued their search.



We **can't** live here because there is too much dust and oil in the water from people washing equipment at the factory upstream.

So they continued their search.



We **can't** live here because there are no bins and people have thrown rubbish in the river. Those messy humans should really learn to take their rubbish home.

So they continued their search.



We *can't* live here because there is oil in the water from boats. If boats are not being looked after properly then they can leak fuel into the water.

So they continued their search.



We **can't** live here because the farmers have not put fences near the river and the cows are pooping in the water.

So they continued their search.

Finally our yabby family arrived at the Gippsland Lakes in the Tambo River, near Swan Reach. They had a good look around and liked what they saw.

They decided...we **can** live here because there are lots of native trees on the riverbanks. The trees provide shelter, help to stop erosion and keep the river clean.



We *can* live here because there is no sewage in the water. The people of Swan Reach must take good care of their properties making sure nothing is leaking into the river.



We **can** live here because there are lots of logs in the water. Logs are great because fish, yabbies and other creatures use them to lay their eggs on and to hide in and under. Submerged logs provide valuable shelter in the rivers and lakes.



We **can** live here because there is lots of seagrass growing in the shallow, warm water. Seagrass is very important habitat for the creatures who live in the lakes.



We *can* live here because the farmer put fences around the banks of the river. This means there is no mud or cow poop in the water.



We *can* live here because someone has cleaned up all the old fishing lines and tackle. Fishing lines and tackle pose a threat to the animals who live in and around the water.



People love living in Swan Reach. They can go fishing, boating, motorbike riding, bird watching, swimming, camping, kayaking and bushwalking.



Because they love the area, the people take better care of the rivers and lakes. This keeps the water healthy for all of the native animals that rely on it.

The Tambo River was a perfect place for Lou, Lucy and their yabby family to live. They built a home there and hoped they would never have to move ever again.



They love their home in the Tambo River at Swan Reach.



2015 Year 2/3

Swan Reach Primary School

Love Our Lakes

www.loveourlakes.net.au

