

Just Too Feral for Meadow Flat



Year 4, 5 & 6
Meadow Flat 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

Central West Local Land Services

The Central West Local Land Services region is home to around 110,000 people and covers the central west slopes region around Grenfell, Forbes and Wellington to the western plains of Nyngan and Coonamble.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest

Central Tablelands Local Land Services

The Central Tablelands Local Land Services region is located in central New South Wales and covers an area of approximately 31,365 km². It includes the major towns of Bathurst, Blayney, Cowra, Lithgow, Molong, Mudgee, Oberon and Orange.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands

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 | www.pestsmart.org.au

Just Too Feral for Meadow Flat

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School: Meadow Flat Public School

This book has been published as part of the 2015 Feral Animals Enviro-Stories program which was supported by the Central West and Central Tablelands Local Land Services and Invasive Animals CRC. The 2015 Feral Animals collection consists of the following books:

- Billy's Great Escape
- Carl the Carp
- Farmer Bob and the Red Fox
- Just Too Feral for Meadow Flat
- Nigel the Nasty Rabbit
- Rabbits Running Rife
- Some Help for Harry
- The Invasion
- The Twins and the Mouse Plague
- Who got the Chickens?

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Meadow Flat Public School is a small school located in a rural setting on the Great Western Highway, east of Bathurst.

Being country kids, we understand the importance of trying to control feral animals to protect our farmland, native bushland and native animals.

To control feral animals you must first understand them. These are some of the feral animals that we learned about that cause problems in our area.



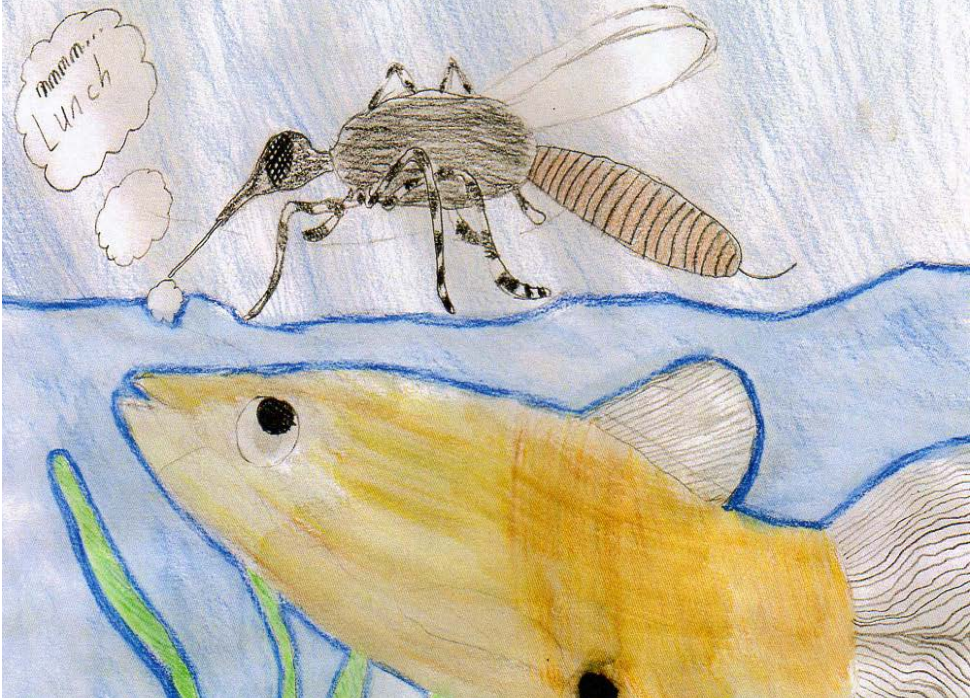
EUROPEAN WILD RABBIT



Feral rabbits are a huge problem around Meadow Flat. They compete with native wildlife and farm animals, damage vegetation and degrade the land.

Rabbits like to live in short grassy areas in both natural bushland or grazed pastures.

GAMBUSIA (MOSQUITO FISH)



Mosquito fish are a major pest in our waterways. They have contributed to the decline of native freshwater fish and other aquatic animals. Mosquito fish are not good for the environment because they compete with other species, attack other species (including their young), have a high reproductive rate and are carriers of disease.

Gambusia were first brought to Australia to control mosquitoes that breed in the water.

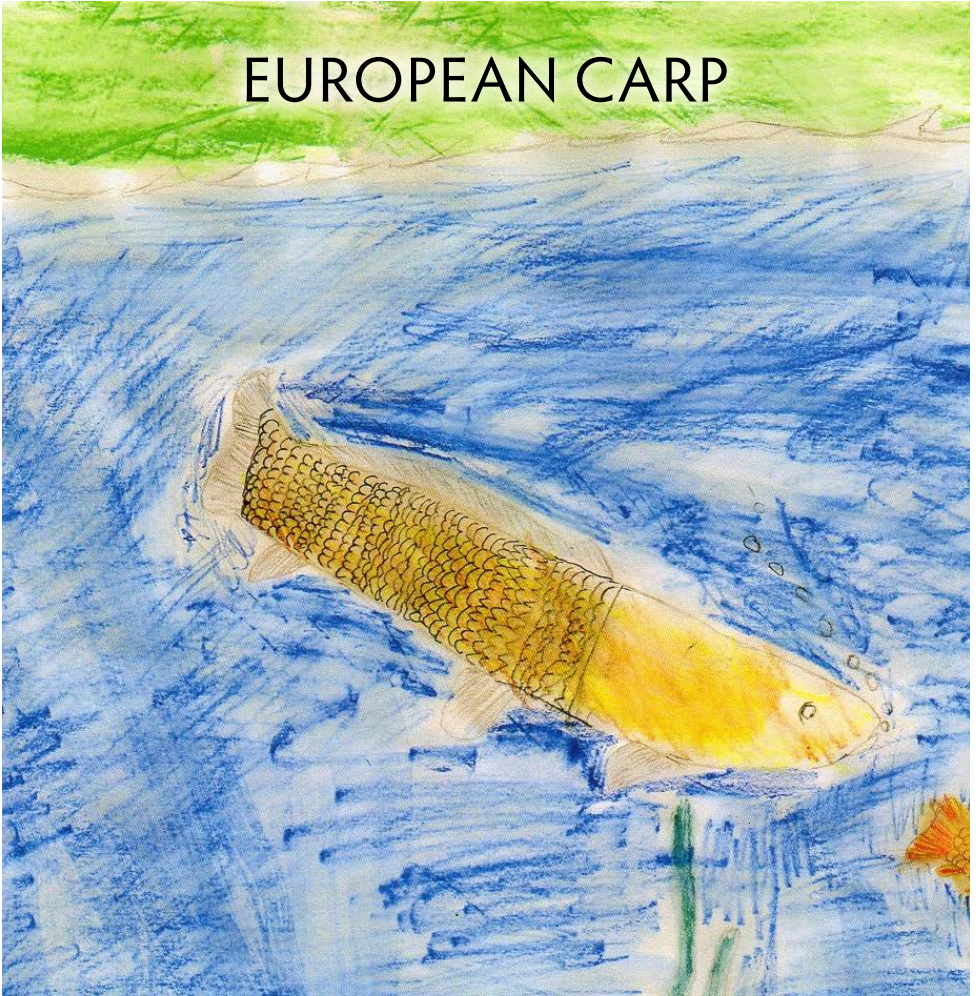
FERAL DEER

Deer were introduced to Australia for hunting soon after Europeans arrived. They soon became feral and spread rapidly through the woodland areas and are now a huge problem.

Feral deer eat large amounts of vegetation, competing with both farm animals and native wildlife. They also trample plants, spread weeds and compact and disturb the soil leading to erosion.



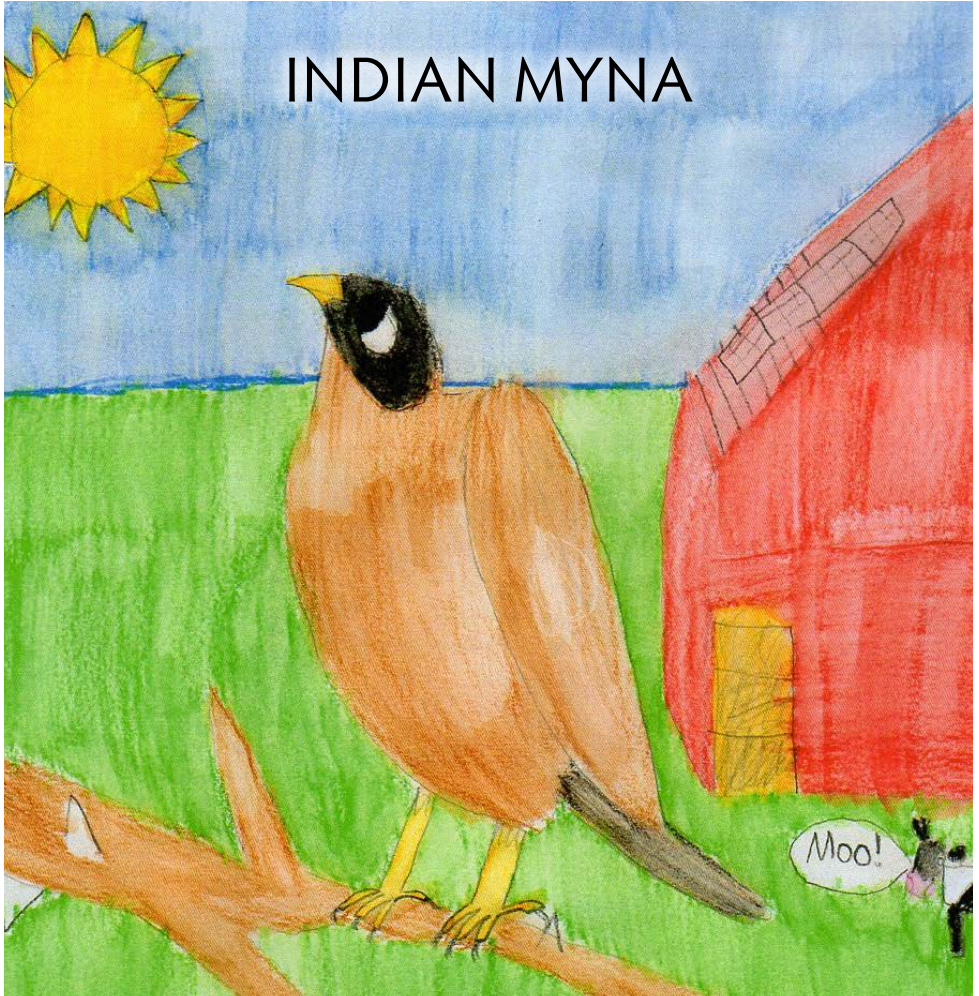
EUROPEAN CARP



European carp are large fish found in freshwater rivers, creeks, dams and lakes. They have become a massive problem as they adapt very well to their environment and have spread to most inland waterways.

European carp have destructive feeding habits and prey on native species. They are also bottom feeders that stir up mud. This has a bad effect on native aquatic plants, animals and the general river health.

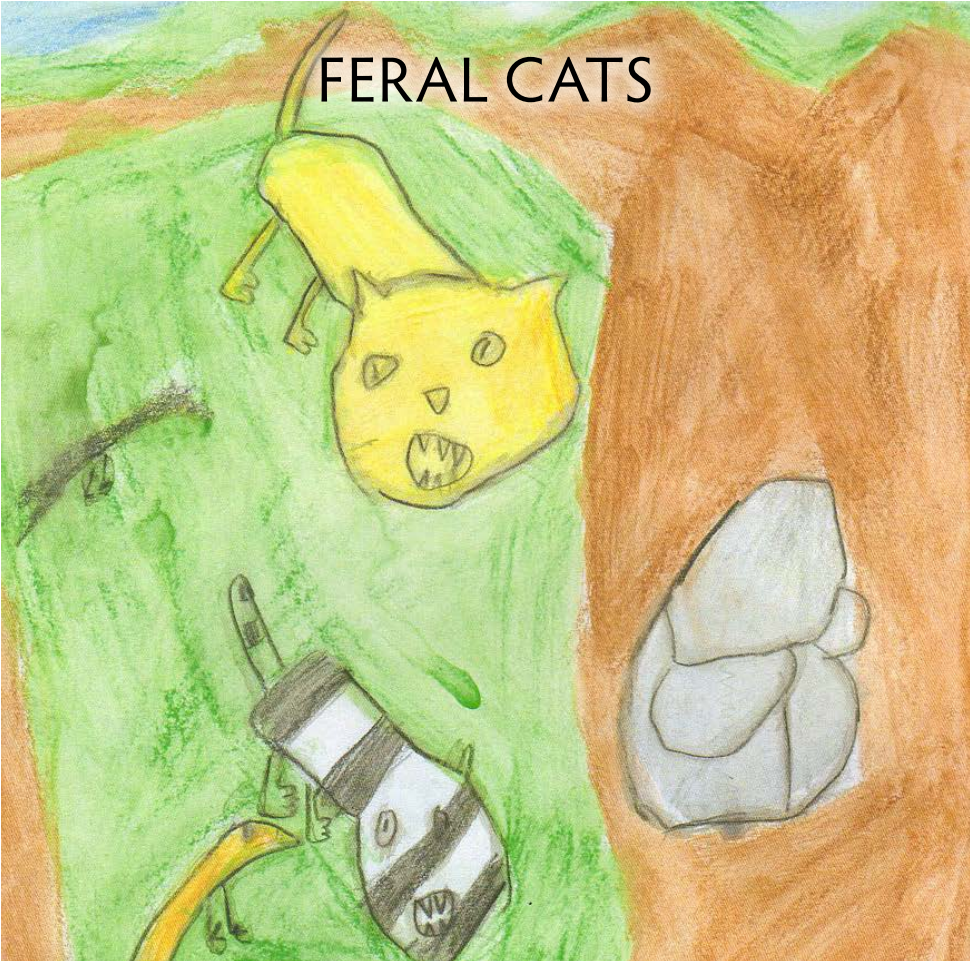
INDIAN MYNA



Indian myna birds live in open woodlands and around urban areas where people live. They are very harmful to native birds as they kill their chicks and destroy their eggs.

Indian mynas will fight other birds, sugar gliders and even possums to take over their tree hollows to make their own nests. This stops those other animals from breeding.

FERAL CATS

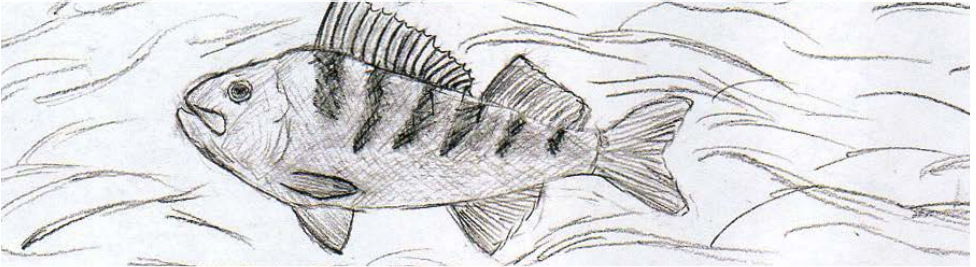


Cats are one of the most destructive animals in Australia. They kill millions of native animals every night. Feral cats are extremely skilled hunters that kill and eat our native animals. Feral cats have spread because people dump their unwanted pets or they run away.

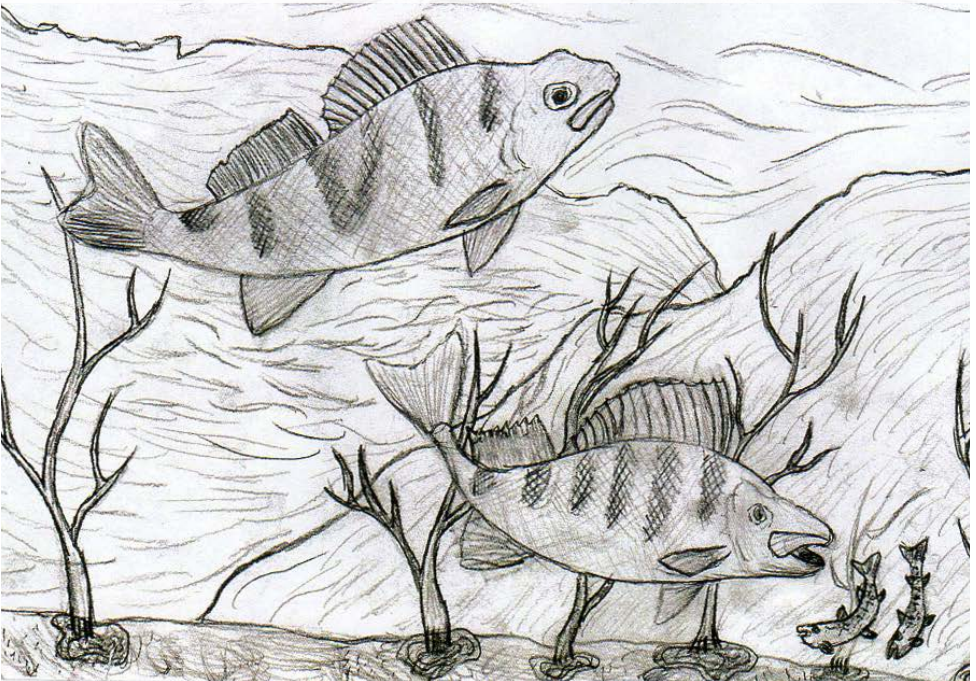
Pet, domestic cats are also a huge problem in Australia. They wander at night stalking and killing native animals. If you own a cat then you need to ensure they are kept indoors at night and are desexed.

REDFIN PERCH

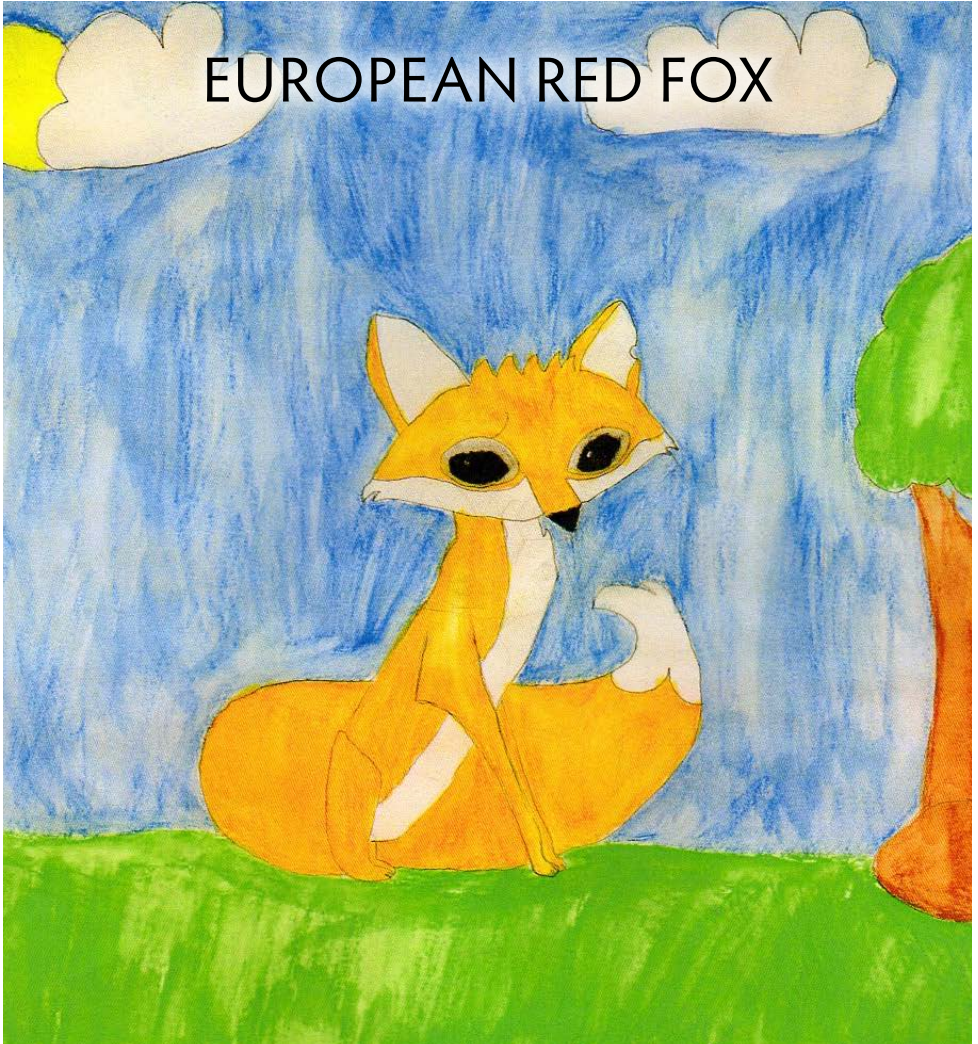
Redfin perch, also known as English perch, are an introduced type of fish. They were brought to Australia in the mid 1800s so they could be fished for sport.



Redfin perch are a big problem because they eat the young native fish and other aquatic species. They also compete with native fish for food and spread disease.



EUROPEAN RED FOX



The European red fox was introduced into Australia for recreational hunting in 1855. The fox population has spread to almost all of Australia.

Feral foxes are predators who eat our small native animals including mammals, reptiles and birds. They also prey upon farm animals like lambs and poultry. Foxes can spread diseases like mange, distemper and parvo virus.

SPARROWS

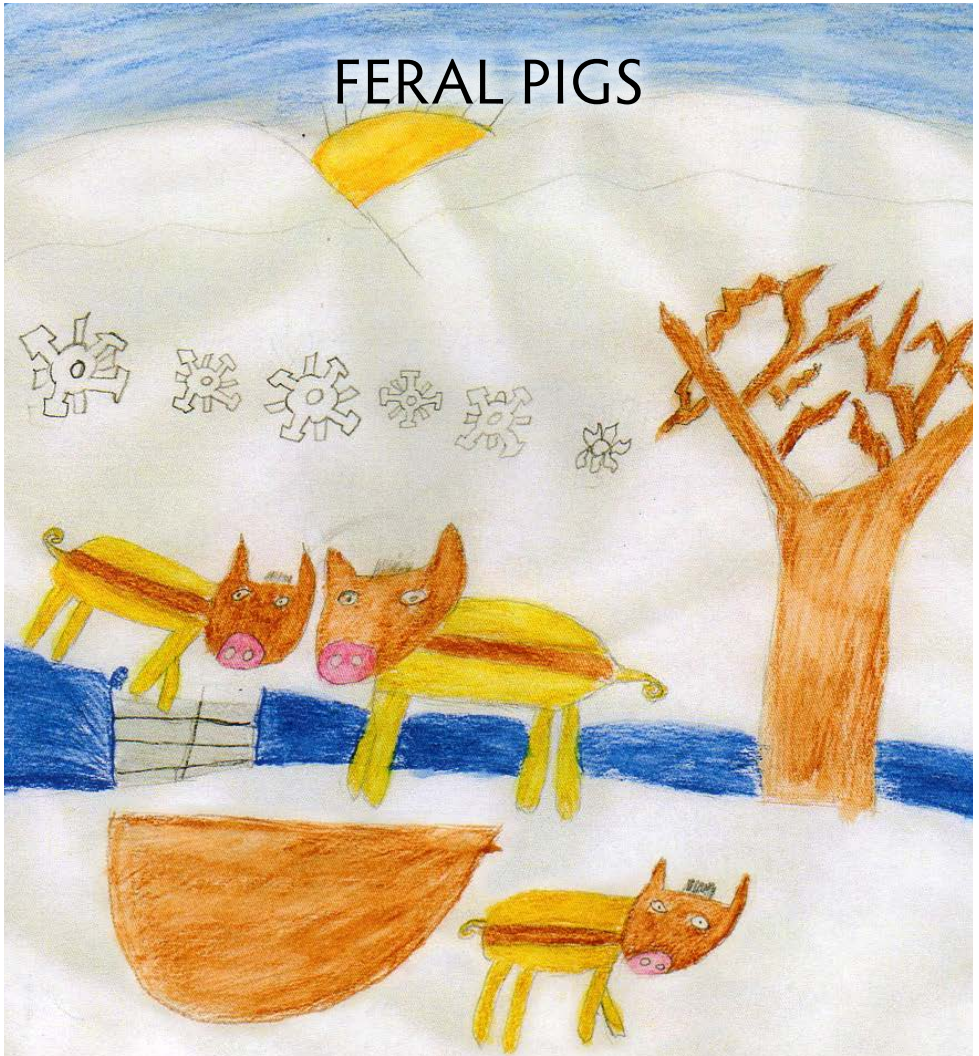


Sparrows are native to Europe and much of Asia. They have a very close relationship with humans and can now be found all around the world.

The sparrows dig up the soil and damage fruit, vegetables and crops. They prefer to nest in buildings.



FERAL PIGS



Feral pigs need to live in moist areas that provide food and water. They attack lambs and other small farm animals, destroy structures like fences and dig up crops.

Feral pigs also damage the native environment by eating small animals. They also eat the roots and leaves of plants and trees. Adult pigs can even kill fully grown trees by rubbing their tusks on them.

STARLINGS

Starlings live in our local area. They are a big problem because they destroy crops, bring mites into homes, build nests in houses and clog up wiring. Roosting flocks can be noisy, messy and unsightly.



FERAL GOATS



Feral goats are a problem in our area. They like to live in the rocky mountains and bush around Meadow Flat.

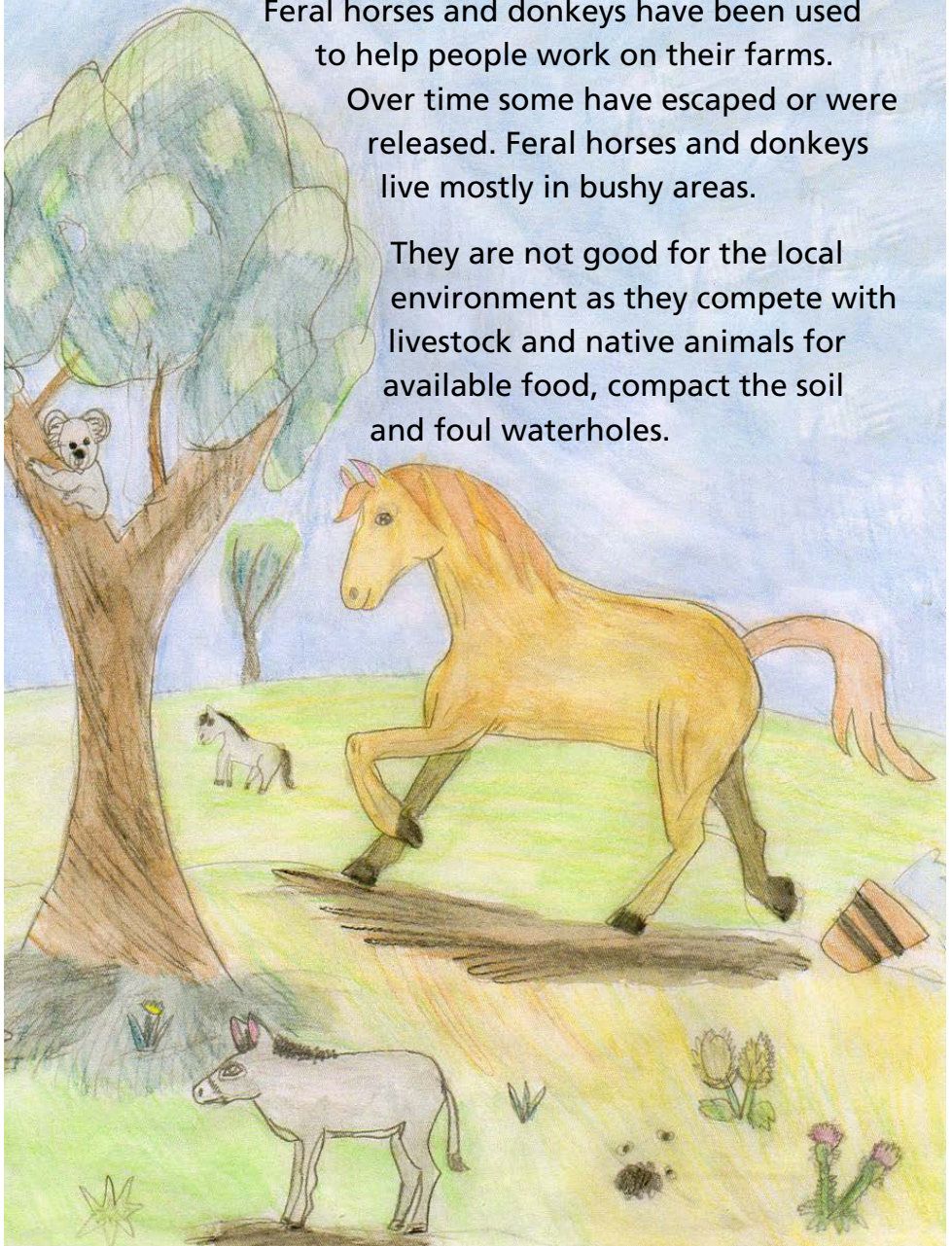
Feral goats are a problem because they leave native animals homeless by stripping shelters bare and eating their food supplies.

FERAL HORSES

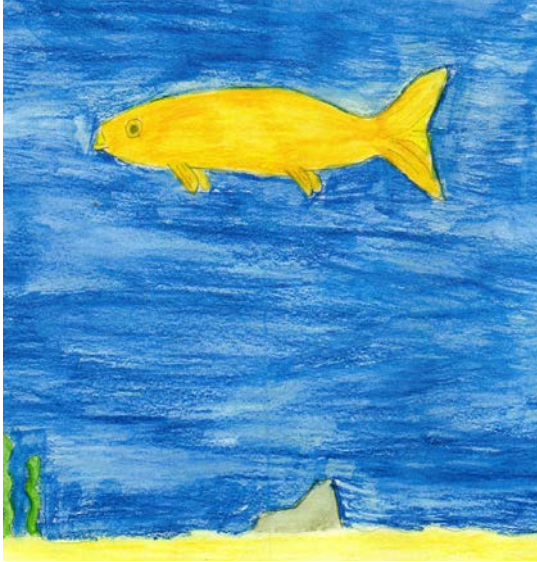
Feral horses and donkeys have been used to help people work on their farms.

Over time some have escaped or were released. Feral horses and donkeys live mostly in bushy areas.

They are not good for the local environment as they compete with livestock and native animals for available food, compact the soil and foul waterholes.



FERAL GOLDFISH



Feral goldfish become a problem when pet fish are released in freshwater lakes, rivers or creeks.

Feral goldfish are bad because they eat the vegetation and invertebrates on the riverbanks. This stirs things up and makes the water brown.

FERAL PIGEONS



Feral pigeons can be found around houses, tall city buildings or schools. They can live for 12 to 15 years.

Feral pigeons are unsightly, noisy and leave a mess where they live.



Meadow Flat Public School, Year 4,5 & 6 2015

