

Colliding with Carp



Liam Wilson
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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

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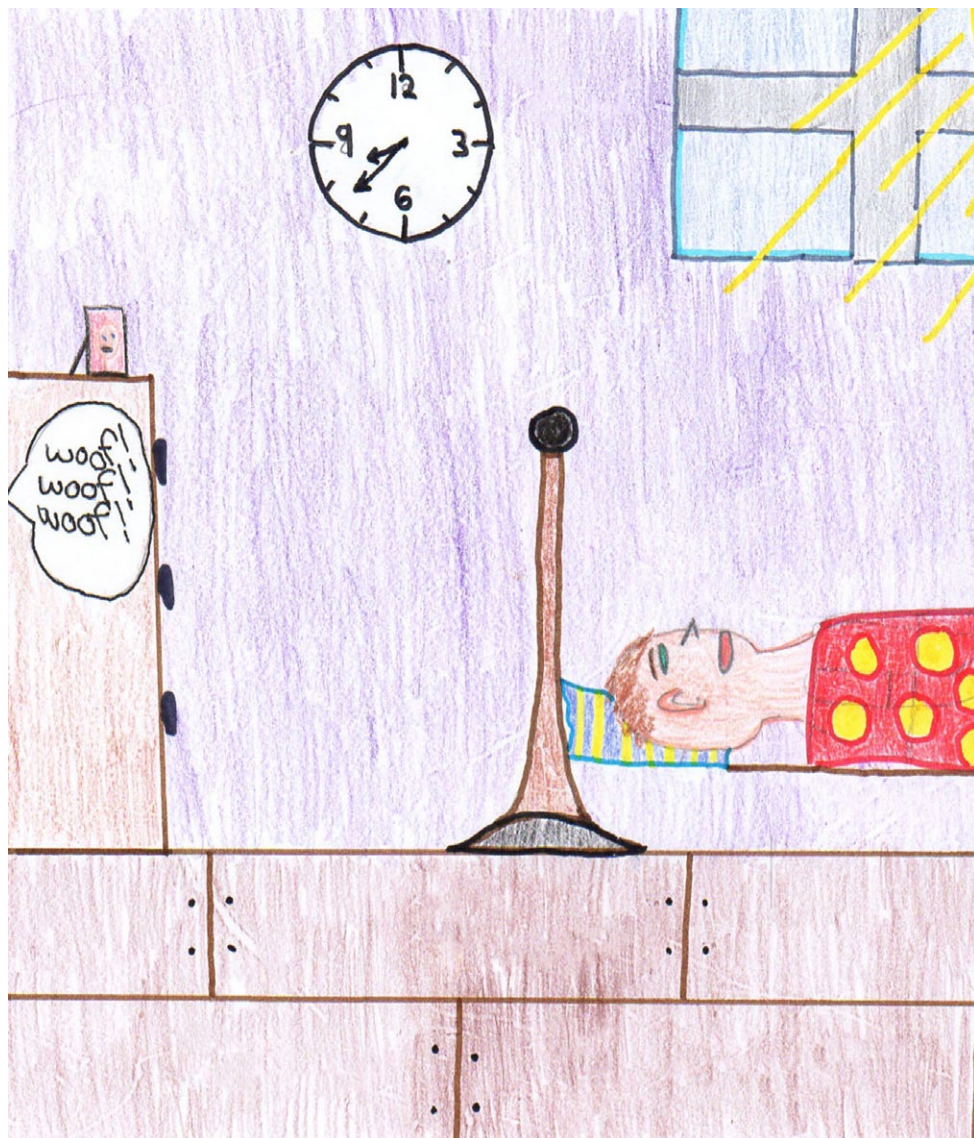
Enviro-Stories is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

Design by PeeKdesigns, www.peekdesigns.com.au

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Farmer Tony awoke one glorious morning to the sun gleaming through the window and the sound of his dog Rex, barking.



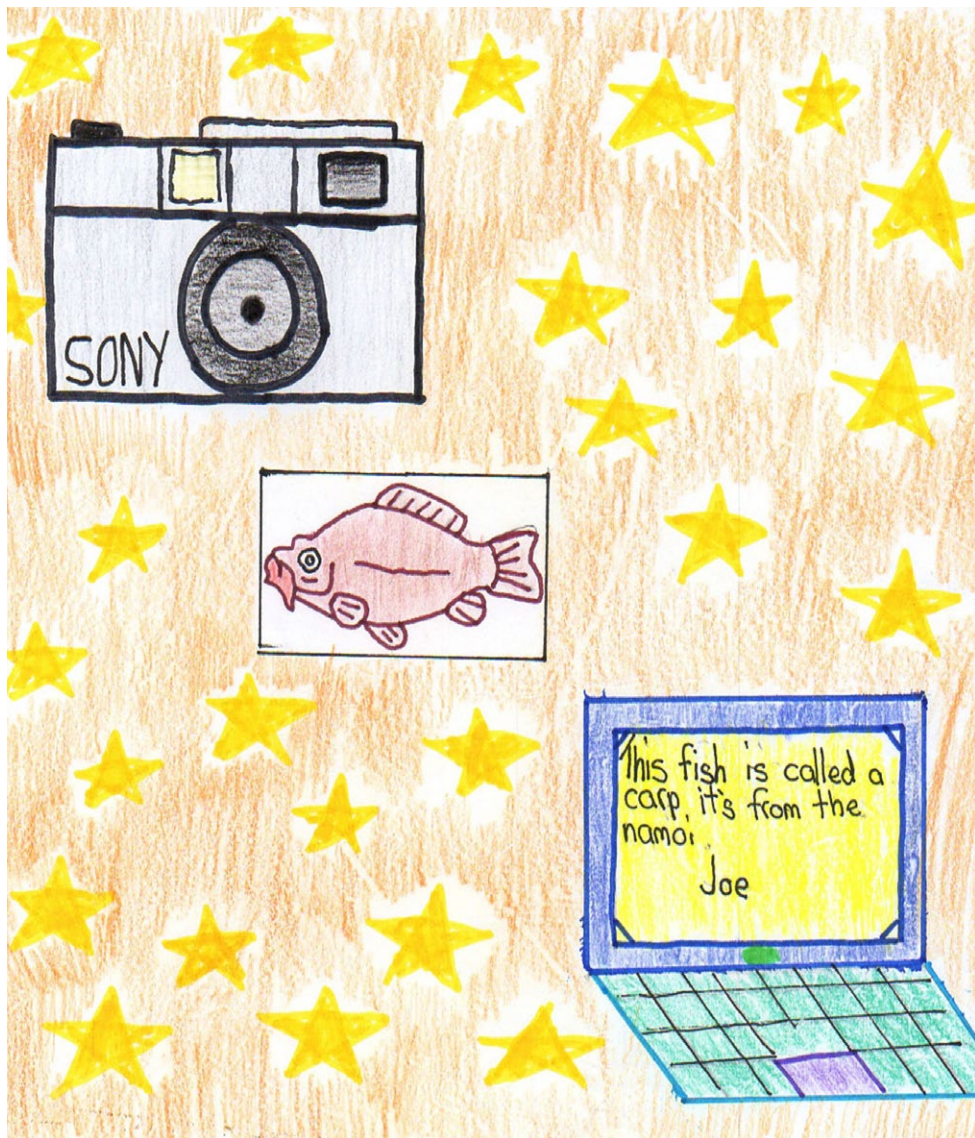
Tony was a local fisherman and made a living from selling the fish he caught. His small town is located on a little creek that runs into the Namoi River.



One day when Tony was out fishing he didn't catch the usual type of fish. Instead, he caught a strange fish he had never seen before.



When Tony got home, he decided to take a photo of the fish and email to his friend Joe, a fish expert at the local fisheries. Joe received the email and replied that the fish was called a Carp, a feral fish that must have swum up from the Namoi River.





Over the following few weeks Tony pulled in more and more carp. Eventually that was all he caught as the carp had taken over his little creek.

Tony became really sick of catching carp, so he decided he was going to do something about the problem!



Firstly, Tony jumped on the computer and searched “CARP” and found out all the information he needed. He was very annoyed when he found out that carp eat the baby Yellowbelly and Murray cod.



The following day, Tony invited his friend Riley around for lunch and told him about his problem.

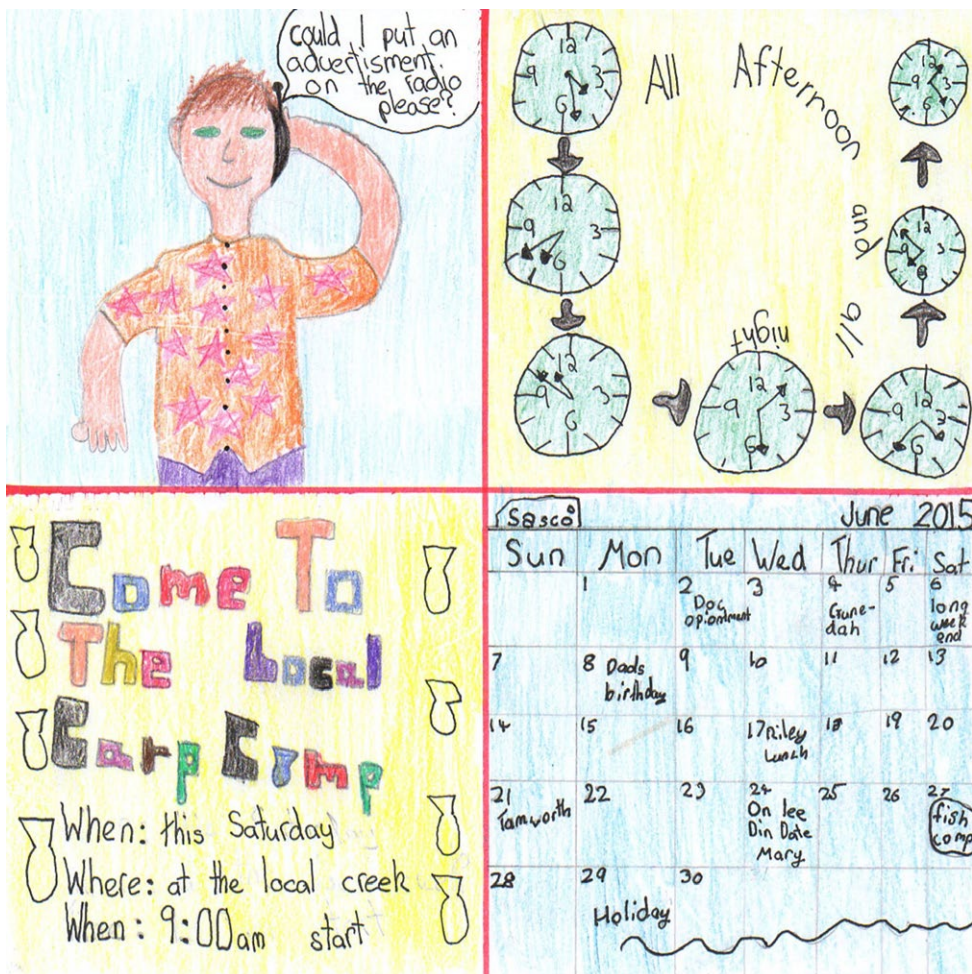
“We have to figure out a way to get rid of the carp,” explained Tony. During lunch they thought of ideas in the hope of resolving the problem.



"We could put poison in the river and kill them," said Tony excitedly.

"But then we'll kill all the other fish," replied Riley, trying to think of a solution. "What about starting a carp catching competition and fishing them out!"

"That sounds like a great idea," Tony agreed.



Tony and Riley spent all afternoon and all night creating and organising their competition. They made posters and stickers and even asked for their competition to be advertised on the local radio. They planned to hold it on the following Saturday.



They looked on the internet and found out that you can turn dead carp into fertiliser. They thought that was an awesome use for the feral fish. All the participants could bring their catch in at the end of the day and Riley and Tony could collect them to take to the local fertiliser company.



The day of the competition came at last!

Tony got there super early to help set up. They had heaps of volunteers, along with a barbeque and goodie bags for the kids. On display there were prizes for the biggest, longest, heaviest and most fish caught!



At first Tony wondered whether anyone would come. He waited and finally an old bloke came walking down the road. Tony was worried, was this all that was going to turn up?

Not long after that cars started arriving. There were hundreds of people turning up.

Tony looked around and could see people fishing everywhere down at his creek and in the river. Kids were running around with their 'goodie' bags and families were cooking barbeques. Tony was extraordinarily happy their plan had worked!



At the end of the day Tony watched as all the people turned in their carp. He was absolutely amazed at what he saw. After everyone had given in their carp they counted them and came out with 2,721.

Tony was shocked. He couldn't believe they had caught that many. He was extremely happy with their efforts and knew this would go a long way to saving his creek from the carp invasion.



10 years later, Tony still remembers the day he started the carp fishing competition. He was proud that even now to this day they hold the competition annually.

It has been so successful with hundreds of people participating and Tony loves the fact that other fish have returned to the healthy river.





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