

The Problem Brumbies



Rachel Charles
Narrabri 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

Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry. CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

www.crdc.com.au

The Problem Brumbies

Author: Rachel Charles

Teacher: Sue McLeish

School: Narrabri Public School

This book has been published as part of the 2015 Feral Animals Enviro-Stories program which was supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

© Cotton Research and Development Corporation 2015

ISBN: 978-0-9944721-0-6

Enviro-Stories is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

Design by PeeKdesigns, www.peekdesigns.com.au

Citation: Charles, R. 2015. *The Problem Brumbies*. Cotton Research and Development Corporation, NSW.



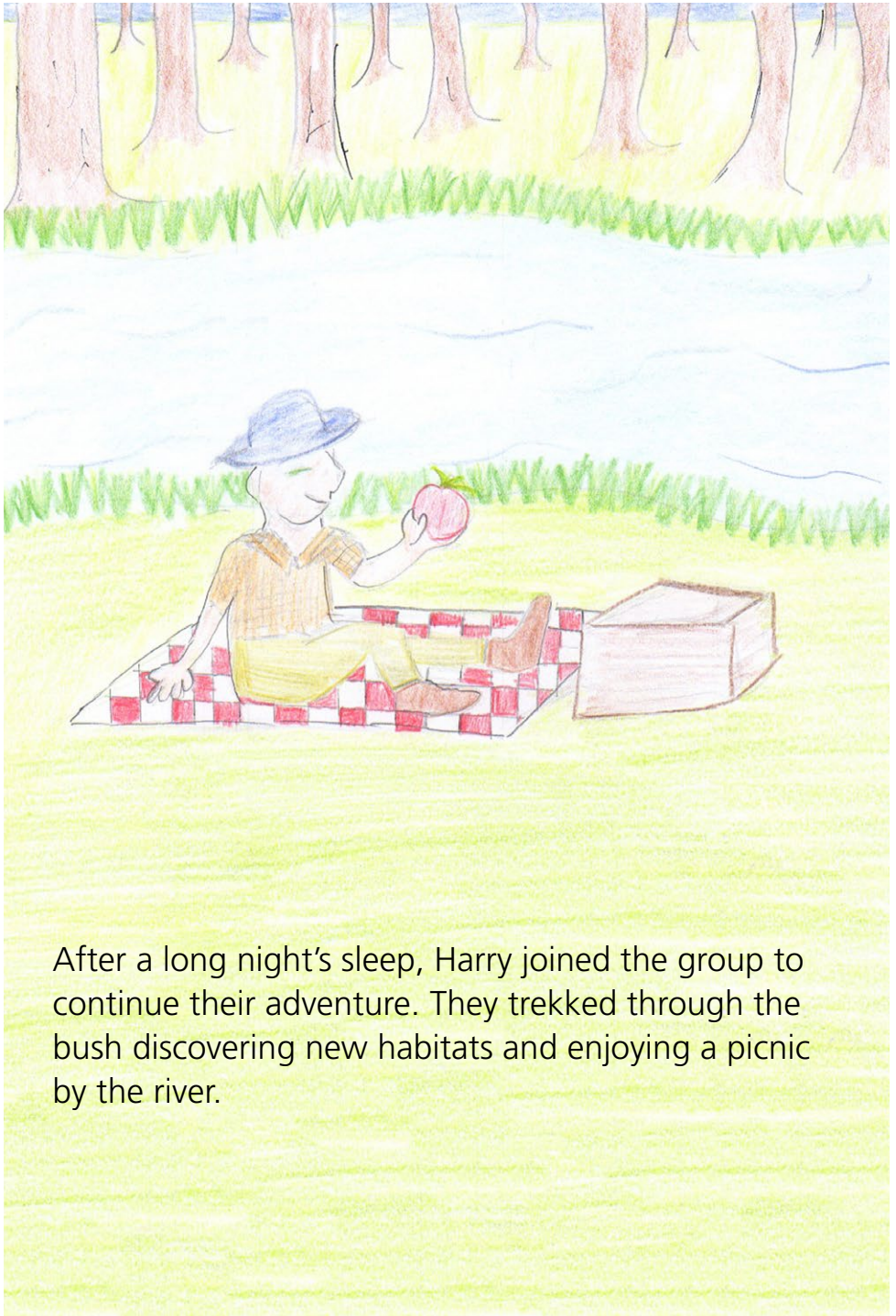


“Good morning everyone! Please hop in and put on your seatbelt. We are going to have a lot of fun today exploring the Alpine National Park,” announced Bill the bus driver.



Harry absolutely loved the environment. He was amazed with being at the Alpine National Park.

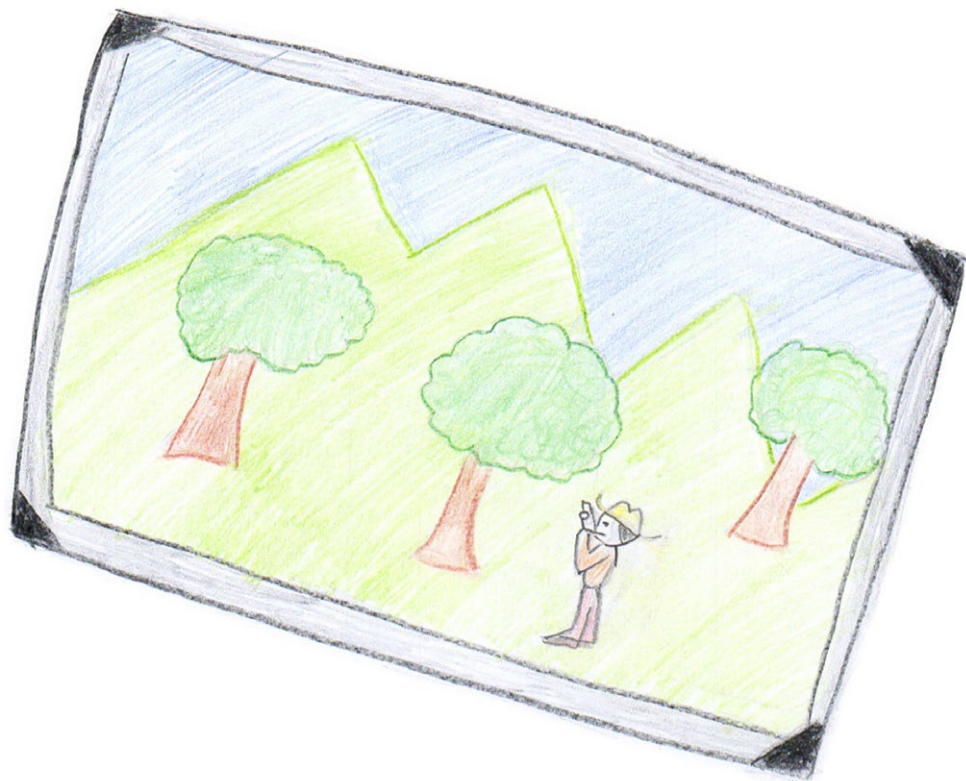
When they arrived at the campsite they got off the bus and went to their cabins. Harry ran to his cabin, but halted when out of the corner of his eye, he caught a glimpse of a beautiful Brumby galloping through the bushes. However, when he turned to look the creature had already gone.



After a long night's sleep, Harry joined the group to continue their adventure. They trekked through the bush discovering new habitats and enjoying a picnic by the river.

“Wow! This is amazing,” exclaimed Harry, as he took a picture of the view. “I think I will come back all the time.” The rest of the tourists agreed wholeheartedly!

Harry then hiked back to the campsite and packed his gear to go home.



As he put his bags on the bus, Harry was excited with the thought of the next time he would come back to the park. He could not wait to tell his family about this wonderful trip.



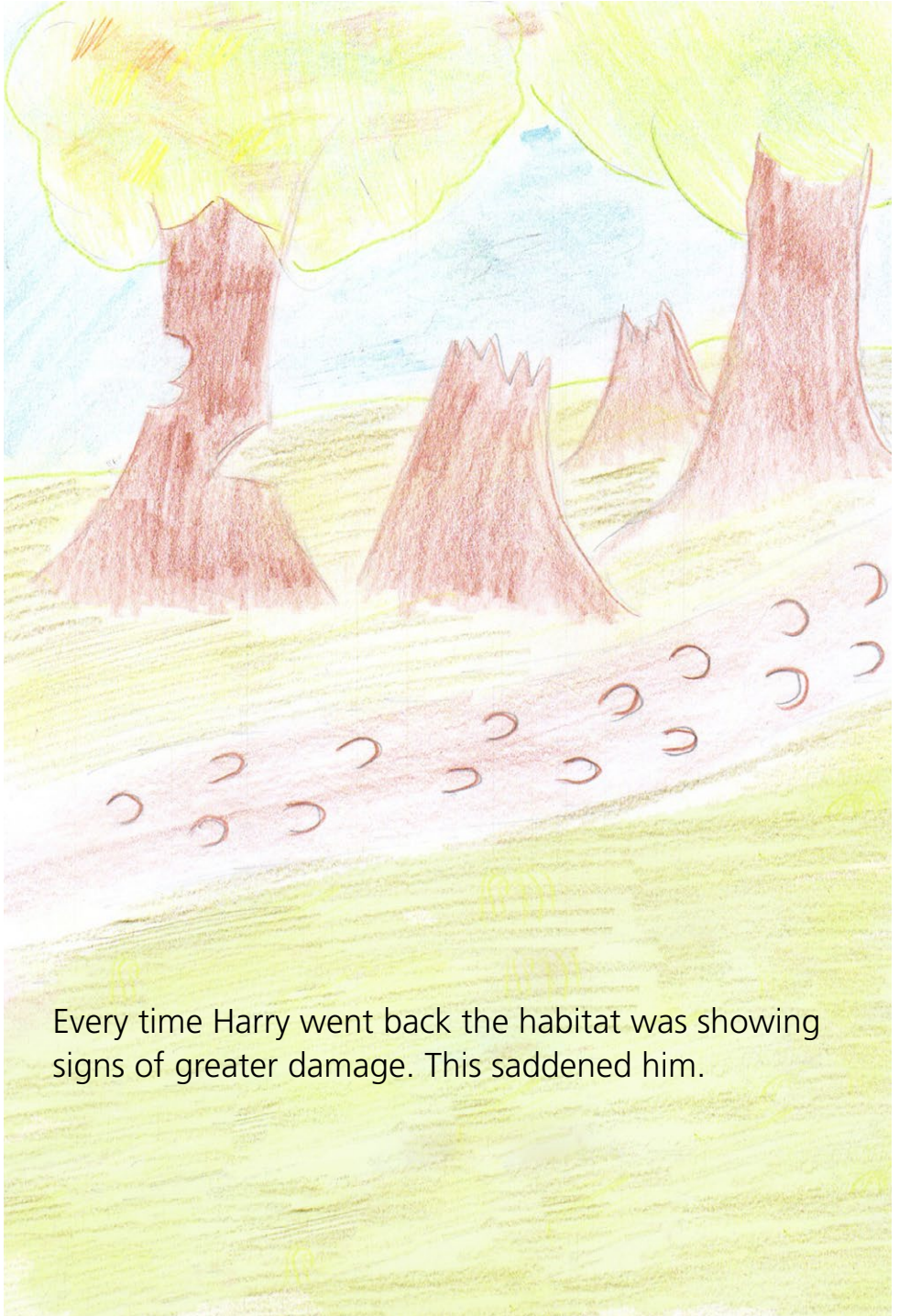


Two years later Harry was excited to finally be going back to the Alpine National Park. He had been looking forward to visiting again for a long time.

But when he arrived he was shocked by the damage that had been done to the area. The vegetation had been chomped with bite marks everywhere and the soil was dug up in some areas and compacted in others. There seemed to be what looked like hoof prints all over the ground.



Harry couldn't believe it and wondered what could have happened to such a lovely area. He started coming back to the park more often and completing research to discover what animal was destroying this beautiful environment.

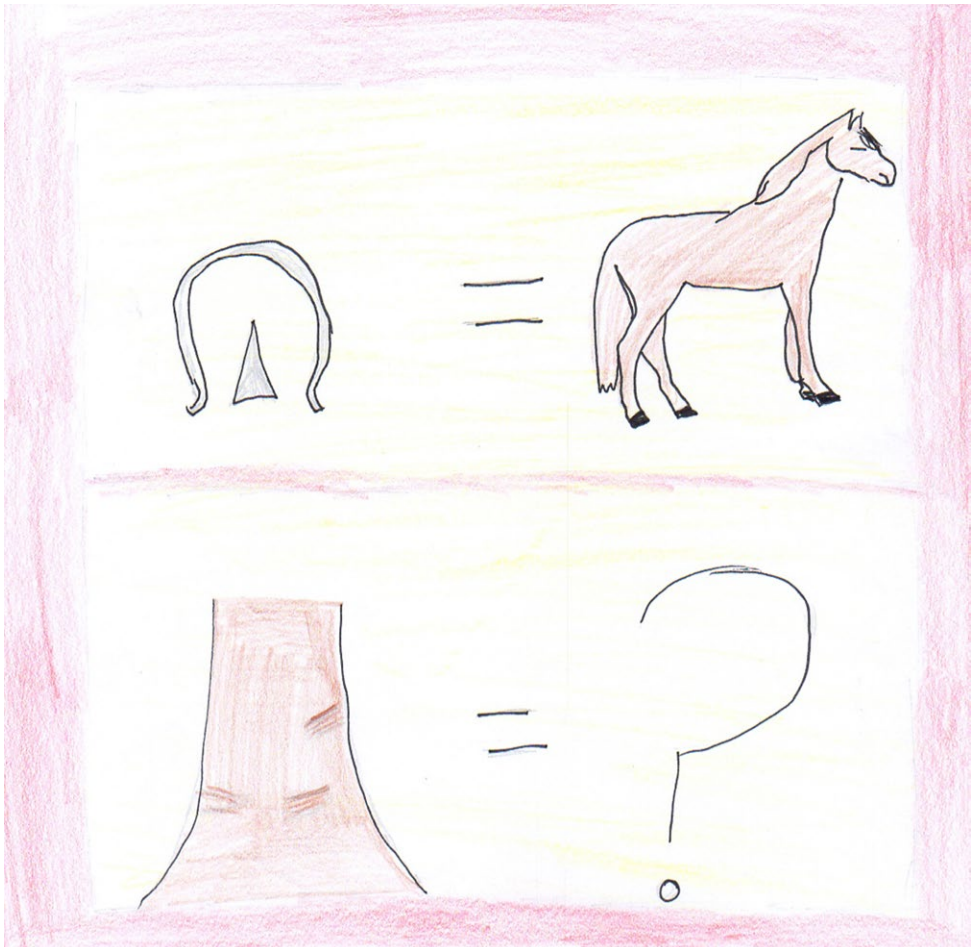


Every time Harry went back the habitat was showing signs of greater damage. This saddened him.

Harry's research found that the hoof prints were from Brumbies, but he still had two questions on his mind...

Why were there Brumbies in the National Park?

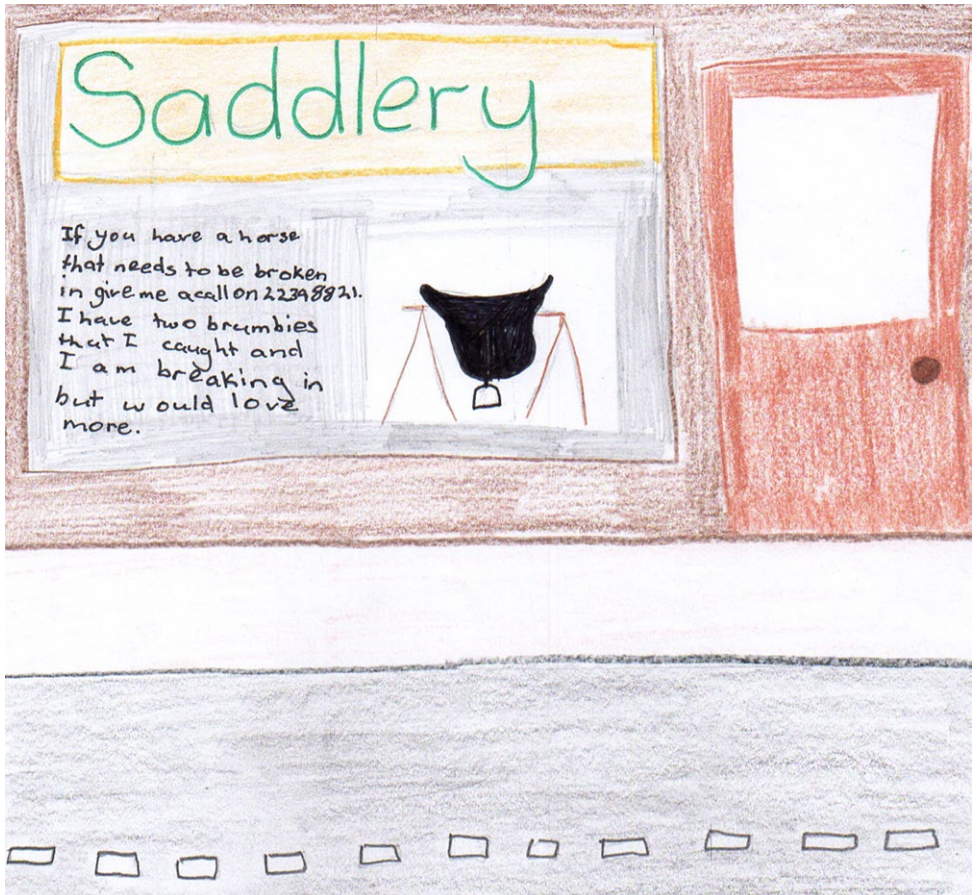
Were they also responsible for the bite marks in the vegetation?



After a while Harry worked out that the bite marks were also from the Brumbies. He realised that the Brumby numbers in the National Park must be out of control.

He talked to his friends and they all said that Brumby culling was the only solution. Harry knew that something had to be done to save the park, but felt that culling was a cruel and inhumane way to achieve this.





One beautiful sunny morning, Harry was walking down the street when he saw a huge sign that read:

Saddlery

If you have a horse that needs to be broken in give me a call on 2234881. I have two Brumbies at the moment that I caught and am breaking in, but would love more.



He called the number on the poster. A lady named Carla answered the phone. Harry explained the situation to her and she agreed to help him.



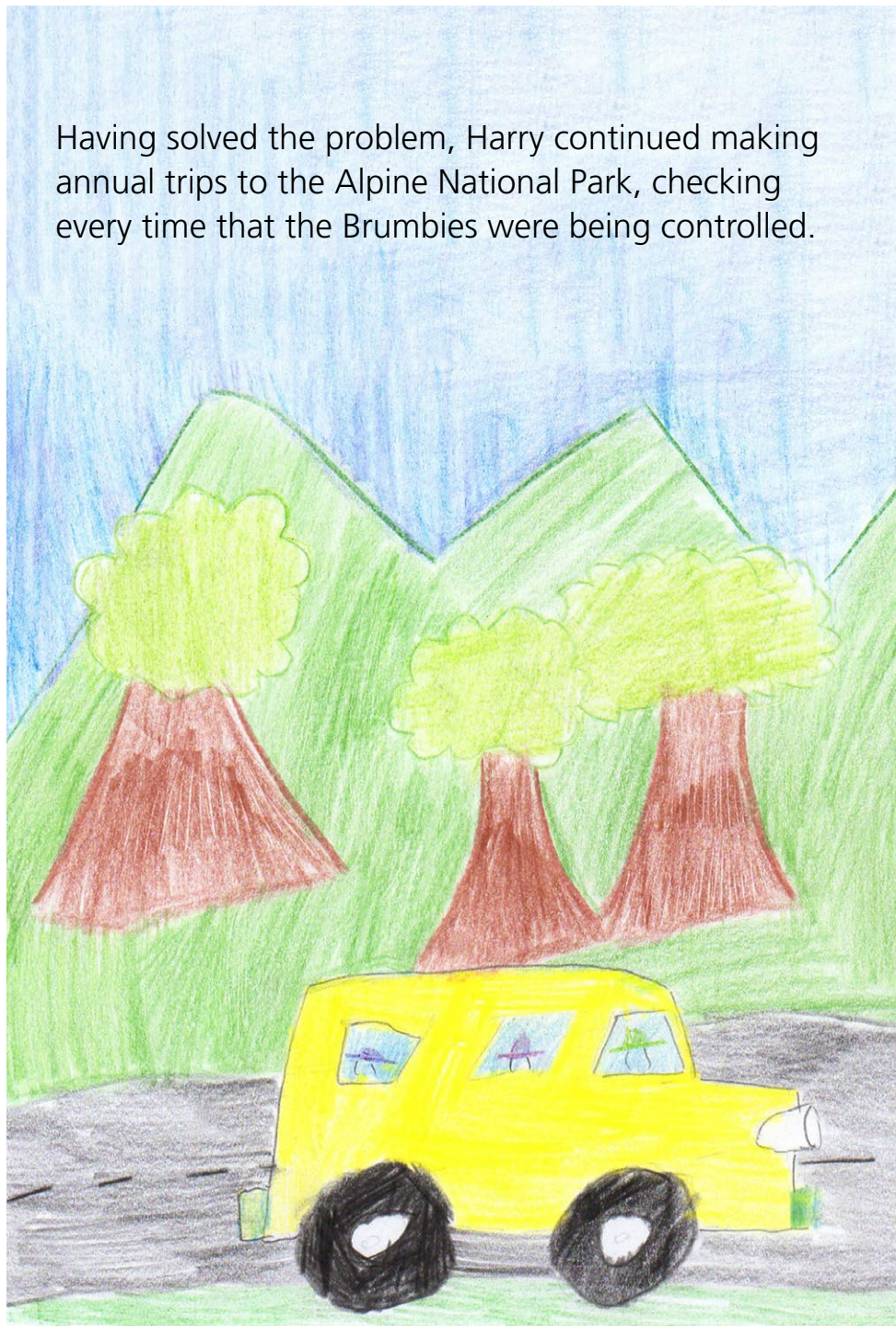
The next time Harry went to the Alpine National Park he met Carla, the Horse Whisperer. She had brought two horses and a big cattle truck. Harry and Carla put a pen around the end of the truck then set off on their horses to find the Brumbies.



After hours of searching they finally found the herd of Brumbies. Skilfully they rounded them up and guided them back towards the pen. Once caught, they loaded them onto the truck.

Harry and Carla drove to Carla's farm and unloaded the feral horses into a big paddock. Harry drove home happily knowing that not only had he helped protect the National Park but he had also saved the Brumbies lives.

Having solved the problem, Harry continued making annual trips to the Alpine National Park, checking every time that the Brumbies were being controlled.





Rachel Charles
Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2015



Australian Government
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation