

Fuzzy the Phascogale

Written & illustrated by Dane Biglin, Calli Beynon
and Chelsea Lullfitz from Hyden Primary School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource management issues. Developed by PeekKdesigns, 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

Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated (Wheatbelt NRM) is an independent community-based organisation involved with natural resource management endeavours within the Avon River Basin of Western Australia.

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Fuzzy the Phascogale

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Hotspot Heroes

The Hotspot Heroes Enviro-Stories Program involved schools from the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia learning about the biodiversity, threatened species and feral animals in the Wheatbelt area. A Hotspot Hero is someone who is willing to stand up and take action to help prevent our threatened plants and animals from fading into oblivion.

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In the hide of Duck Rocks amongst the silver-leaved Salmon gums, lay Fuzzy the Red-tailed phascogale in his hollow. He woke to a crisp morning with the sun warming his short, bush ruffled fur. Fuzzy yawned showing his tiny serrated teeth.



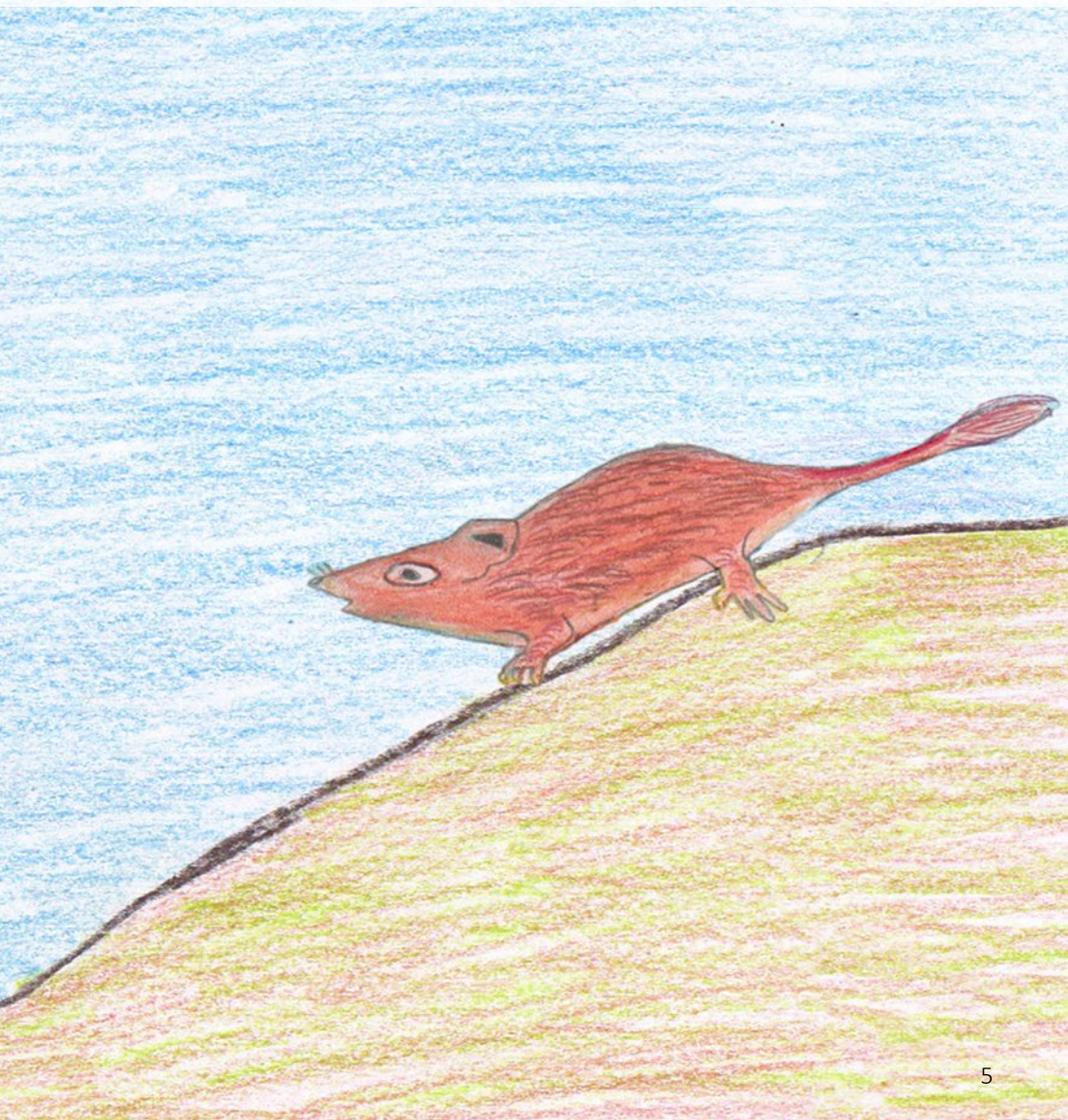
Feeling hungry, Fuzzy jumped on to a long skinny tree branch and then started the hunt for brekkie.

“Mmmm...What do I feel like this morning?” he wondered.

Some movement in a dried up prickly bush caught his attention. Quickly, he jumped into action to investigate what it was.



Fuzzy started to prowl and creep up on his possible prey. Ever so carefully he put one paw in front of the other and scooted towards the prickly bush, keeping his belly close to the ground.





He moved closer and closer, until he was about two metres away. Then Fuzzy took one flying leap and landed straight on top of a giant Red-back spider.



“Yuuuum!” Fuzzy exclaimed, satisfied with his tasty meal. He burped so loudly that he thought he scared the pink and grey cockies out of the trees.

Fuzzy toodled along, not noticing that the air smelt like smoke...something was burning.



Endo the cocky immediately came ploughing through the bush. His wings were battling so hard it looked as though he was going to go over head-first.

Fuzzy wondered what had frightened this pink and grey cocky and made him so stressed. He called out to him to find out what was going on.



Abruptly, Endo stopped and screamed in panic, “HAVEN’T YOU HEARD! There is a bushfire!”

Fuzzy immediately stood up coming to his senses, “What did you say?”

Endo answered, “There is a bushfire and it is heading this way!”



Then a bright, brilliant light stopped him in his tracks. There was a tall, powerful wall of irresistible flames burning through the Salmon gums.

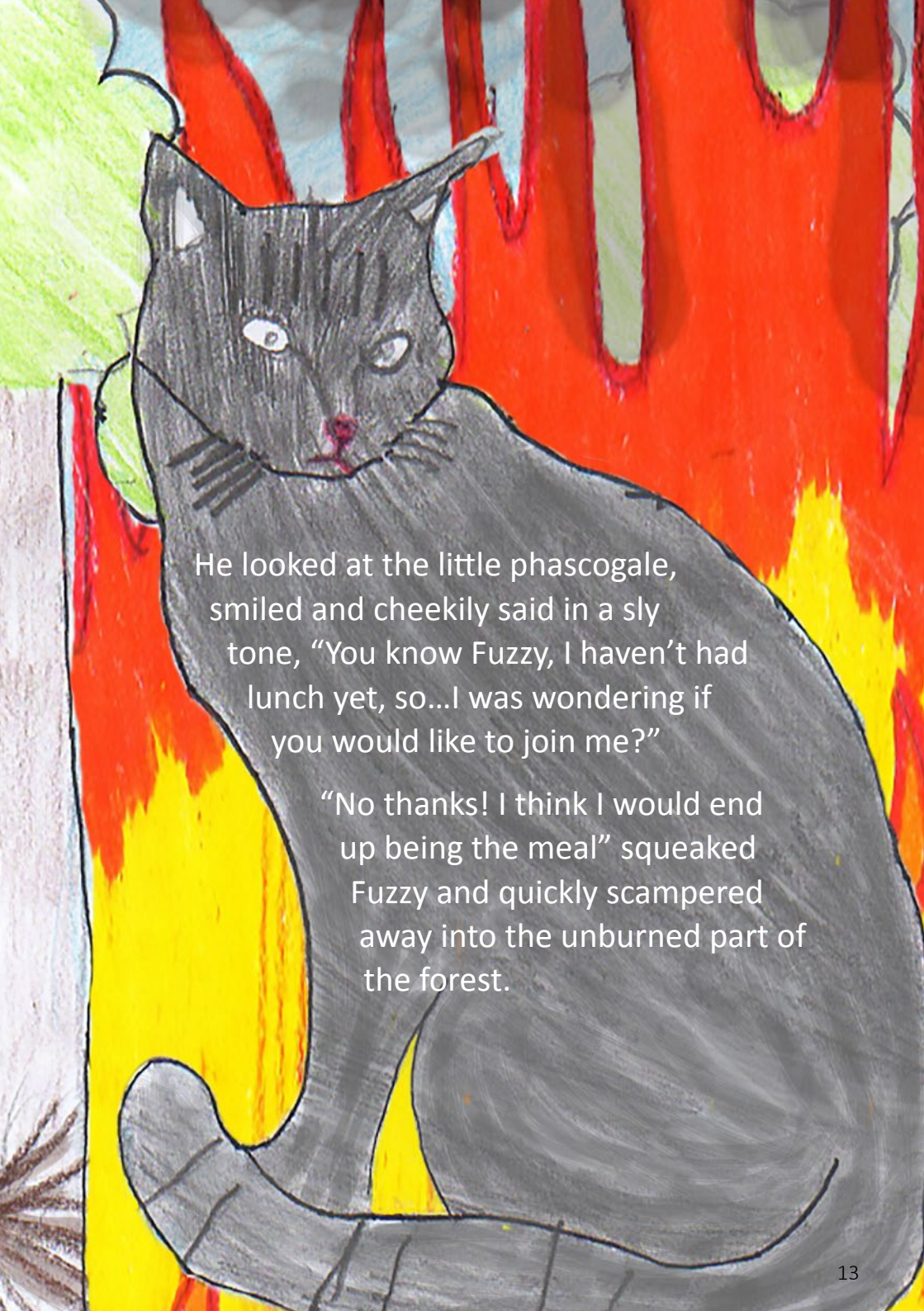
Fuzzy ran like the wind. Hopping, climbing and jumping through the foliage to escape the bushfire. It was only his sheer will and athleticism that helped him escape.

He quickly set about informing the other animals about the deadly bushfire. He had a terrible feeling that his friends had already had a terrible greeting from the fiery beast.



As Fuzzy scampered away from the bushfire he ran straight into Kenny the cat. Kenny was stalking around the fire's edge looking for an easy meal.





He looked at the little phascogale,
smiled and cheekily said in a sly
tone, "You know Fuzzy, I haven't had
lunch yet, so...I was wondering if
you would like to join me?"

"No thanks! I think I would end
up being the meal" squeaked
Fuzzy and quickly scampered
away into the unburned part of
the forest.



As the bushfire passed, Kenny the cat ran towards Fuzzy. He cut him off and got him to turn around. Fuzzy was trapped between the fire and a hungry cat.

Kenny closed in and was about to pounce on him when the ferocious feline was stopped in his tracks. Luckily for Fuzzy, the native animals came storming out and blocked the cat's path.



“Fuzzy has proven his worth by warning all the native animals about the bushfire,” they shouted at Kenny.

Endo led a flock of pink and grey cockies as they dive-bombed the cat. Auzzie the mozzie and his friends zoomed in and bit him on the tail.

Kenny jumped into the air and ran away. He was never seen in their area again.



After that incident, the native animals worked together to repair the damage from the bushfire.

Auzzie the mozzie, Endo the cocky and Fuzzy the phascogale lived happily ever after.



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Enviro Stories