

Rampaging Rabbits

Written & illustrated by students from Pingrup Primary School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource 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

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

Rampaging Rabbits

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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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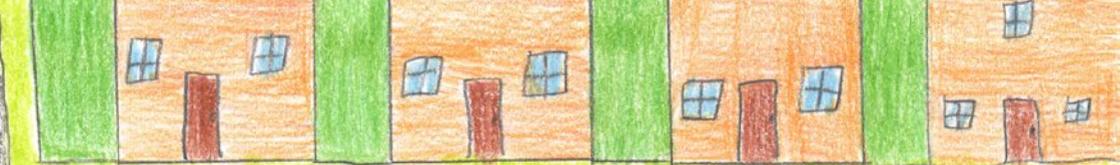
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In the small, quiet, peaceful, friendly Western Australia town of Pingrup there lived four farmers. Farmer Mat was a tall, skinny, grouchy farmer; Farmer Sam was a short, happy old man; Farmer Jim was a strong, stocky young lad; and Farmer Kelvin was a thin, jolly, expensive machine-loving gentleman.



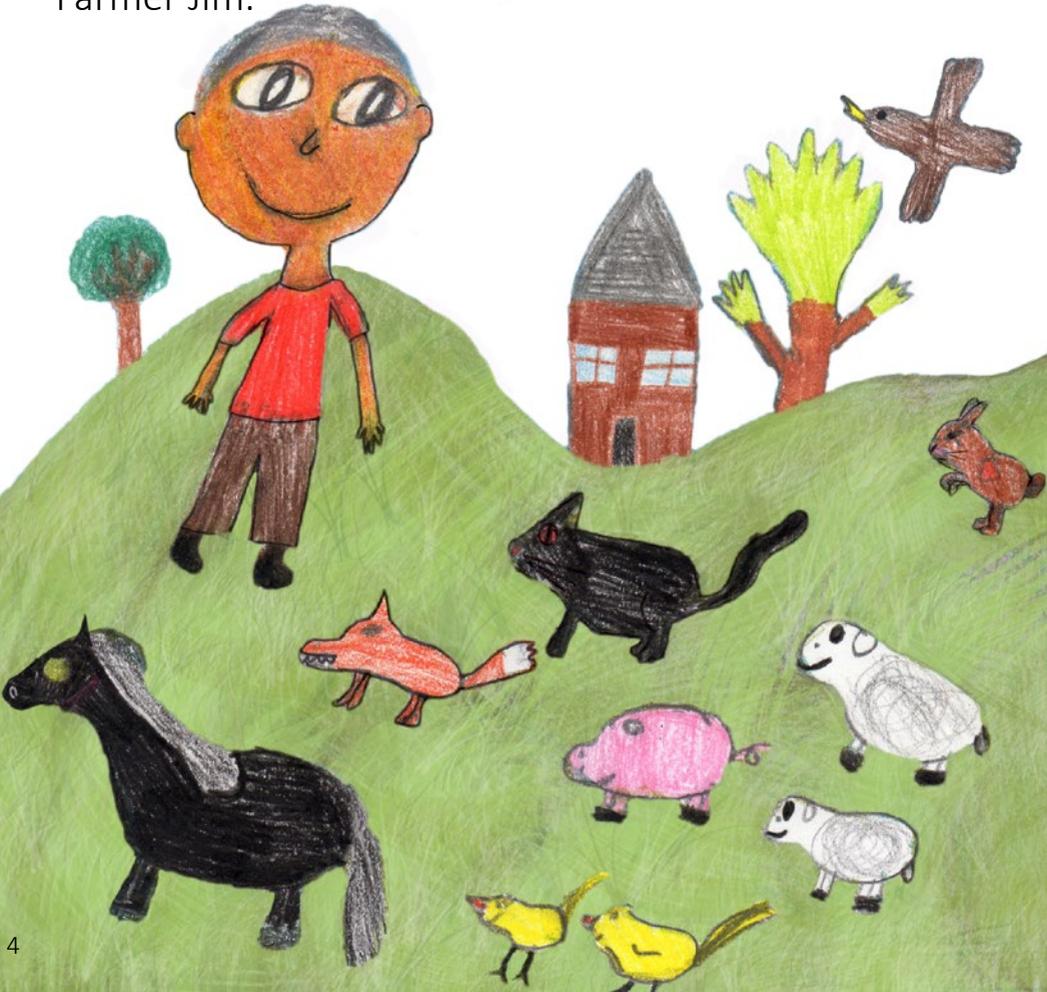


Farmer Mat lived east of the town and had a very big problem. He had too many rabbits on his farm because they reproduce really quickly.

The rabbits would get into his prize-winning crops and devour it all, which made him furious. Farmer Mat didn't know what to do so he went to see his mate, Farmer Sam.

Farmer Sam lived west of the town and also had a very big problem. He had lots of livestock like sheep and lambs, pigs, horses and chickens.

Farmer Sam had noticed more rabbits running through his paddocks. The rabbits were attracting other predators like foxes, feral cats and wedge-tailed eagles. The eagles, cats and foxes were attacking his livestock, which caused animals to die, fences to break and a loss of money. Farmer Sam didn't know what to do so he went to see his mate, Farmer Jim.



Farmer Jim lived south of the town and also had a very big problem. He had a bunny infestation!

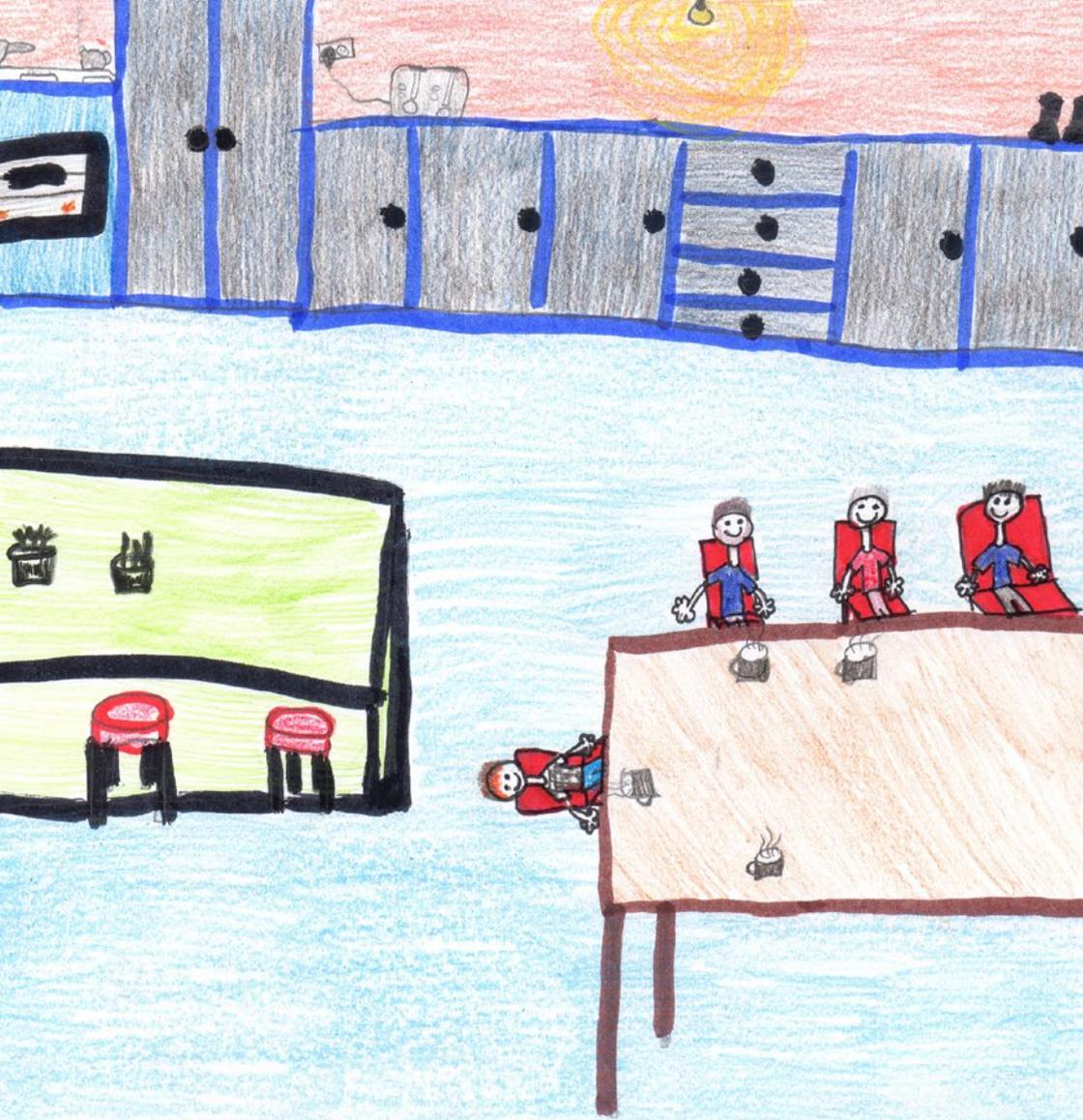
Farmer Jim had the most wonderful vegetable patch with tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, strawberries and grapes just to name a few. The rabbits were sneaking in at night eating all his vegetables. Mrs. Farmer Jim was extremely upset because the rabbits had also swarmed her garden and eaten her beautiful bright red roses and now it looked terrible. Farmer Jim's poor chickens and dogs had been starving because the rabbits had demolished all of their food as well. Farmer Jim didn't know what to do so he went to see his mate, Farmer Kelvin.





Farmer Kelvin lived north of the town and also had a very big problem. He had just brought a very expensive John Deere header and parked it in his machinery shed.

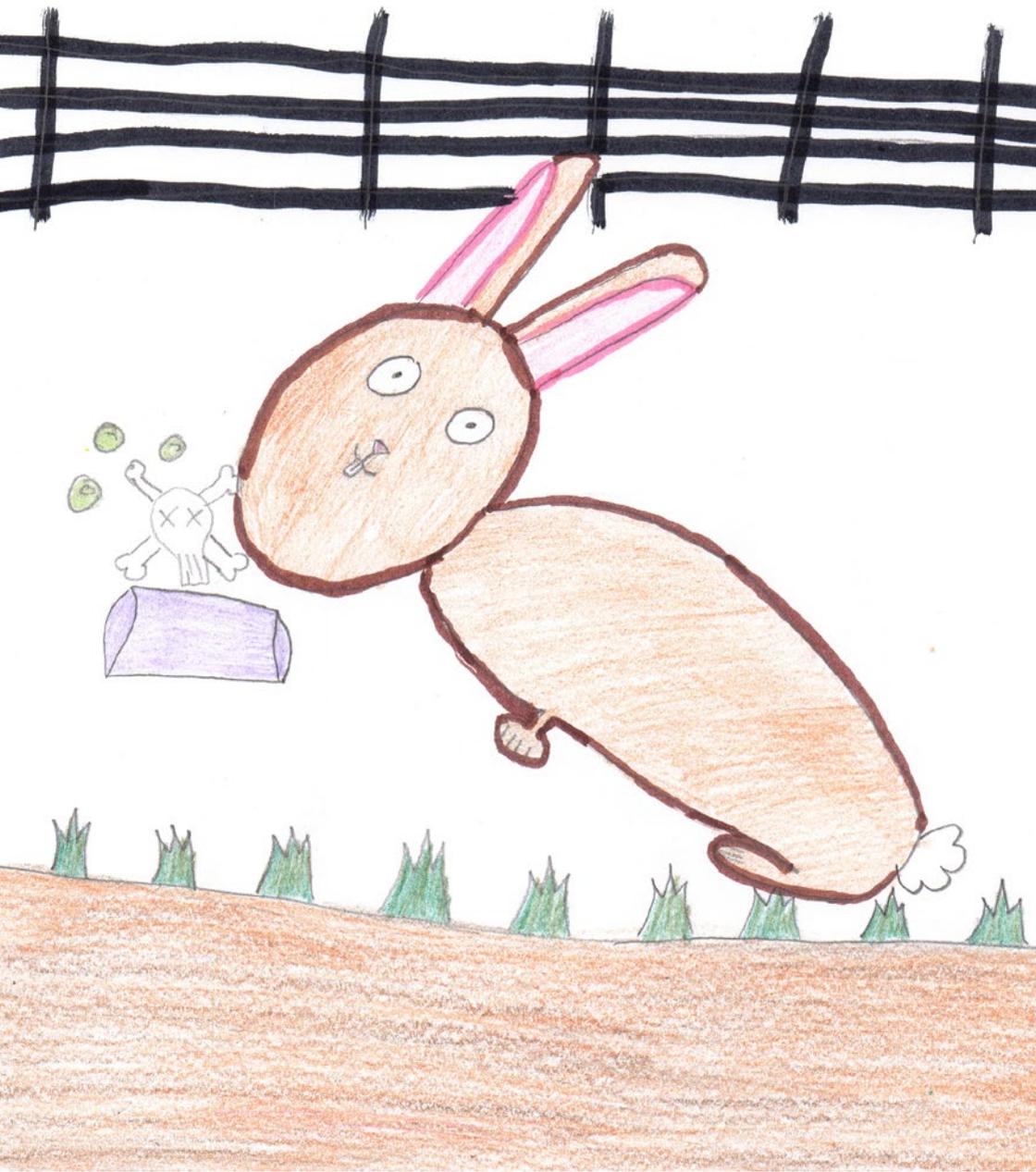
Over the past few weeks, Farmer Kelvin had noticed his shed was on a bit of a lean so he went to investigate. He discovered lots of rabbit warrens running under his shed. Suddenly, he heard a massive crash! When he walked into his shed he discovered a beam had come loose and had fallen, smashing into his brand new header. Farmer Kelvin didn't know what to do.



Right then, Farmer Mat, Farmer Sam and Farmer Jim came driving up the laneway. They all sat down with a cuppa and told each other the terrible damage the rabbits had been causing. They came up with some solutions to try to rid their farms of these terrible rabbits.



Farmer Mat was going to try and build rabbit proof fences around his prize-winning crops.



Farmer Sam was going trial a special brand of rabbit poison.



Farmer Jim was going to build a greenhouse for all his vegetables and build a fence for Mrs. Farmer Jim's garden.



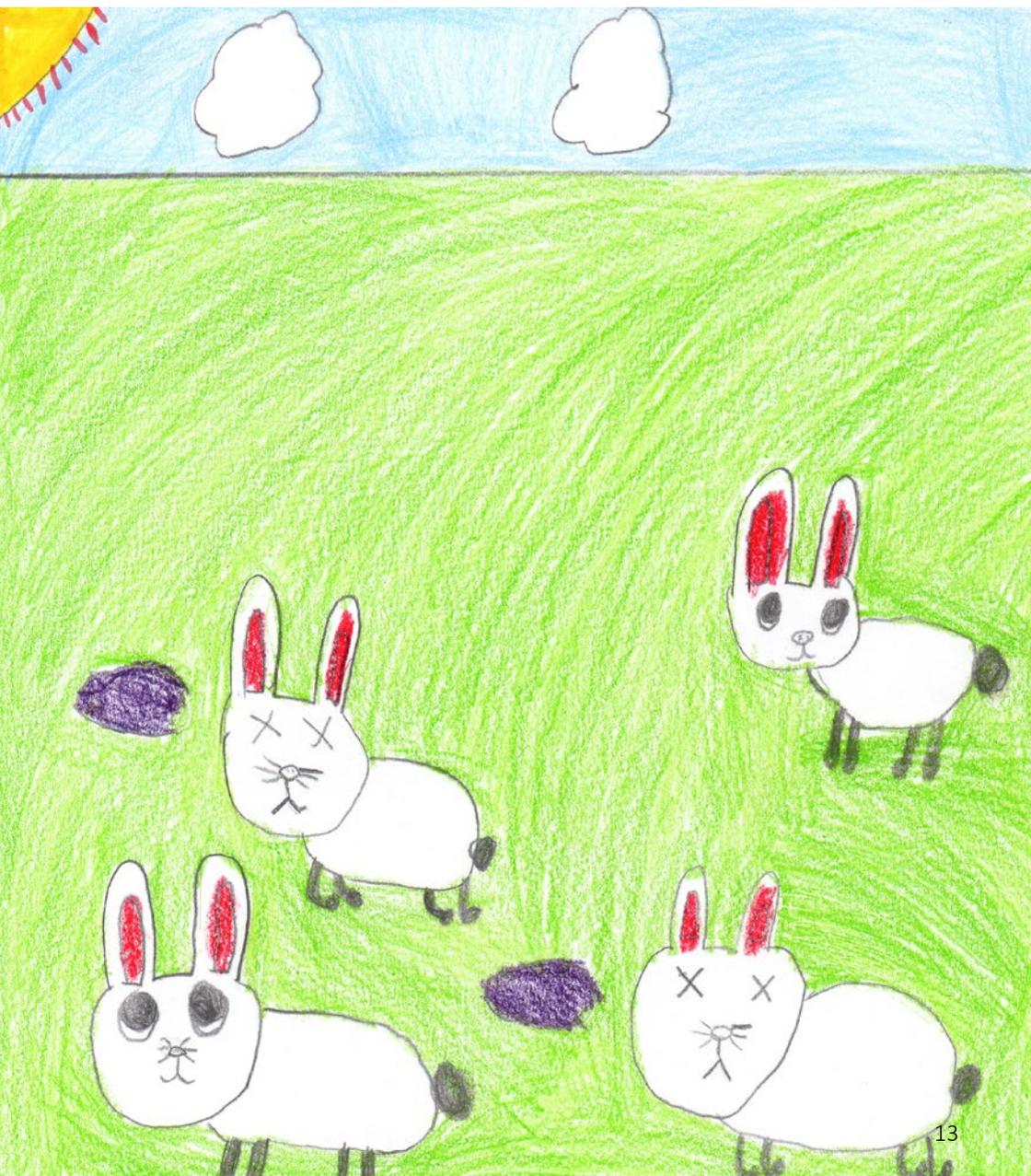
Farmer Kelvin was going to trap and move the rabbits as well as relocating all the dog kennels near the shed to help scare the rabbits away.

One Month Later...

Farmer Mat discovered that the fence did stop most of the rabbits getting into his prize-winning crops, but not all of them.



Farmer Sam discovered that the poison had worked for a lot of the rabbits but he still had a few rabbits running around.



Farmer Jim discovered the greenhouse did a fabulous job of stopping the rabbits from eating his vegetables. Mrs. Farmer Jim was happier now that there were less rabbits getting into her garden as well.



Farmer Kelvin discovered that trapping and moving the rabbits didn't work very well and the dogs got used to the rabbits and wouldn't scare them away.





All the farmers got together and told each other what they had tried, what worked and what didn't work. They were all happy and excited except for one farmer. Farmer Kelvin was so jealous that all the other solutions had reduced the damage the rabbits had been causing. The other farmers saw how upset Farmer Kelvin was that they decided to help him.

The farmers realised that they would never be rid of the rabbits and had to continually work out ways to stop them from causing too much damage.

Rabbits were first introduced into Australia in the 1800s when the first Europeans arrived in the eastern states. They brought them from England to use for meat and also hunting.

Only 24 rabbits were released into the wild and now there are hundreds of thousands of them all over Australia. Rabbits cause farmers a lot of problems and the farmers are continuing to eradicate them.





2016 Year 3-6, Pingrup Primary School

Enviro Stories