

The Adventures of Eddy and his Friends

Written & illustrated by students from Kondinin 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.

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au

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Citation: Baden-Powell, C. Andrews, A. Collard, A. Northey, B. Bennell, D. Collard, M. Print, H. and Blurton, B. (2018) *The adventures of Eddy and his friends*. Wheatbelt NRM, WA.

ISBN: 978-0-6483306-4-6

Series: Hotspot Heroes Enviro-Stories, Book 10

Enviro-Stories is a PeekDesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au
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The Adventures of Eddy and his Friends

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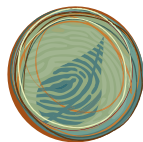
Hotspot Heroes

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.

This project is supported by Wheatbelt NRM through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



**National
Landcare
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**wheatbelt
natural resource
management**

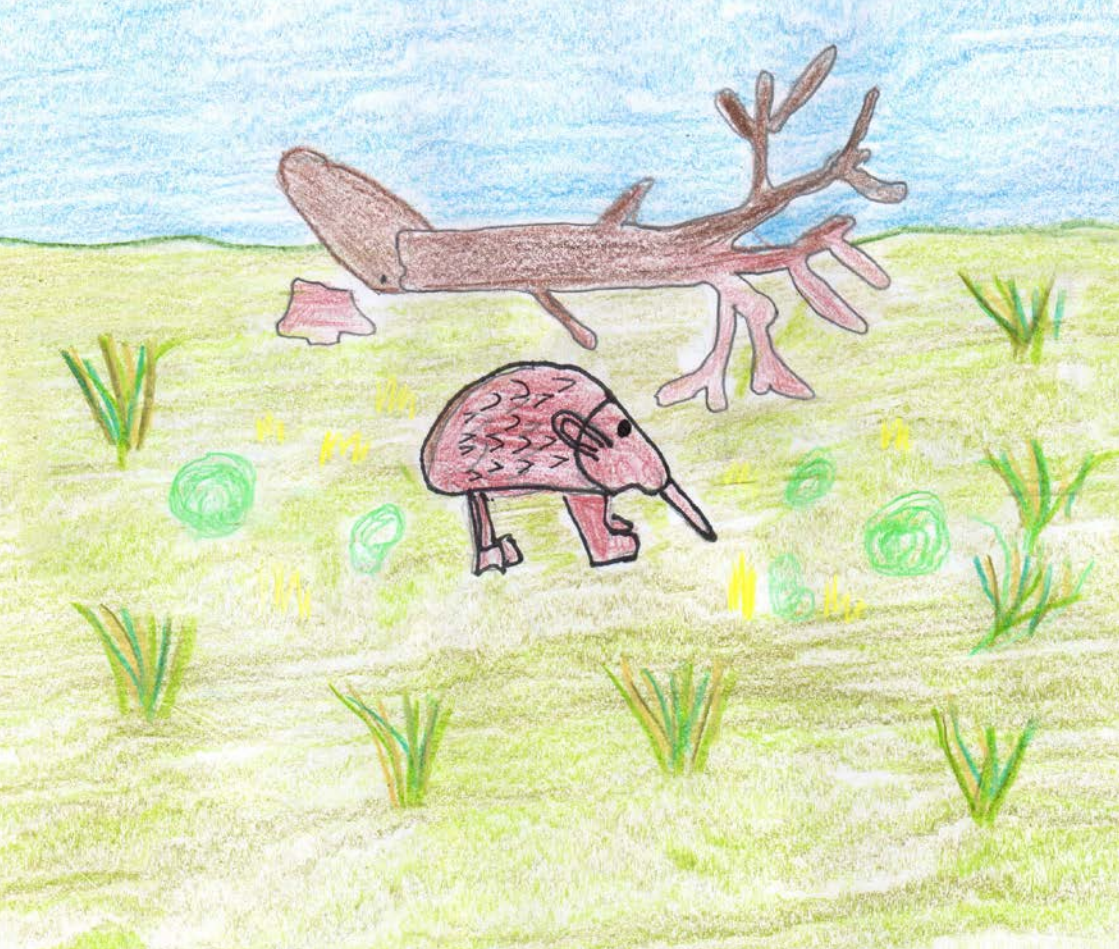
One bright spring morning, in the low scrub surrounding the Kondinin Lake, a new life began. A tiny, round, spotted egg cracked open and Eddy Echidna crawled out, scrambling his way towards his mother's milk supply. Eddy was a tiny five-cent piece sized, pink, hairless and very vulnerable little fellow. He was safe and protected in his mother's pouch, growing a little each day until he was covered in fur and quills.





When Eddy got too prickly to carry, his mother began to dig a burrow for him to move into. The burrow was under a fallen Kondinin Blackbutt tree, surrounded by Samphire bush. Eddy was still a young puggle, only twelve months old. He was finding his way in the world. Each day venturing a little further from his burrow and finding new food to help him survive.

By the time Eddy saw another summer, he had become totally independent of his mother. He would go off each day in search of termites and other invertebrates, slowly making his way between mounds and dead trees. He could smell termites from quite a distance and would move with a waddle and the rustle of his quills to find the delectable morsels he was searching for.



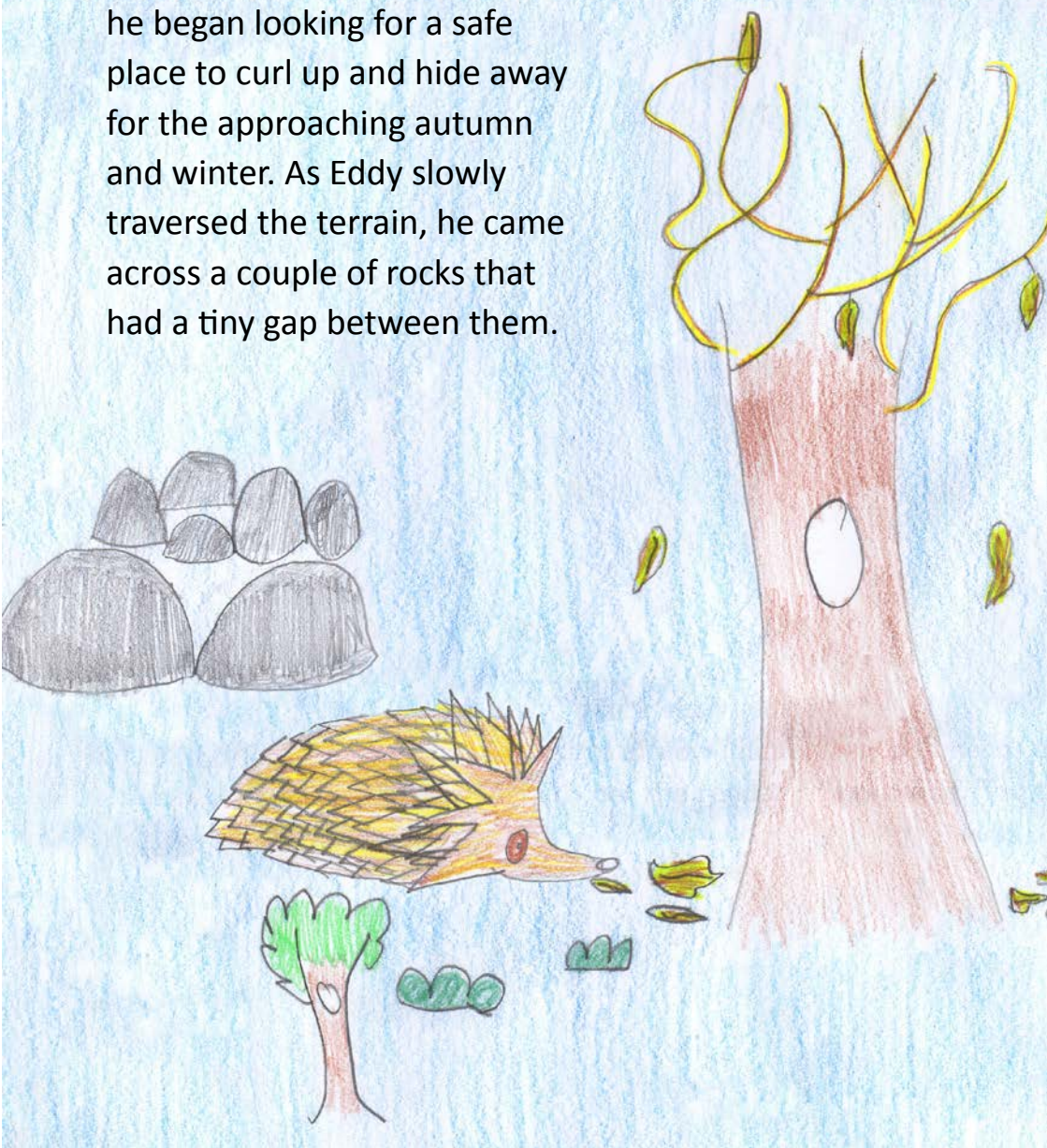


Eddy could be seen wandering among the Pigface plants and Graceful Spear-grass on any warm day. He often met up with his friend Bob, who was nearly as slow as Eddy in getting around the world. Bob was only seen on very warm days and he loved to eat whatever he could find. Bob was an old fellow and had many wise tales to share.

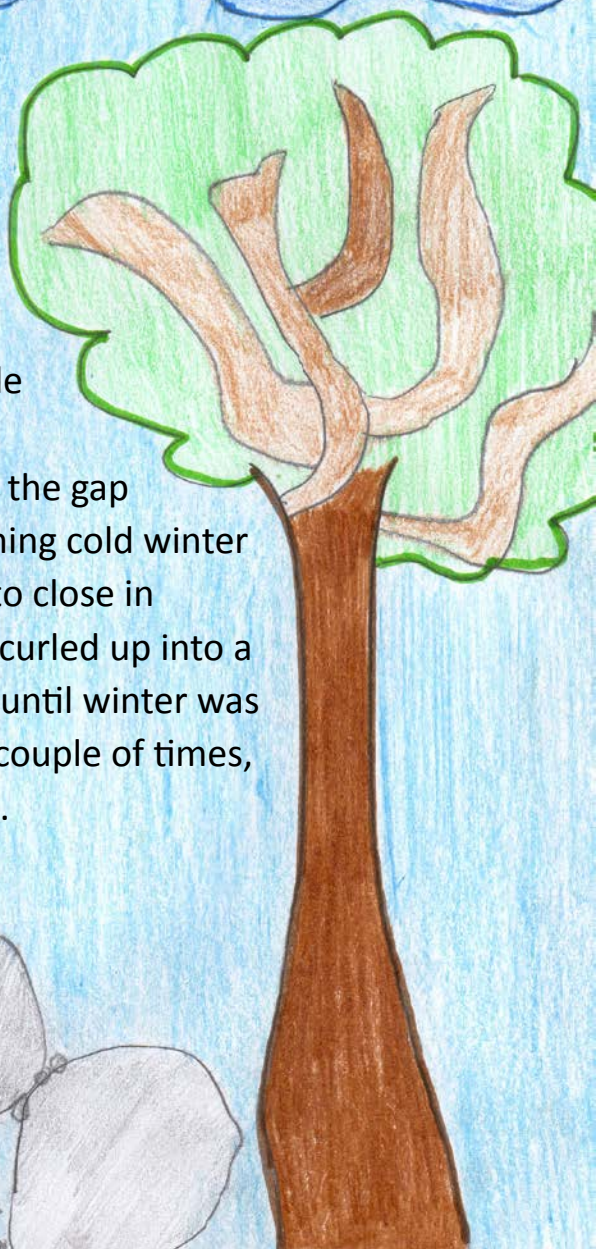


Bob had warned Eddy of the dangers of wandering in the open and the wily old fox that lived in the vicinity. Eddy had seen the fox occasionally and had always managed to keep out of his way. He took notice of the warnings he heard from the neighbouring birdlife and was often thankful for their loud carry-on.

Eddy continued to move around looking for food every day throughout the spring and summer. By the end of summer, he began looking for a safe place to curl up and hide away for the approaching autumn and winter. As Eddy slowly traversed the terrain, he came across a couple of rocks that had a tiny gap between them.



Eddy had to test this space and visited it a few times over the next couple of weeks. He eventually decided to clear a spot in the gap and settled in for the coming cold winter that he knew was about to close in around the lake area. He curled up into a tight ball and hibernated until winter was almost over. He awoke a couple of times, but did not leave his hide.



As winter dragged on, Eddy gradually began to stir and even had to leave his hide to find another warmer place for a few more weeks. He stayed in his new hide in the base of a dead log for the remainder of winter.





The next time Eddy decided to poke his head out of the log, he came face to face with a very large lizard. It was goanna of quite some size! He decided it was best he did not venture out today – he did not want to become dinner for another animal.



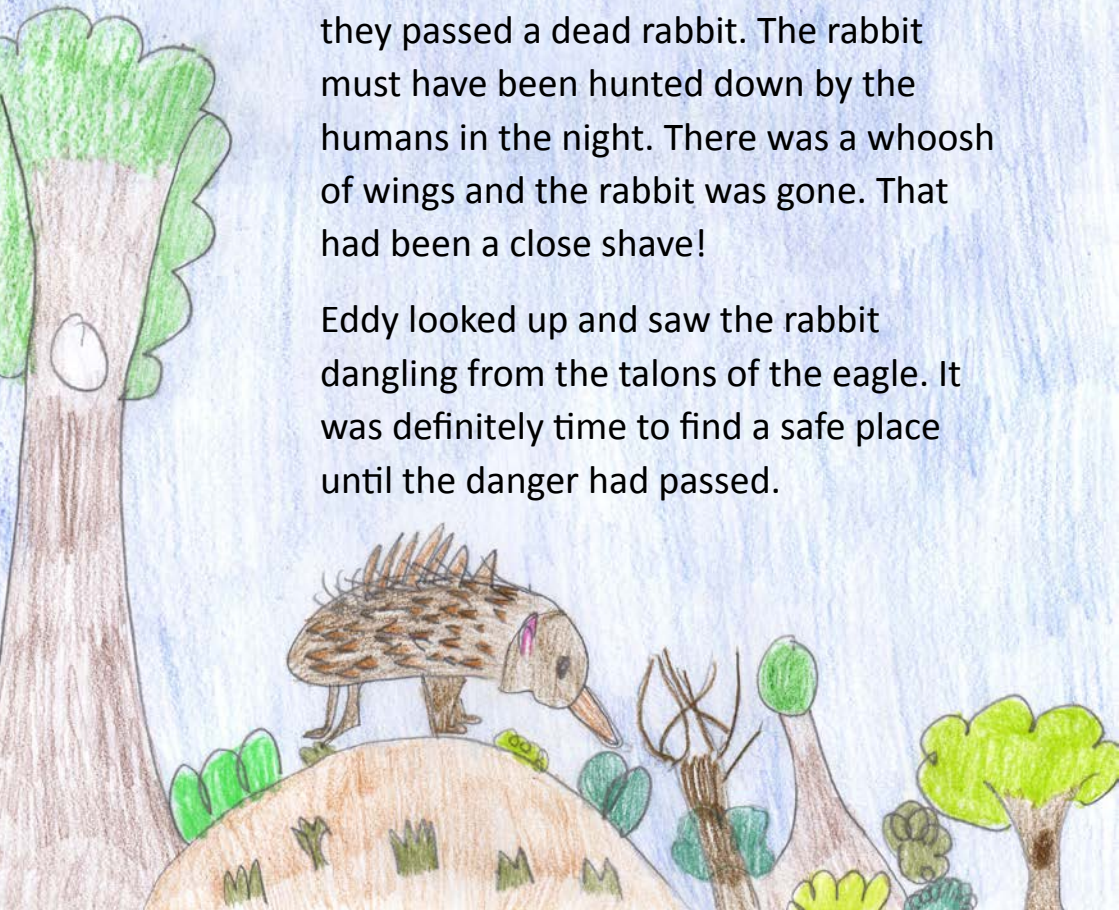
Bob came past a few days later and together the friends went off to find food for the day. As the two animals were walking across one of the clearings, between clumps of Mallee Saltbush and Merrell's Wattle, they noticed a shadow moving overhead. Both animals began to move as quickly as their short legs would carry them, for they knew that the shadow belonged to the Wedge-tailed Eagle, who had nested in a Salmon Gum on the edge of the lake reserve.



The eagle continued to circle and the noise in the bush nearby became very quiet. The friends knew something dangerous was about to happen.

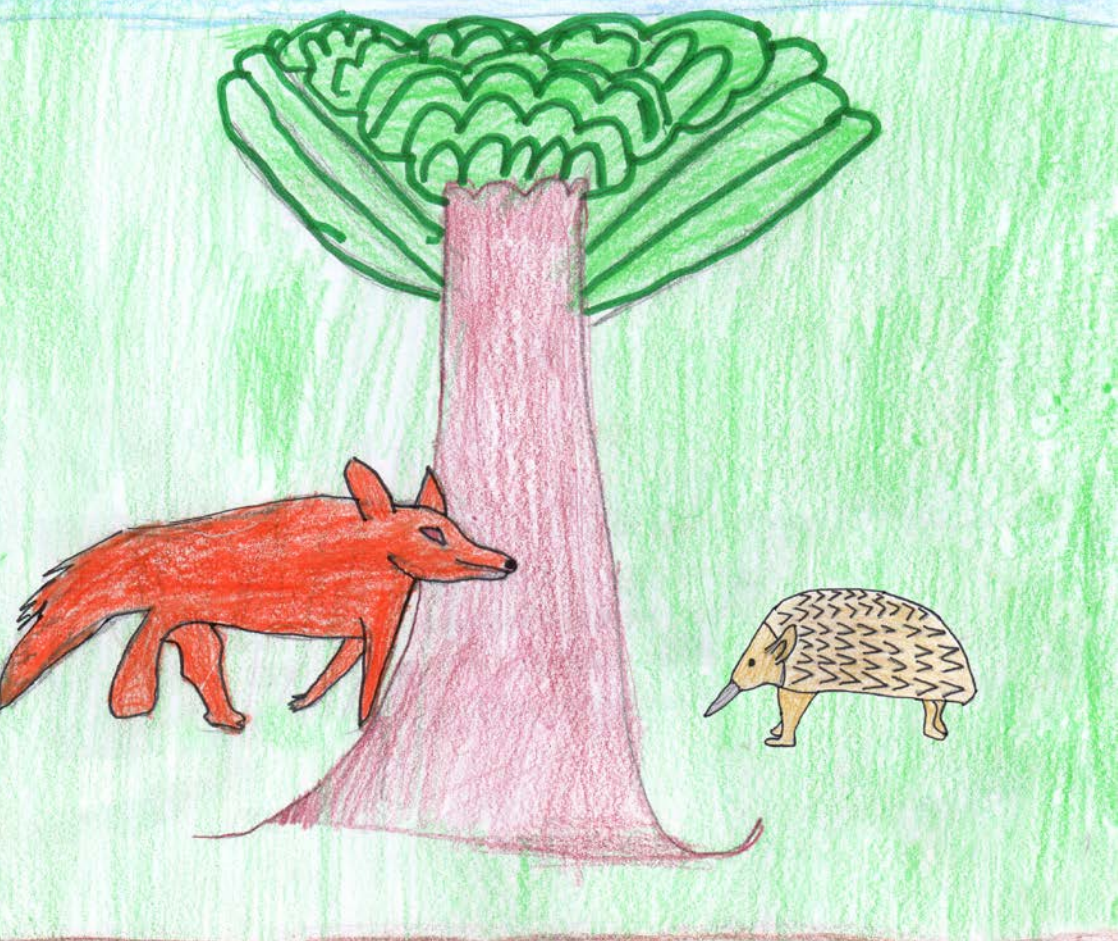
On their way to the closest dead tree, they passed a dead rabbit. The rabbit must have been hunted down by the humans in the night. There was a whoosh of wings and the rabbit was gone. That had been a close shave!

Eddy looked up and saw the rabbit dangling from the talons of the eagle. It was definitely time to find a safe place until the danger had passed.



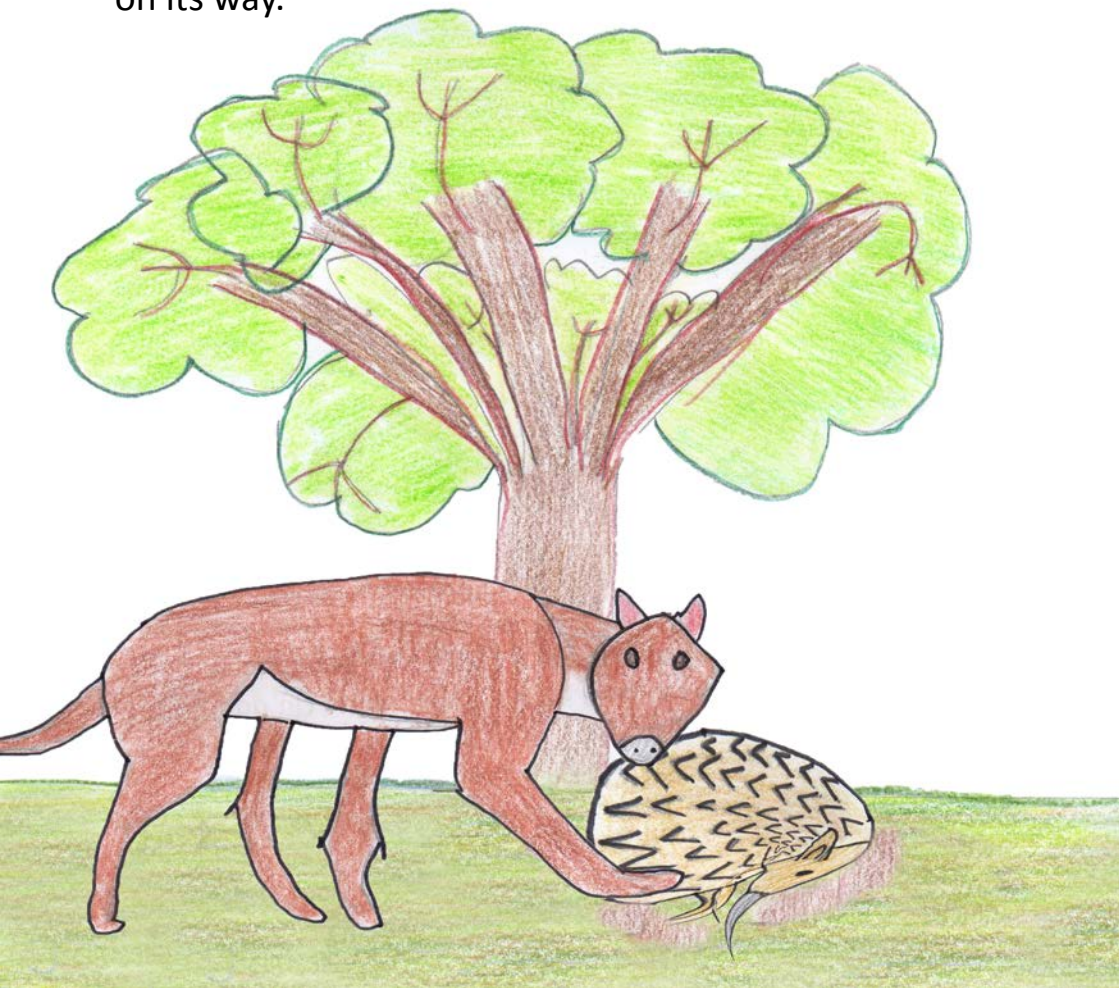
These encounters were not uncommon. As time passed, Eddy became more experienced and wise in the ways of the animals in the lake environment. He spent many happy years in the area, enjoying the termites, especially the young and eggs that he was able to scratch out with his strong claws and toothless mouth. His snout was a strong digging tool and his tongue was so long and sticky it made many tight places easy to hunt in.

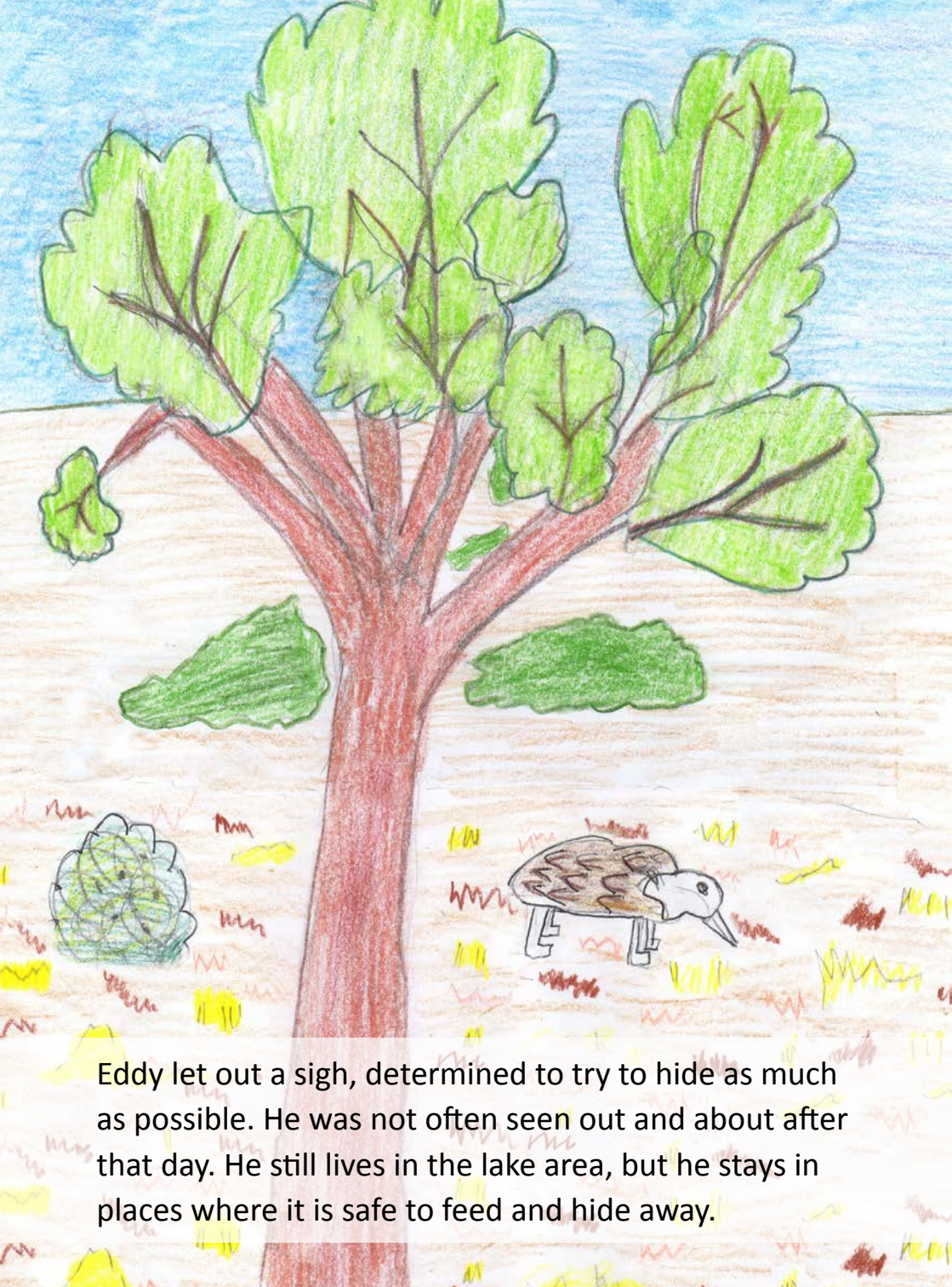




One day, about five years after he had first ventured into the world, while on his way to his favourite tree stump, Eddy came face to face with the resident fox. He had never been friends with this fellow. As the fox crept closer, Eddy could sense danger was approaching. He quickly curled into the tightest ball that he could and tried to dig into the dusty soil as much as possible. He looked like a prickly ball, but felt like an echidna about to be consumed.

Eddy tucked everything in, even his snout and his legs. Nothing was left for the fox to get a hold of. His spines were as stiff as possible. The fox approached! Eddy tightened his muscles and waited... The fox tried to tip Eddy over, but he was stuck fast in the ground and his quills were far too prickly for the fox to get a hold. After a few minutes of poking and trying to find a way into the ball of prickles, the fox gave up and continued on its way.





Eddy let out a sigh, determined to try to hide as much as possible. He was not often seen out and about after that day. He still lives in the lake area, but he stays in places where it is safe to feed and hide away.

ENVIRO stories



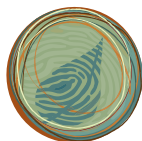
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Year 3-6, Kondinin Primary School



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