

# Urban Feral Tales



NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Biosecurity Warriors

ENVIRO  
stories

## **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](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

## **NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI)**

NSW DPI works to increase the value of primary industries and economic growth across the state. DPI manages a broad range of programs, including natural resource management, research and development, pest and disease management, food safety, industry engagement, and market access and competition.

The Peri Urban Biosecurity Program, developed in partnership with Greater Sydney Local Land Services, focuses on strengthening collaboration within the region and improving the capacity to respond to, manage and control biosecurity threats. Biosecurity in the Greater Sydney region keeps farmers in business, maintains export markets, keeps the community healthy and protects our environment – and we want to keep it that way.

**[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/greater-sydney-peri-urban](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/greater-sydney-peri-urban)**

## **Greater Sydney Local Land Services**

The Greater Sydney region accounts for 5 percent of the state's agricultural production, even though we only cover 1.5 percent of NSW land area. Greater Sydney Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes. We help people make better decisions about the land they manage and assist communities and agricultural industries to be productive and sustainable into the future.

**[www.greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au)**

# Urban Feral Tales

A compilation of tales written and illustrated by  
participants in NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Biosecurity Warriors program.

**Students:** Austin Cutter, Chelsey Smythe, Finn Reynolds, Cleo Trudgett,  
Hugo Fitzsimmons, Saxon Haynes, Georgia Perkins, William Reynolds,  
Klancy Schembri and Melita Schembri.



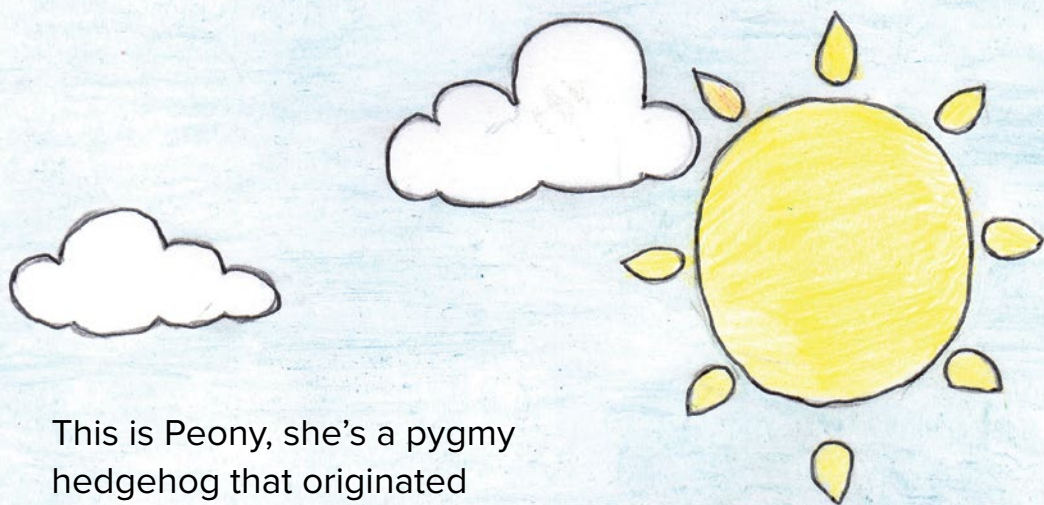
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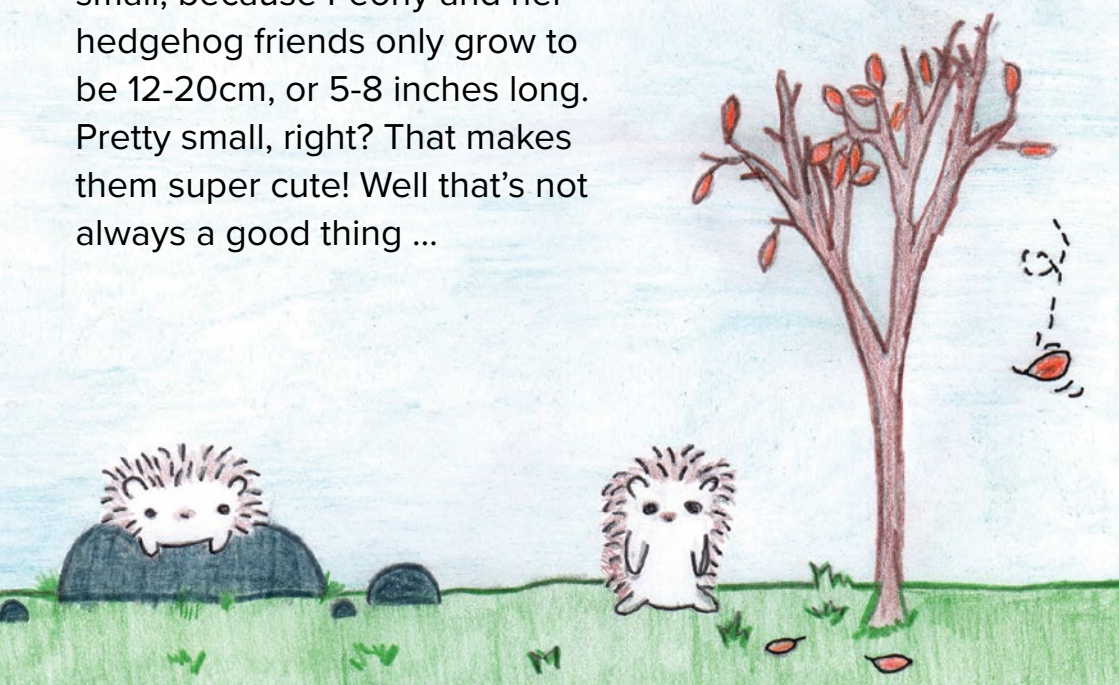
Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns initiative, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au).

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# Peony, the African Pygmy Hedgehog



This is Peony, she's a pygmy hedgehog that originated from Africa. Pygmy, meaning small, because Peony and her hedgehog friends only grow to be 12-20cm, or 5-8 inches long. Pretty small, right? That makes them super cute! Well that's not always a good thing ...







Peony and her hedgehog friends are so cute, some people want to bring them to Australia and keep them as a pet, sell them or even breed them. But, Peony and her hedgehog friends can often carry multiple diseases and sicknesses, some of which we do not have in Australia.

If you ever see an African Pygmy Hedgehog like Peony, though they may be cute, always report it. It can be more dangerous than it looks.

# The tale of Fiery Fred, the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)



Fred was on a boat, in a container. He came from America and now he is in Sydney. There was enough food for him and his other Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) friends. No-one can see him on the boat because he is very, very tiny.



A man came over to their container and Fred bit him, “Ouch, ouch, ouch” went the man. The man reported Fred to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Fred and his friends are now dead. The DPI got rid of all RIFA in New South Wales. They did their biosecurity duty.

The rest of Fred’s family are in sunny Queensland.

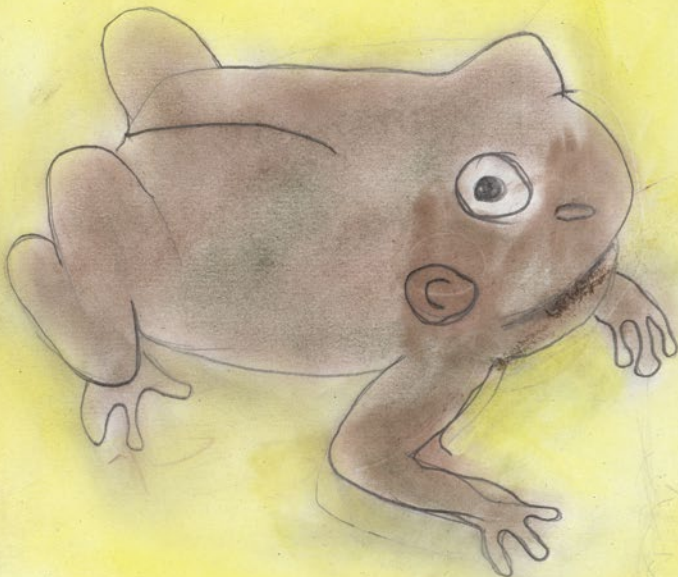




# Cadman the Cane Toad

## See it, Catch it, Call us!

“Aghhh”, sighed Cadman stretching his legs as he came off the cramped cargo ship. His eyes opened wide at the sight of the huge expanse of Australia. It was bigger than he imagined and much bigger than his native home, Hawaii.







He walked his large stocky body on his short limbs across the sand to a sugar cane farm where he was welcomed by a farmer. The farmer was excited that Cadman would do a good job getting rid of all the beetles that were eating his sugar cane. Cadman ate as many as he could until he got a bit sick of eating beetles.

Out of the corner of his eye he spotted something that he thought would be a little bit more delicious... an Australian native animal. The farmer saw everything. He was shocked and called the DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES. They got rid of Cadman, but unfortunately Cadman had relatives in Australia too.

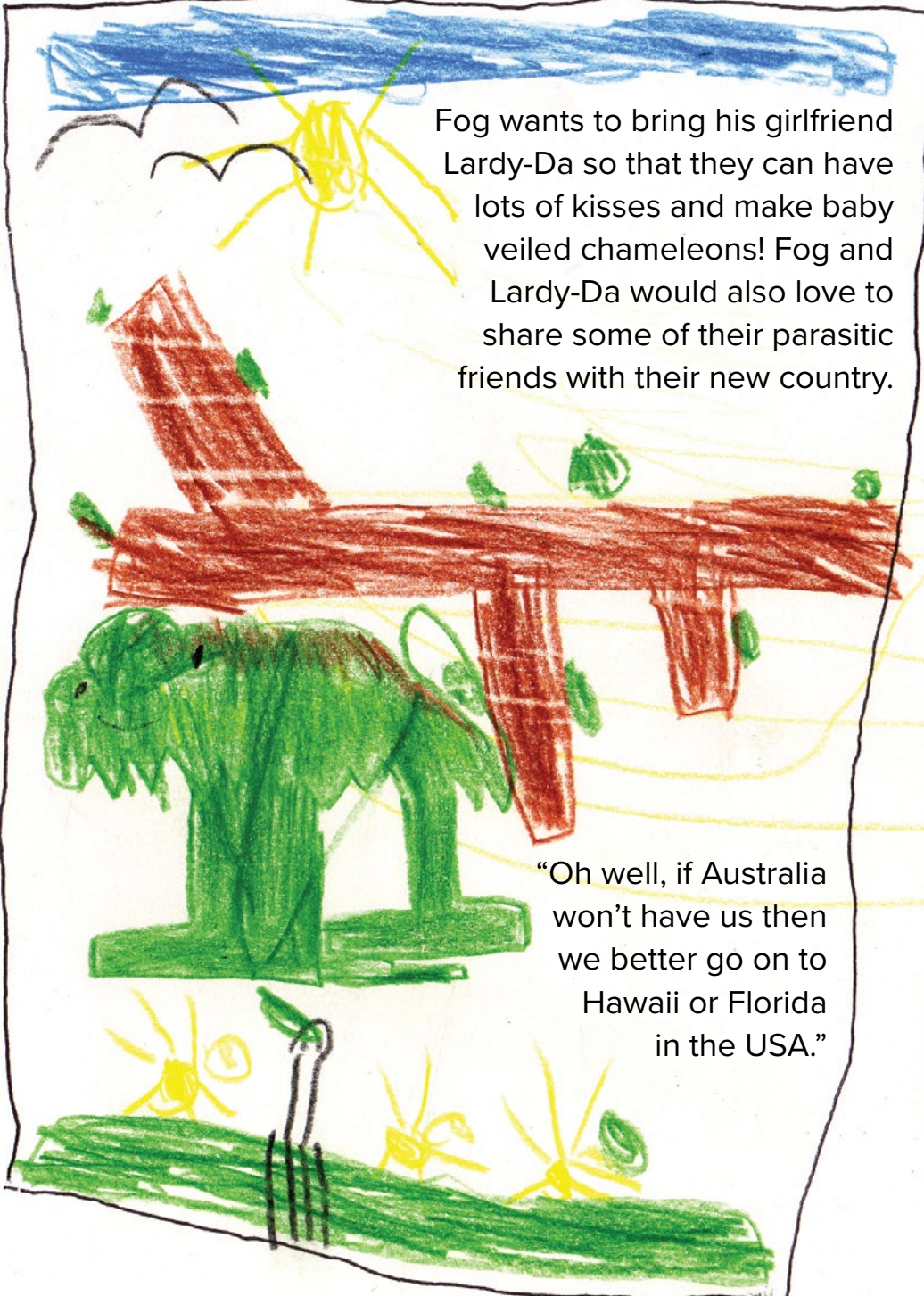
**“See it, Catch it, Call us” on 1800 680 244**

# Fog the Veiled Chameleon



Fog the veiled chameleon is from Saudi Arabia, and his friends are from Western Yemen.

Fog wants to live in Australia but he can't because he is banned! Australia would be perfect for Fog. It has a similar climate to his home country, you wouldn't even know they're there because you can't see them.

A child's drawing on a piece of paper with a black border. The drawing depicts a landscape. At the top, there is a blue sky with two black clouds and a yellow sun with radiating lines. Below the sky, there is a large red structure that looks like a house or a bridge, with a green tree in front of it. To the right of the tree, there are two red vertical structures. At the bottom, there is a green ground area with a black bird standing on it, and several yellow sun-like shapes. The text is written in the upper right and lower right areas of the drawing.

Fog wants to bring his girlfriend  
Lardy-Da so that they can have  
lots of kisses and make baby  
veiled chameleons! Fog and  
Lardy-Da would also love to  
share some of their parasitic  
friends with their new country.

"Oh well, if Australia  
won't have us then  
we better go on to  
Hawaii or Florida  
in the USA."



# Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

## Bruno and Bianca go cruising

“Oooh!” screamed Bruno with excitement to Bianca, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. “It’s so nice and warm here in Australia this time of year compared to Italy! I’m so happy to be off that smelly, dark container in that big cargo ship! I’m so hungry, I could eat a whole orchard of juicy sweet peaches... mmm, my favourite!”

So, the two Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs scuttled around and soon found a backyard orchard. They climbed into a peach tree and began sucking the sweet juices.





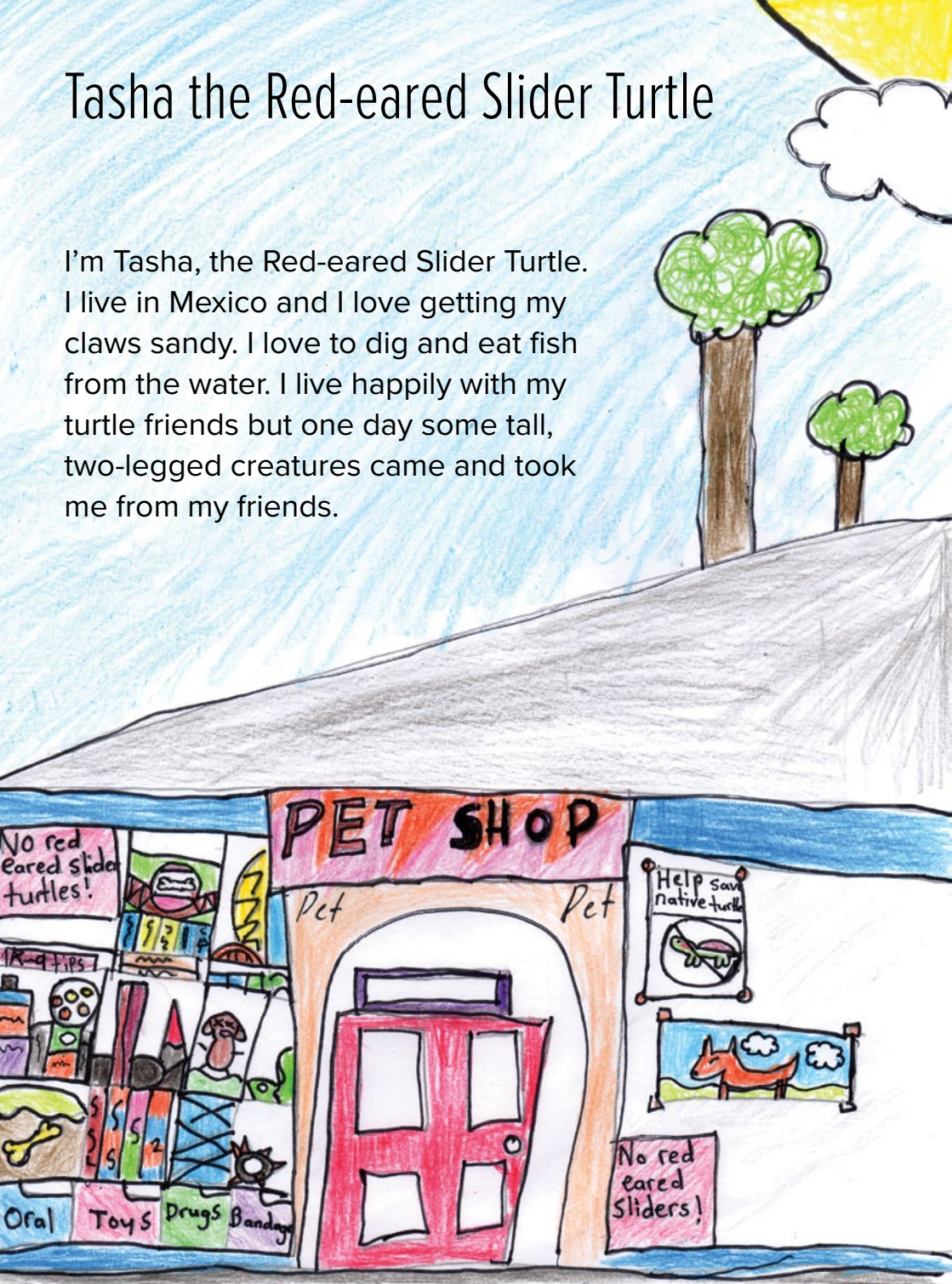
“This is a great place to start a family!” exclaimed Bianca.

Suddenly, a big shadow fell over the bugs. The orchard owner leaned over, spotting the unusual bugs on one side of his peaches. They looked different to the normal stink bugs - it was the size of a 5 cent coin with white and brown stripes on its antennae, sides and its lower back. The owner put the ‘Biosecurity Baddies’ in a container and called the Department of Primary Industries. Bruno and Bianca’s holiday came to a very quick end.

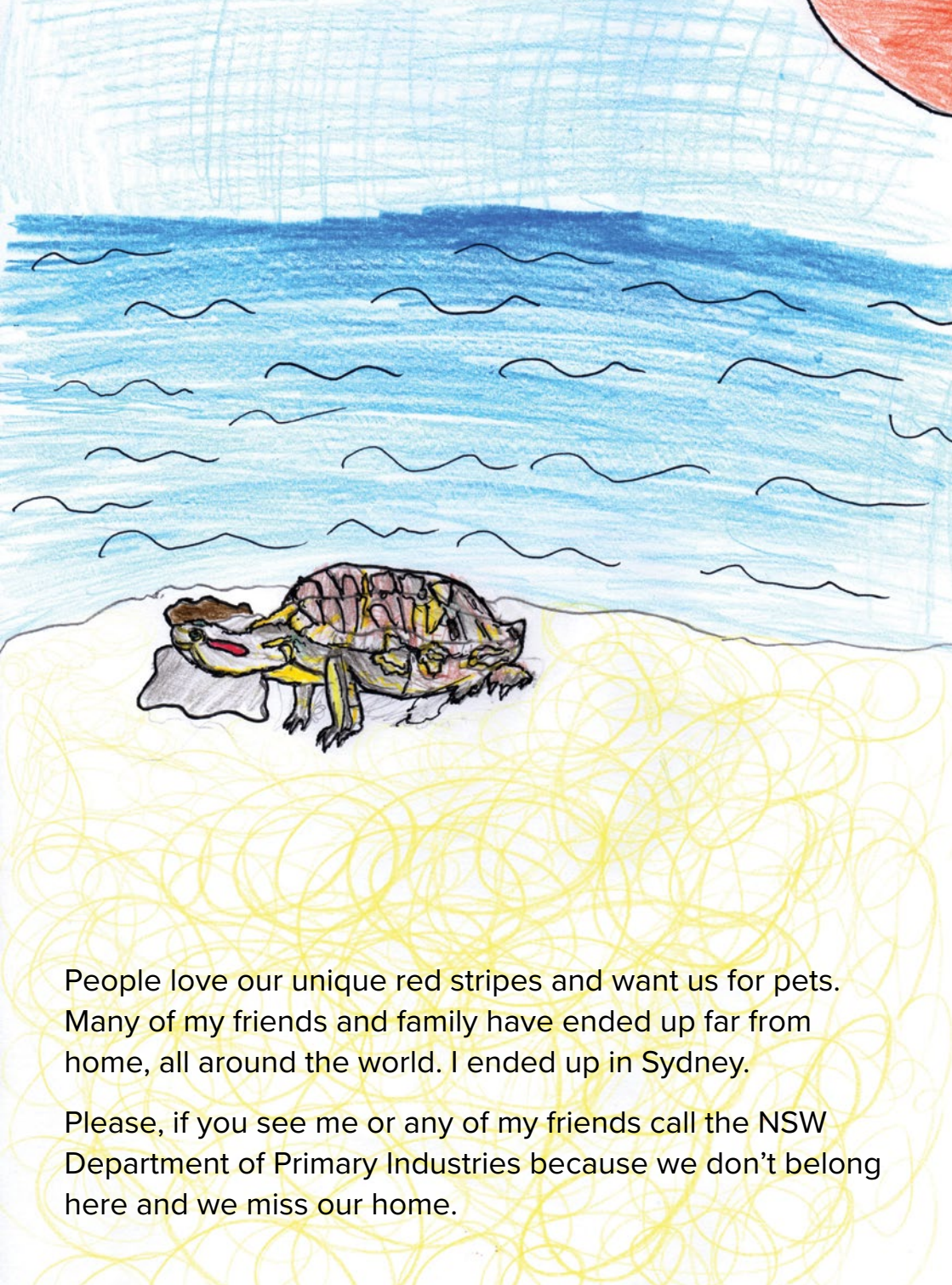


# Tasha the Red-eared Slider Turtle

I'm Tasha, the Red-eared Slider Turtle. I live in Mexico and I love getting my claws sandy. I love to dig and eat fish from the water. I live happily with my turtle friends but one day some tall, two-legged creatures came and took me from my friends.







People love our unique red stripes and want us for pets. Many of my friends and family have ended up far from home, all around the world. I ended up in Sydney.

Please, if you see me or any of my friends call the NSW Department of Primary Industries because we don't belong here and we miss our home.





When you see it, Snap it!  
Alex, the American Corn Snake

Two kangaroos, Chip and Chase were getting concerned. Some of their bush friends has disappeared and had never returned.

Kris the kookaburra, Sammy the skink and Quentin the quoll had all recently vanished from their homes without warning. Chip and Chase decided to call on their friend, Horatio Hooter the owl to help out.

Horatio flew in to make an aerial survey and noticed something unusual poking out of the grass next to Nathan the numbat's hole. On closer inspection, Horatio noticed a long, slender, reddish coloured snake.

Horatio asked, "Who, who, who are you?"



WHEN YOU SEE IT  
SNAP IT



The snake said, “I’m Alex the American corn snake. It’s so good to meet you. I came all the way from the USA and was living here at the zoo. I just slipped out for while because hunting’s my style and I’ve almost got enough for a stew. The recipe calls for a numbat but I think an owl will do.”

Horatio knew just what to do when you find a critter escaped from the zoo. “WHEN YOU SEE IT, SNAP IT” he recalled NSW Biosecurity saying.

So, he pulled out a camera and took a photo of Alex the American corn snake. Horatio emailed the photo before getting aloft, knowing his work as a Biosecurity Warrior would mean the snake could be quickly identified and removed from the Australian bush.



TOP (L-R): Austin Cutter, Chelsey Smythe, Finn Reynolds, Cleo Trudgett and Hugo Fitzsimmons  
 BOTTOM (L-R): Saxon Haynes, Georgia Perkins, William Reynolds, Klancy Schembri and Melita Schembri.



 **ENVIRO-stories**  
 Sharing stories about the world around us