

The Red Fox



Year 5/6
Hawkesbury Independent 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

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.

<https://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

The Red Fox

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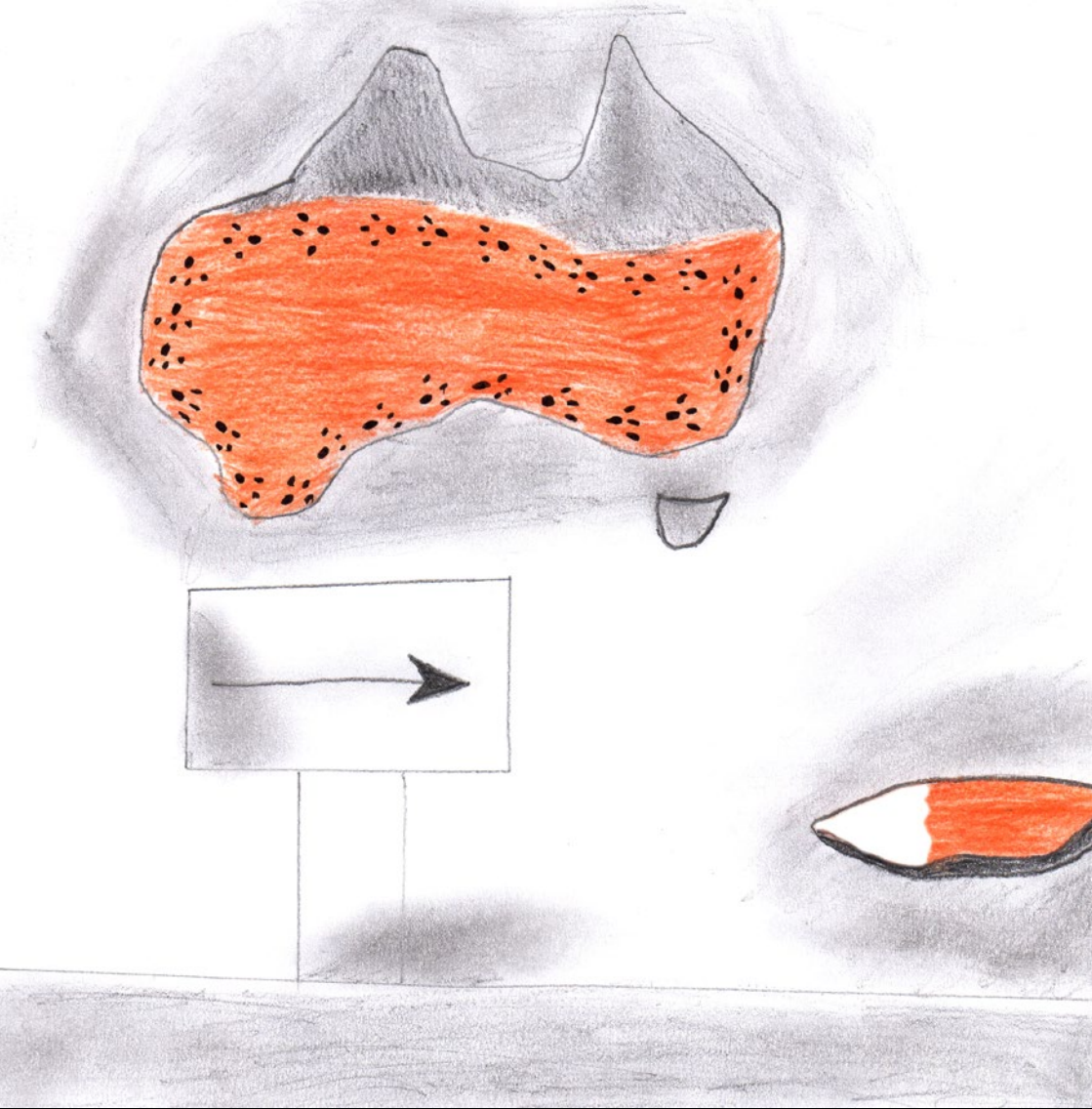
Since being introduced to Australia, the Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) has become one of our most elusive predators. Foxes were originally brought to our country by English settlers in 1871.



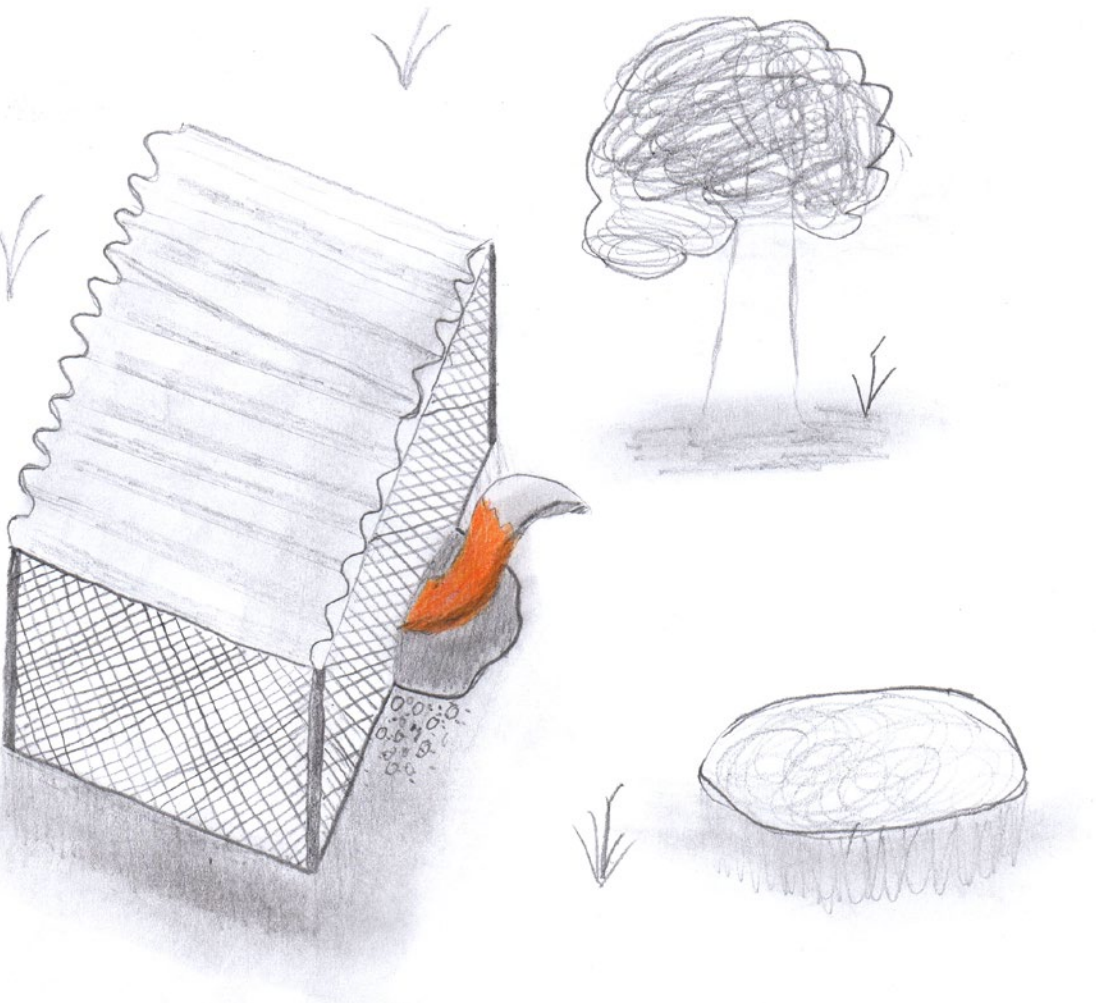
This new breed was immediately released into the wild so that they could grow in numbers and be hunted for sport.



Female foxes are able to produce litters at least once a year, with each litter containing up to ten kits. Without a natural predator, the number of these stealthy creatures continues to increase dramatically.



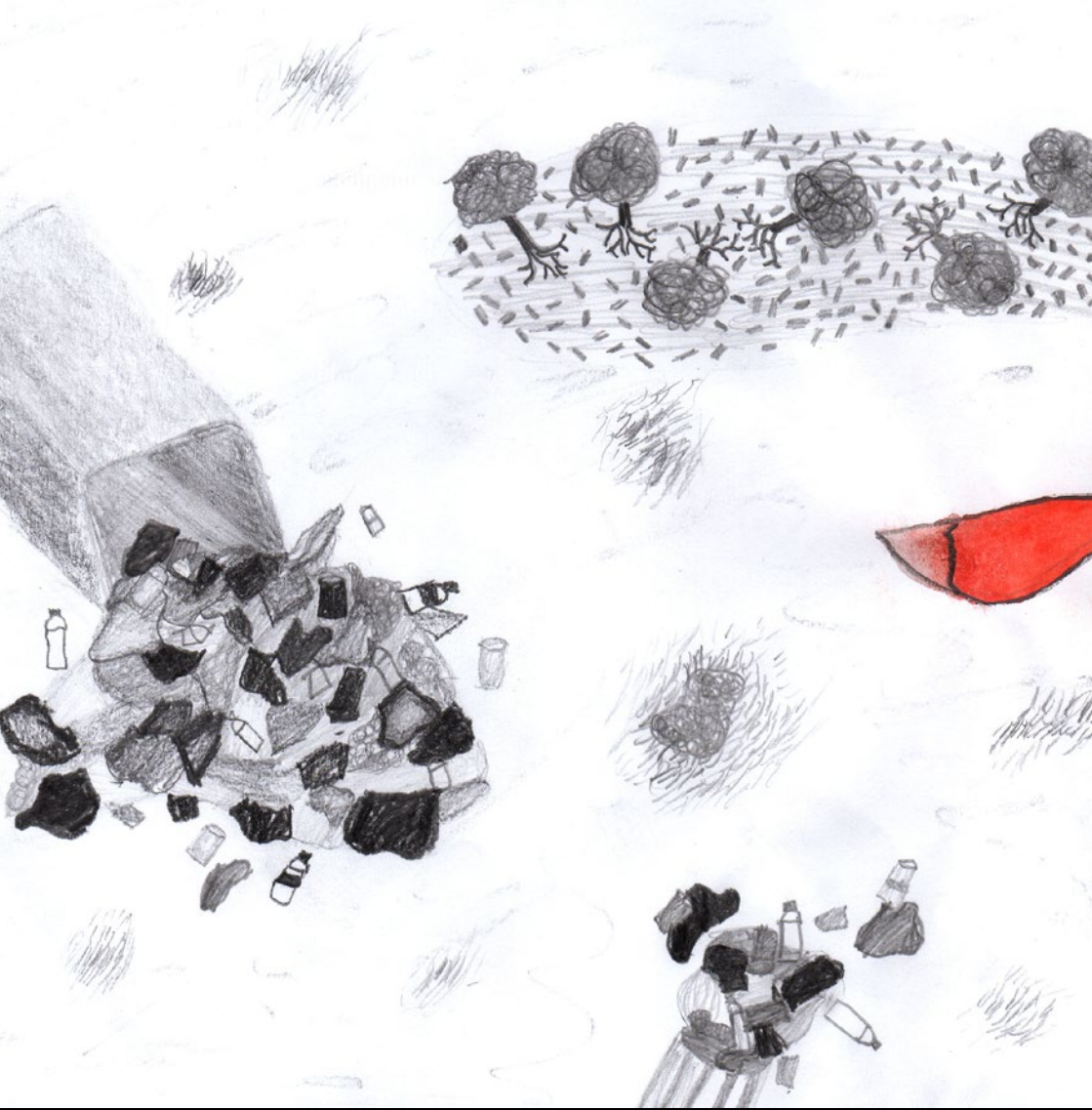
With their numbers growing and their ability to travel many kilometres in just one day, red foxes have dispersed far and wide across Australia. However, the northern part of our country is too hot and humid for them to live.



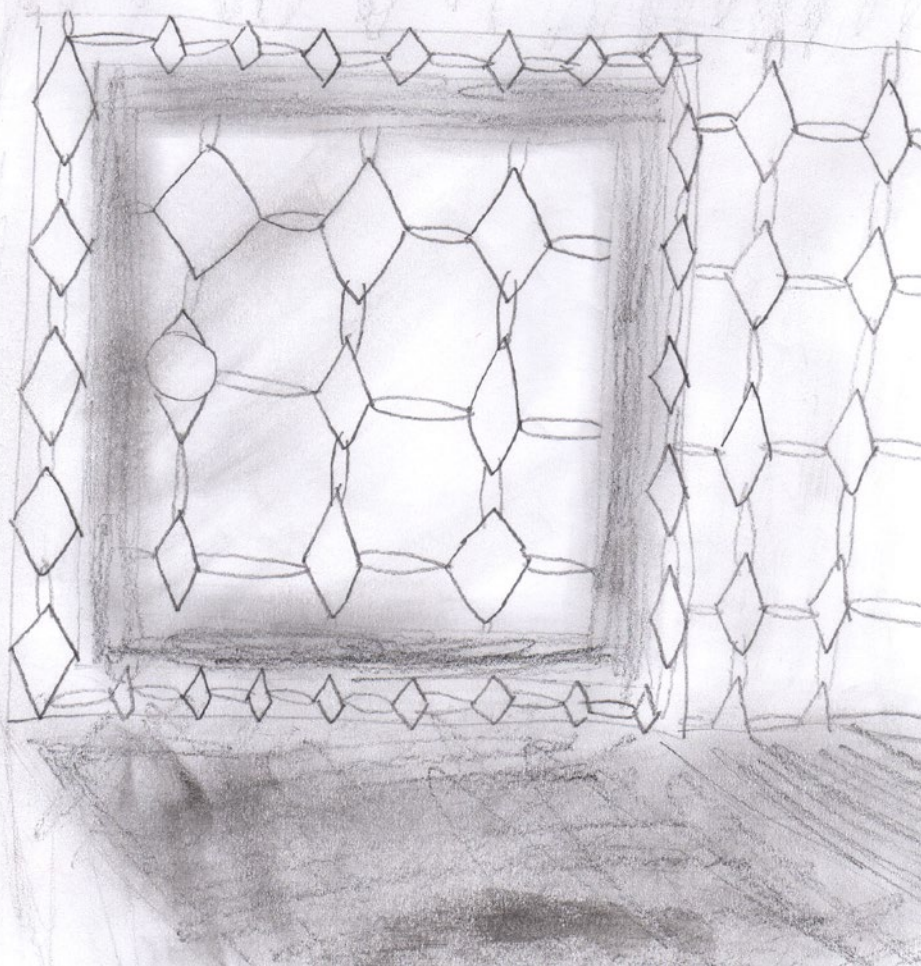
These lean hunting machines tend to be a problem for farmers because they kill their livestock. This can create financial problems for farming families. The red fox also carries health risks for both humans and other animals because they are prone to carrying diseases.



The red fox has been known to ruin properties. In a desperate attempt to get food, they often damage fences. This provides an opportunity for livestock and pets to escape, as well as exposing properties to other unwanted visitors.



The feral fox further vandalizes properties by upturning garbage bins and destroying garden beds in search of food. With good reason, this menacing hound has been labelled as a serious pest.



Chicken is a favourite meal of the red fox and it will often attempt to steal one for its dinner in the dark of night. This way, it is less likely to be caught in the act.





To protect our beloved chickens from these unwanted visitors, people are encouraged to put up electric fences and use motion-sensor lighting to scare foxes away at night.



These brush-tailed fiends kill thousands of native animals including many of our birds, reptiles and other small mammals.



One of these native animals is the western ring-tailed possum, which has been classified as a threatened and endangered species.



Predators of the red fox include dingoes and large birds of prey such as the wedge-tailed eagle.



Humans are also a predator of the red fox. Our attempts to eradicate these pests include luring them into baiting stations, trapping them in cages and sterilizing them, so that they cannot reproduce.



Some simple things people can do at home to keep foxes away include closing bins, picking low hanging fruit from trees and locking your animals away at night. By working together, we can try to eradicate these midnight menaces.



Hawkesbury Independent School, Year 5/6 2018



Who's living in your backyard?



ENVIRO-stories

Sharing stories about the world around us