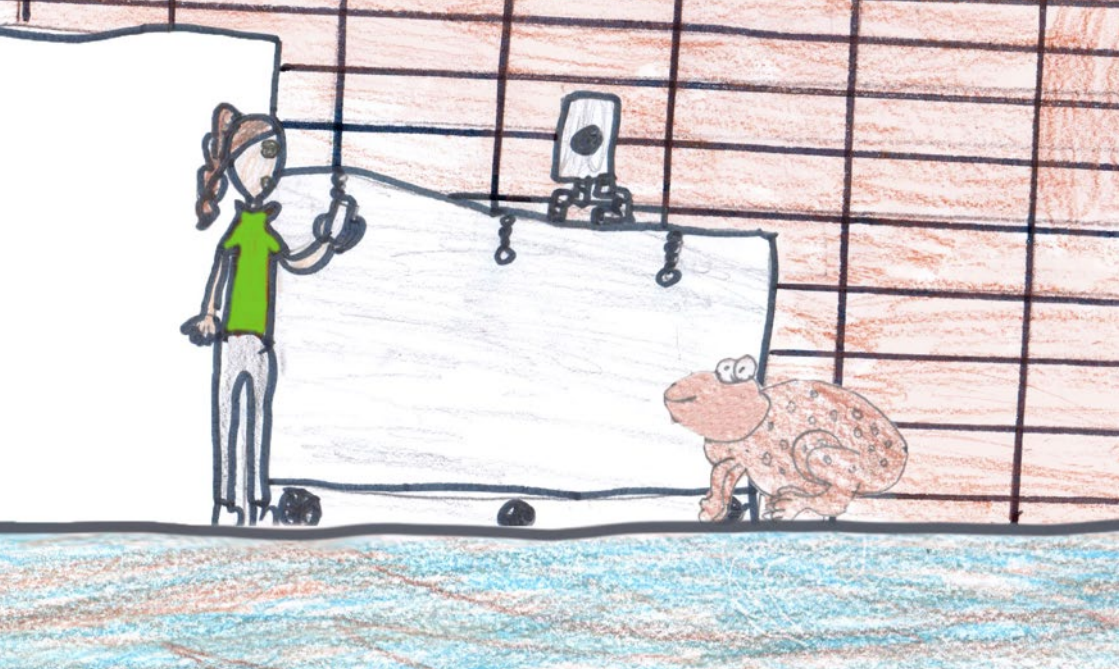


# Aunty Nerrida *and the* Cane Toad



## Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is a 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)

## Hunter Local Land Services

Hunter 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.

The Hunter Local Land Services region covers an area of approximately 33,000 square kilometres, extending from MidCoast Council in the north to Lake Macquarie City Council in the south and Upper Hunter Shire Council in the west.

The landscape ranges from estuarine wetlands and mangroves, rainforests and freshwater wetlands to open grasslands, woodlands, eucalypt forests, lakes and foreshores.

The region has good soils, a subtropical climate and abundant rainfall which support a wide range of industries, including farming, forestry, fishing, oyster farming, tourism and nature-based recreation.

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

# Aunty Nerrida and the Cane Toad

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Teacher: Michael Thompson

School: Medowie Public School

This book has been published as part of the Every Bit Counts Enviro-Stories program and involves schools learning about the importance of sustainably managing our farmland and natural resources and protecting them from biosecurity threats.

The Every Bit Counts Enviro-Stories program forms part of a collaborative project between all four coastal Local Land Services regions, including Hunter, Greater Sydney, South East and North Coast. This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

Hunter Local Land Services has also partnered with Hunter Water Corporation since 2014 to provide education programs which engage school students and teachers in projects to improve water quality and catchment health.

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

Bednar Reay, B. 2019. *Aunty Nerrida and the Cane Toad*. Local Land Services, NSW.



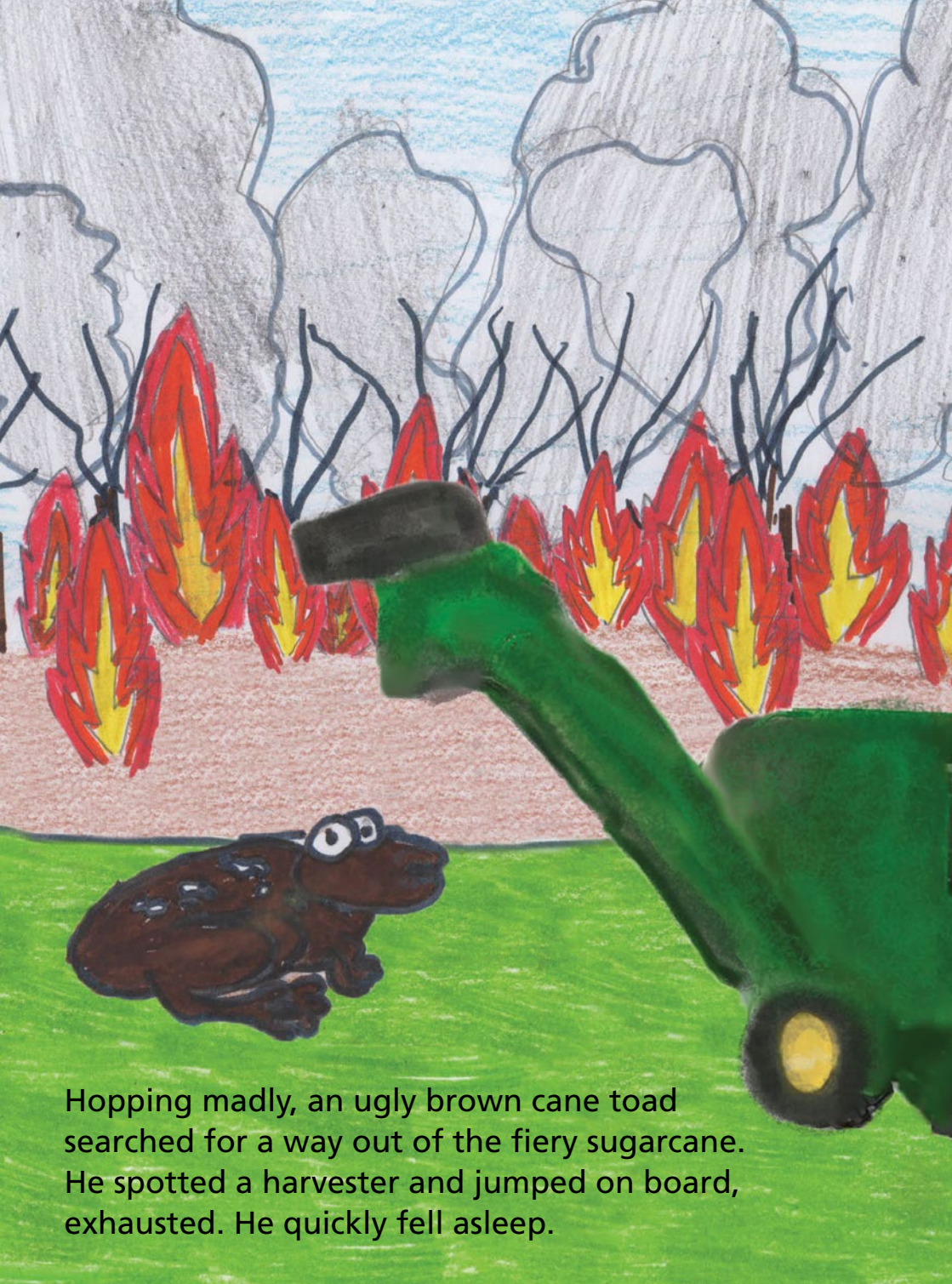


A child's drawing on a textured paper background. The foreground shows several stalks of sugarcane with green leaves and yellow-orange heads. At the base of the stalks, there are bright red and yellow flames. Behind the sugarcane, there are three large, grey, cloud-like shapes representing smoke. The background is filled with light blue and grey scribbles. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, dark brown turtle with a lighter brown shell and a small blue eye.

***Crackle, crackle, crackle!***

Fire spread quickly through the sugarcane field.





Hopping madly, an ugly brown cane toad searched for a way out of the fiery sugarcane. He spotted a harvester and jumped on board, exhausted. He quickly fell asleep.

Meanwhile, in Medowie...

**BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!**

The alarm jolted Aunty Nerrida out of her bed.

It's 4am and she needed to start getting ready for work. She rolled out of bed, got dressed and had her breakfast.







Aunty Nerrida wasn't the only one who had an early start...

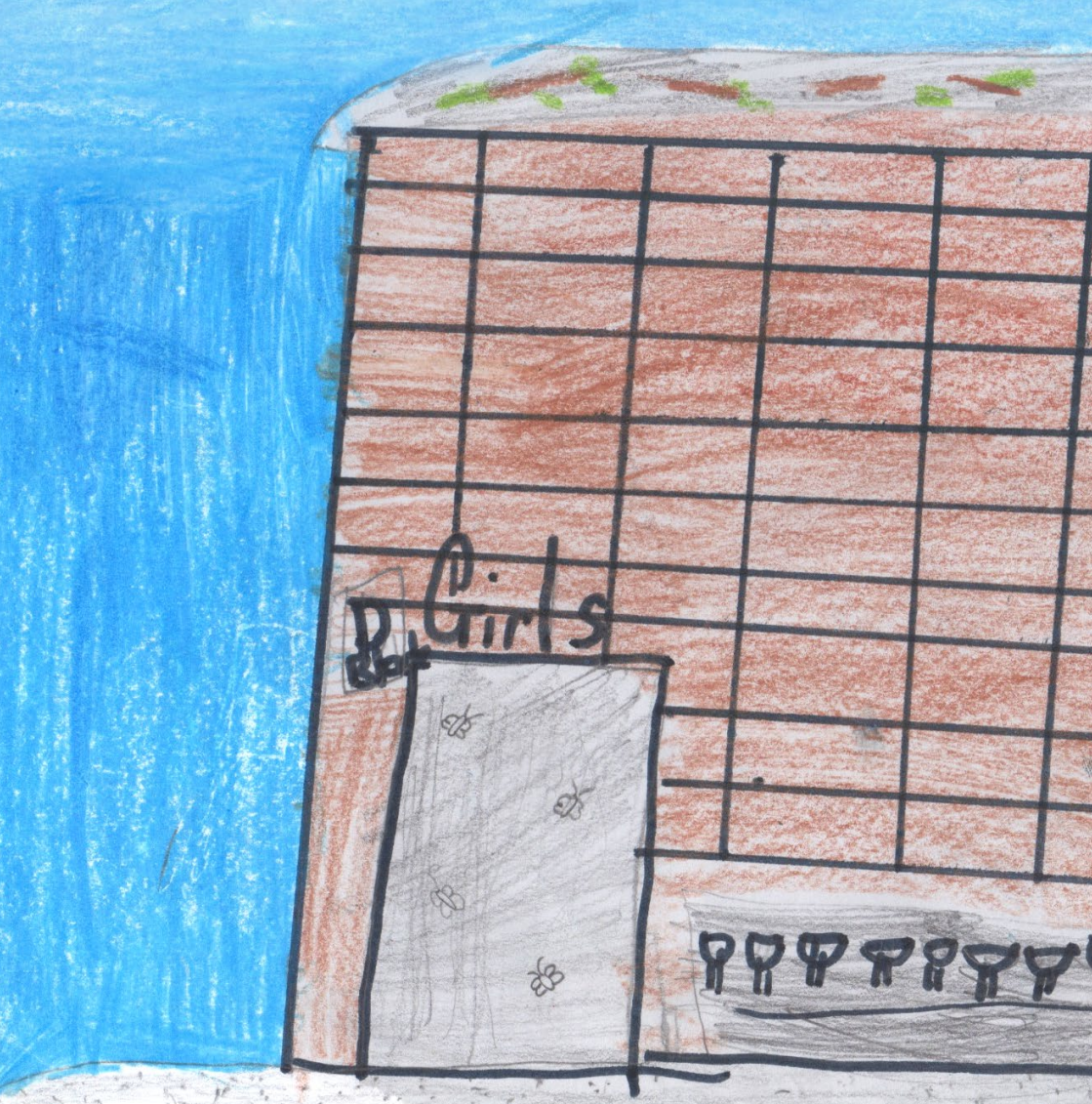
On the sugarcane farm, a loud roaring noise woke the ugly brown cane toad as the harvester began to move. The toad flung himself off the harvester and looked for another place to hide.

He spied a transport truck, which had its engine idling close by. The cane toad jumped up the ramp and hid in the load stored inside.



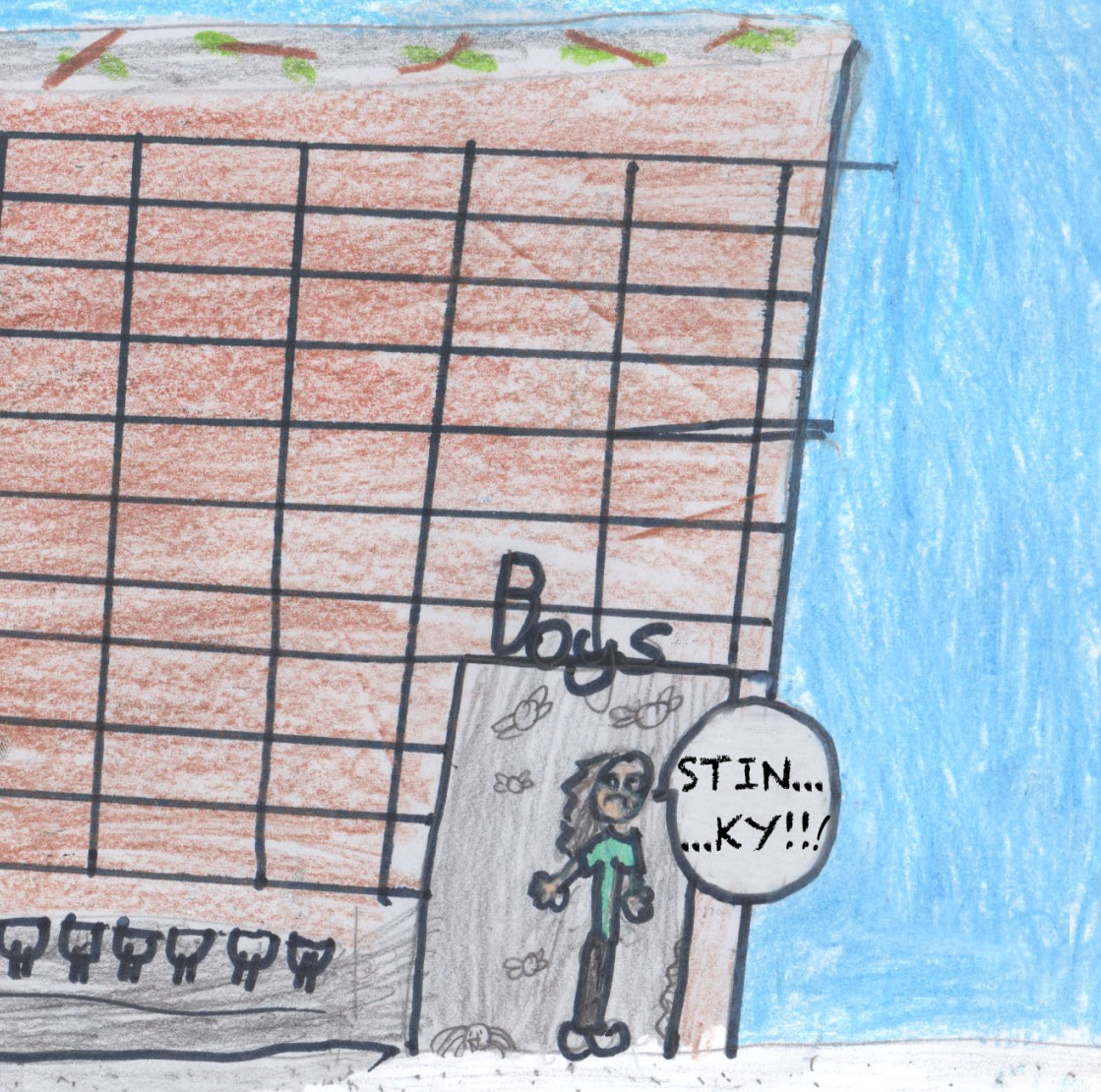
Back in Medowie...

Aunty Nerrida liked to check the school to make sure things were clean before the students arrived. She searched the disgusting boys' toilets for bugs and creepy crawlies.





"This is the stinkiest place in the school," she said. She found a few bugs but nothing much else. Aunty Nerrida was satisfied things were fine for the students. Little did Aunty Nerrida know the surprise she would receive the following morning!





Almost 24 hours later, the truck driver stopped at a service station in Medowie, NSW.

The cane toad was fed up with being in the truck, so when the truck stopped he found a small gap and jumped out.







It was very dark, but across the road the cane toad saw a huge yellow sign that read 'Medowie Public School'.

The cane toad thought this might be a good place to live so he hopped across the road towards the school.

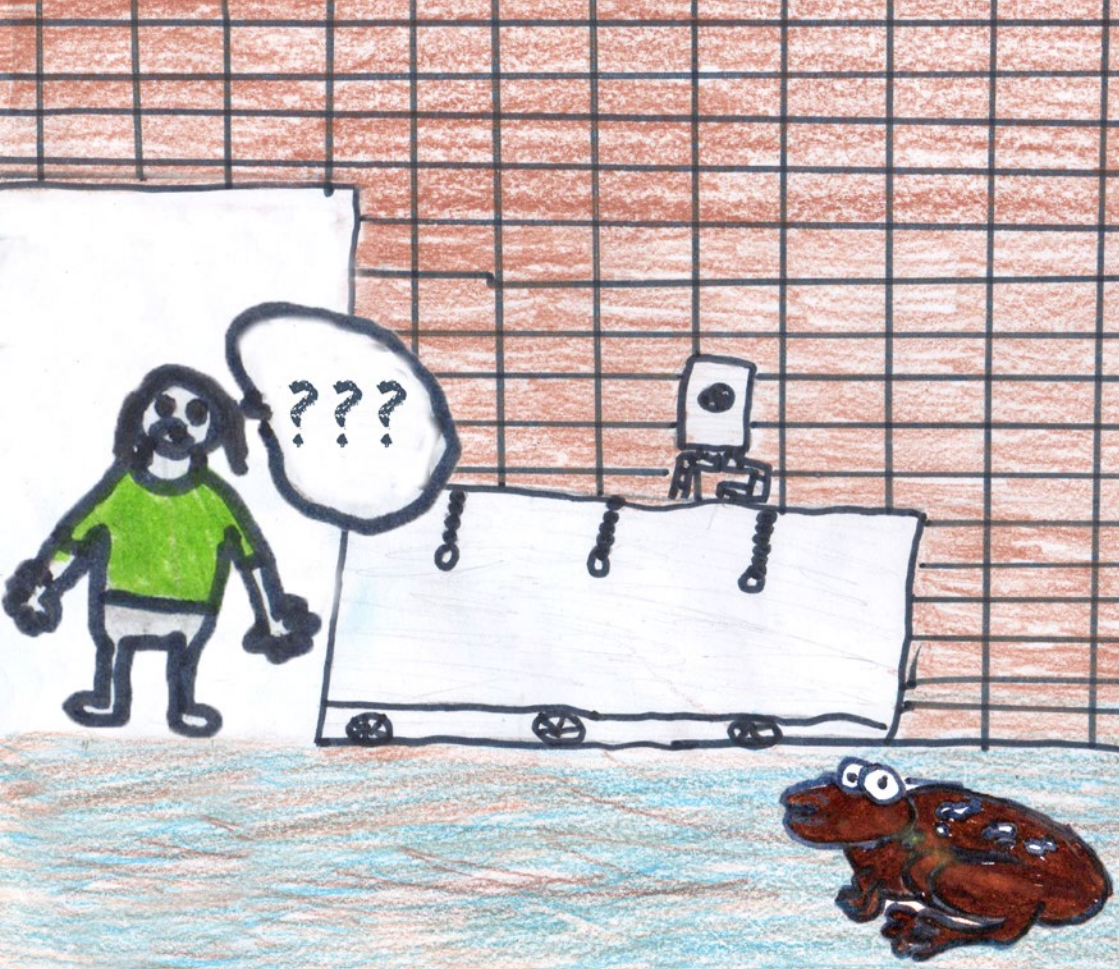


As the cane toad hopped along the path, he found one of the school gates had been left open.

He searched for somewhere to hide and noticed all the doors were locked, except one building that had a metal door with bars on it. There was plenty of room for him to crawl through the bars.

Inside, was a perfect room that was cold, dark, wet and stinky. He found a corner in the room to rest in.





Aunty Nerrida arrived at school while it was still dark and started to do her work. After she opened up all of the classrooms, she went to open and check the toilet block.

First, she opened the girl's toilets, turned the light on and checked. Everything was okay.

She then moved onto the boy's toilets. As she turned the lights on to check for bugs and creepy crawlies, she noticed a wet, ugly creature staring at her.

Aunty Nerrida got a huge fright when she saw the creature moving across the floor. She knew to stay still as screaming or making any sudden movements could scare the creature. She carefully looked from a distance and thought to herself, "It's not like anything I've ever seen before".







Aunty Nerrida stepped back as she noticed the rough bumps all over the creature's body.

"It must be some kind of frog or toad," she muttered to herself.

Aunty Nerrida decided it might be a cane toad, so she searched for a picture on her phone.

"A cane toad in Medowie?" she said with a puzzled expression.

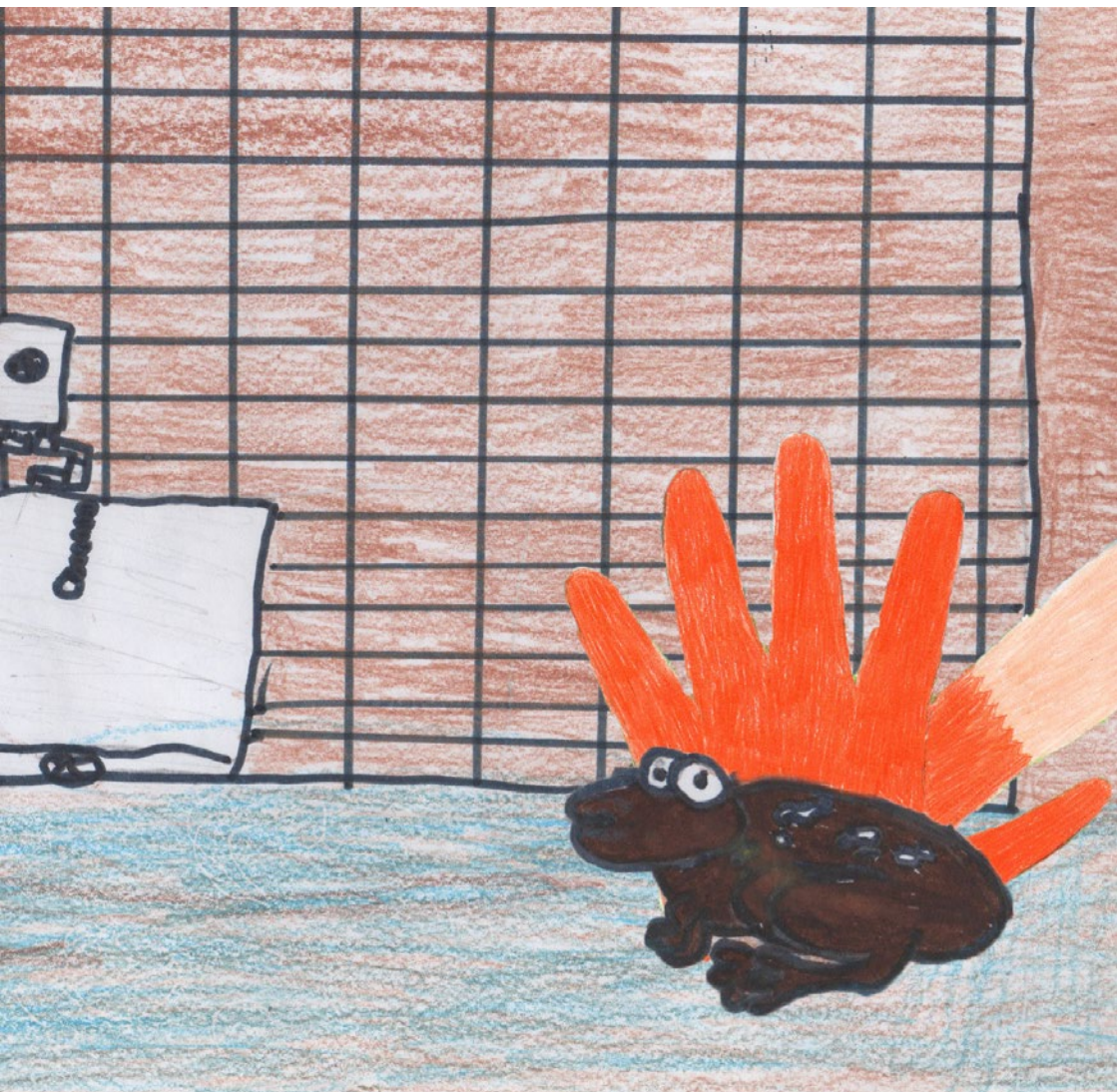
Aunty Nerrida put a 'Closed' sign on the toilet and told the Principal what she'd found.

She called Jane at Hunter Local Land Services to find out what she should do. Jane asked Aunty Nerrida to put on some gloves and safety glasses, catch the toad and put it into a container with air holes.





When Jane and her team arrived, they identified it as a cane toad and safely removed it without harming it or touching the poisonous glands.





Jane thanked Aunty Nerrida for making the safe and sensible choice not to harm the animal and calling Hunter Local Land Services straight away. Her quick thinking and rapid response meant that the cane toad could not breed or cause destruction to native plants and animals across Medowie.





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Blake Bednar Reay and 3/4T  
Medowie Public School, Stage 2 2019

