

A child's drawing on a white background. A large, thick brown tree trunk and branches dominate the left and center. To the right of the trunk, there are several green leaves and many small blue dots. In the bottom left corner, there are orange and yellow brushstrokes. A small, white, oval-shaped hole is cut into the brown tree trunk, revealing a simple line drawing of a bird with a yellow crest and a black beak.

# A Bird's Eye View

## 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 Mid Coast 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.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter)

# A Bird's Eye View

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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.

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

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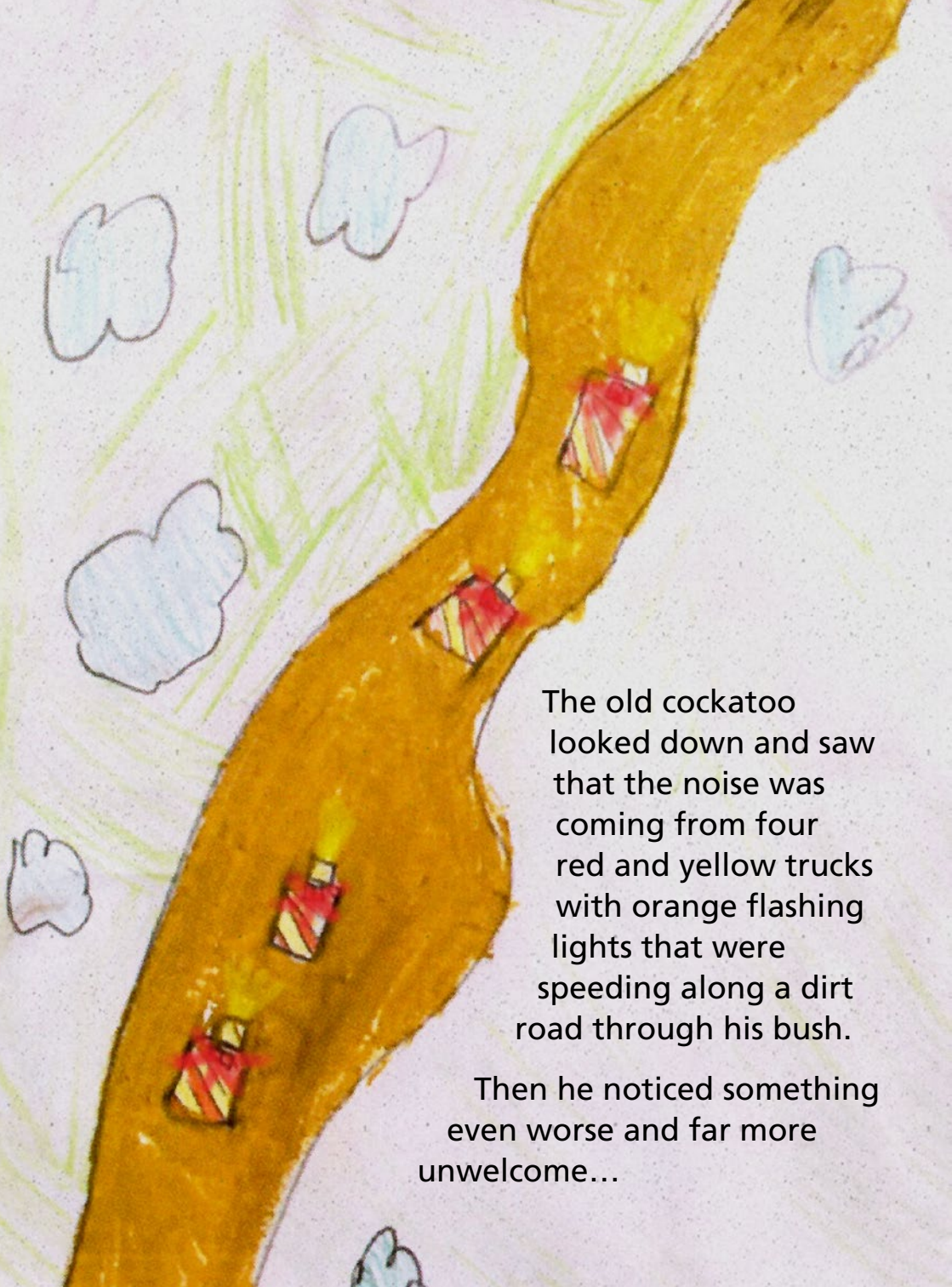
On a dry and windy summer's morning, a sleepy old cockatoo was snoozing in his hollowed-out gum tree home in the middle of the Australian bush.





The cockatoo was woken by a very strange and unfamiliar sound. The sound was very loud and seemed to be moving closer to him through the thick bush. The big bird decided to fly out and see what was heading his way from above.

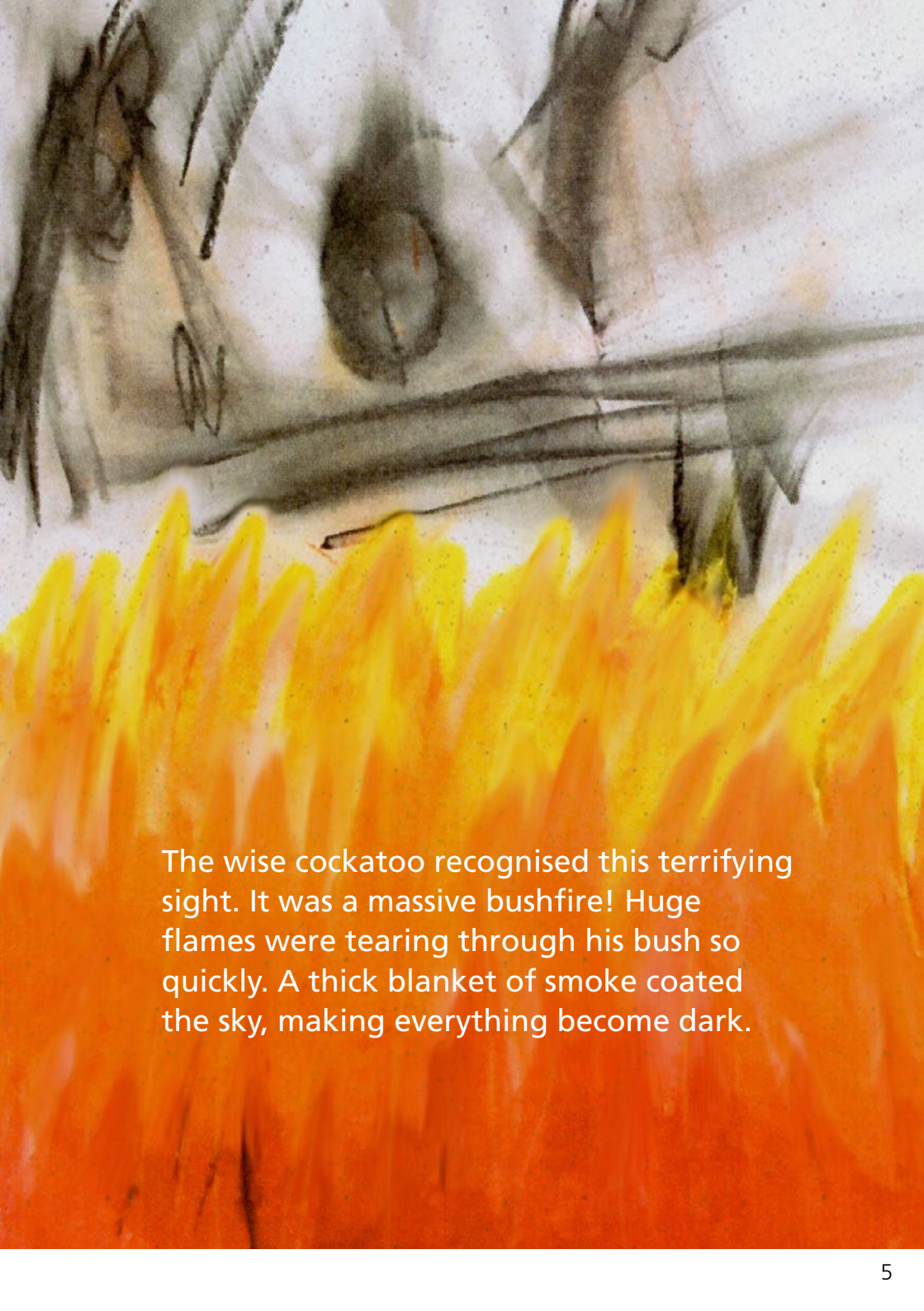




The old cockatoo  
looked down and saw  
that the noise was  
coming from four  
red and yellow trucks  
with orange flashing  
lights that were  
speeding along a dirt  
road through his bush.

Then he noticed something  
even worse and far more  
unwelcome...





The wise cockatoo recognised this terrifying sight. It was a massive bushfire! Huge flames were tearing through his bush so quickly. A thick blanket of smoke coated the sky, making everything become dark.

He noticed that the flashing trucks arrived next to the fire. A big group of brave men and women got out their hoses and began trying to drown out the roaring flames with water.

It seemed hopeless, but they kept working hard, fighting the ever-advancing fire.



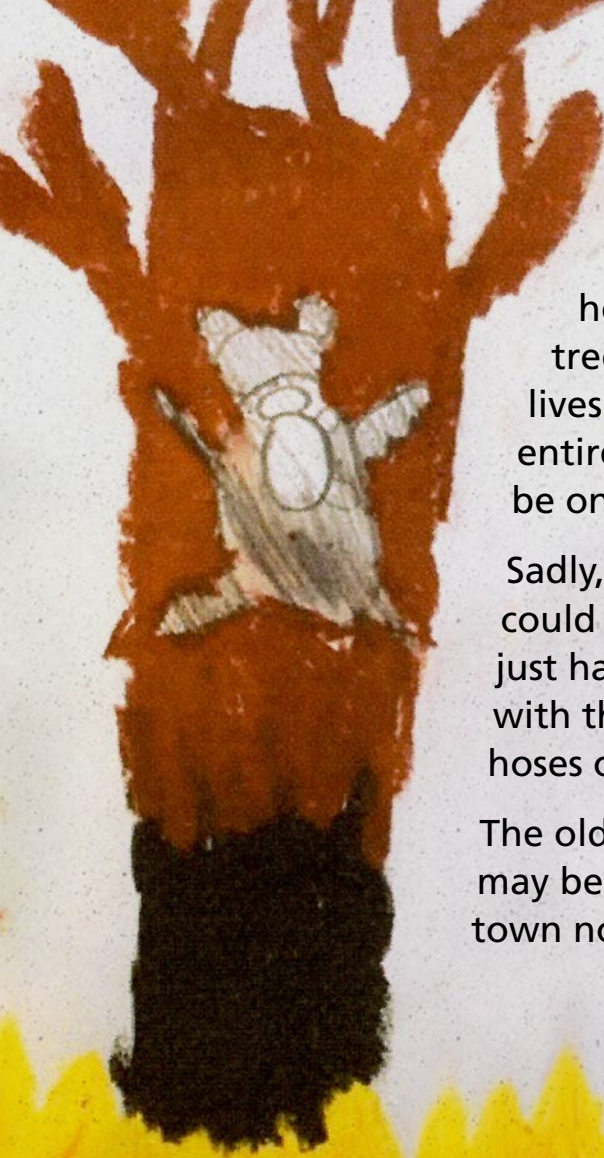


The poor old bird began to worry about his home.  
Would it still be there when he flew back?

He looked down again and noticed hundreds of other  
animals fleeing their habitats.

"How will they escape?" he thought.





As he flew overhead, he noticed so many helpless koalas high in the treetops clinging for their lives with no way down. The entire bush now seemed to be on fire.

Sadly, there was nothing he could do for the koalas. He just had to hope the people with their flashing trucks and hoses could save them.

The old cockatoo thought it may be safer to fly towards the town now.





As he flew closer to town, he saw people were packing all of their special belongings into their cars. There were lots of cars stuck in traffic jams as they tried to flee the oncoming fire.

He thought it was strange how closely it reminded him of the animals trying to escape the burning bush. The old cockatoo came to realise that bushfires were a disaster that affected both animals and people.

He wondered if anywhere was truly safe from the hungry, devouring flames.



Everywhere he looked, the cockatoo could see the people were just as panicked as the animals to find safety before it was too late.



The cockatoo heard the loud sounds of the sirens again and saw more and more of the yellow and red trucks speeding towards the town as the wall of fire moved in closer and closer.



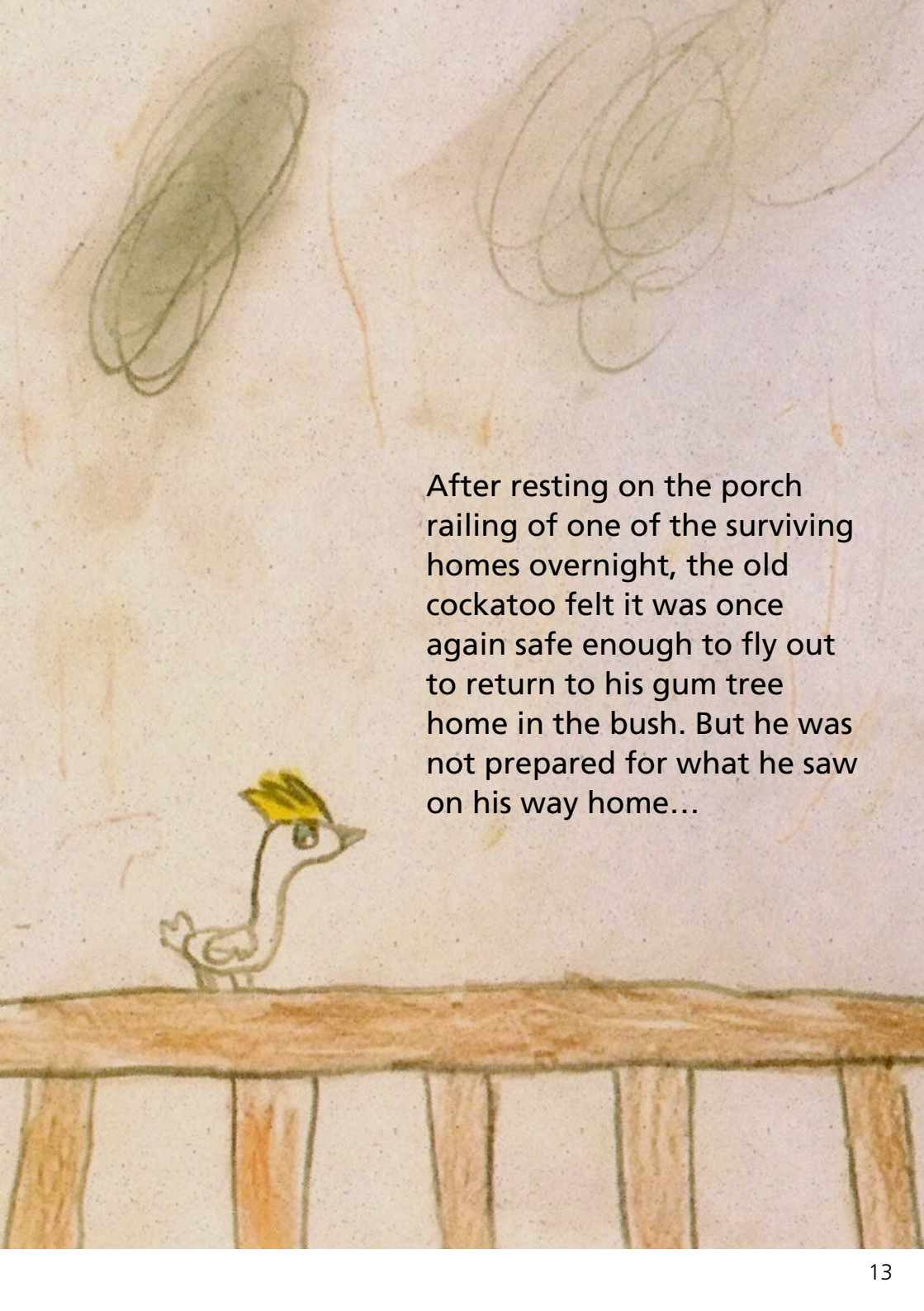


All day, through the night and all of the following day the heroes in the yellow uniforms fought. A few of their houses were lost, but by the time the fire had passed, not a single human life was lost.

Even after the town was saved, they hopped back into the flashing vehicles and continued to fight the fire and save as much of the bushland as they could.







After resting on the porch railing of one of the surviving homes overnight, the old cockatoo felt it was once again safe enough to fly out to return to his gum tree home in the bush. But he was not prepared for what he saw on his way home...

As far as his eyes could see, his bushland was completely burnt to ashes. The hills, that were once covered in thick green trees and bushes, now looked like a huge black carpet with black sticks poking out all over it.





Nothing looked the same. He wondered where had all of the wildlife gone? How many of his animal friends had made it to safety? And, how could he find his tree when everything looked so different?

As he searched for his gum tree, thick dark clouds began to form overhead.







Like some kind of miracle, it began to rain! It started with a slow pitter-patter and then started to pour. This was just what they needed to help put the fire out.

As the rain settled the smoke, the cockatoo looked across the landscape and spotted his old twisted gum tree home still standing where he left it. He knew he was extremely lucky!

Although saddened by the destruction of bushfire, the old cockatoo knew that life would find a way. The Aussie bush is resilient to fire and even though it would take some time, his home would recover and become the magnificent place he loved so much.





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Year 6 2020

