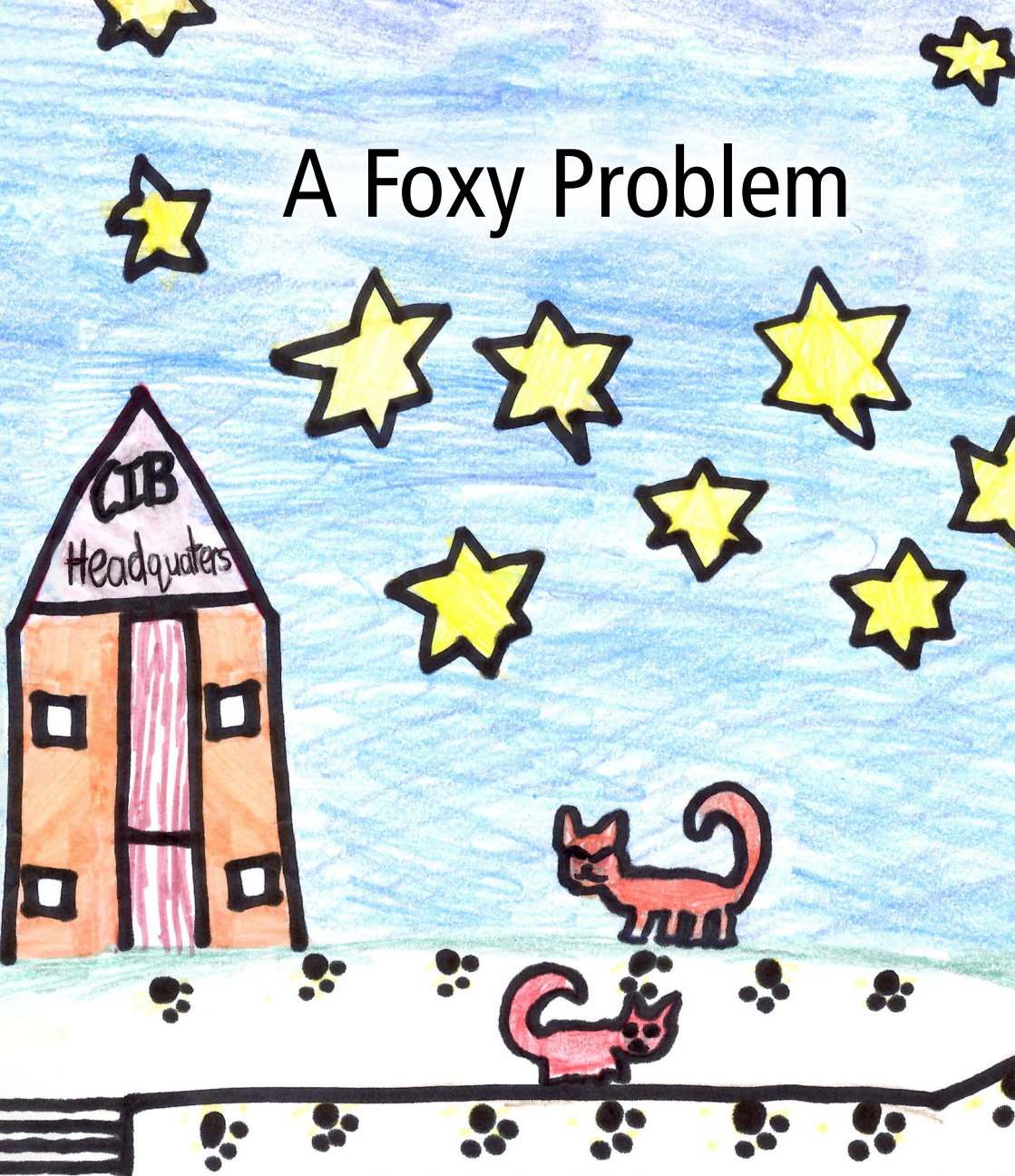


A Foxy Problem



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

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

A Foxy Problem

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School: Muswellbrook South 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.

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Once upon a time there was a peaceful farm where a couple lived a serene life.

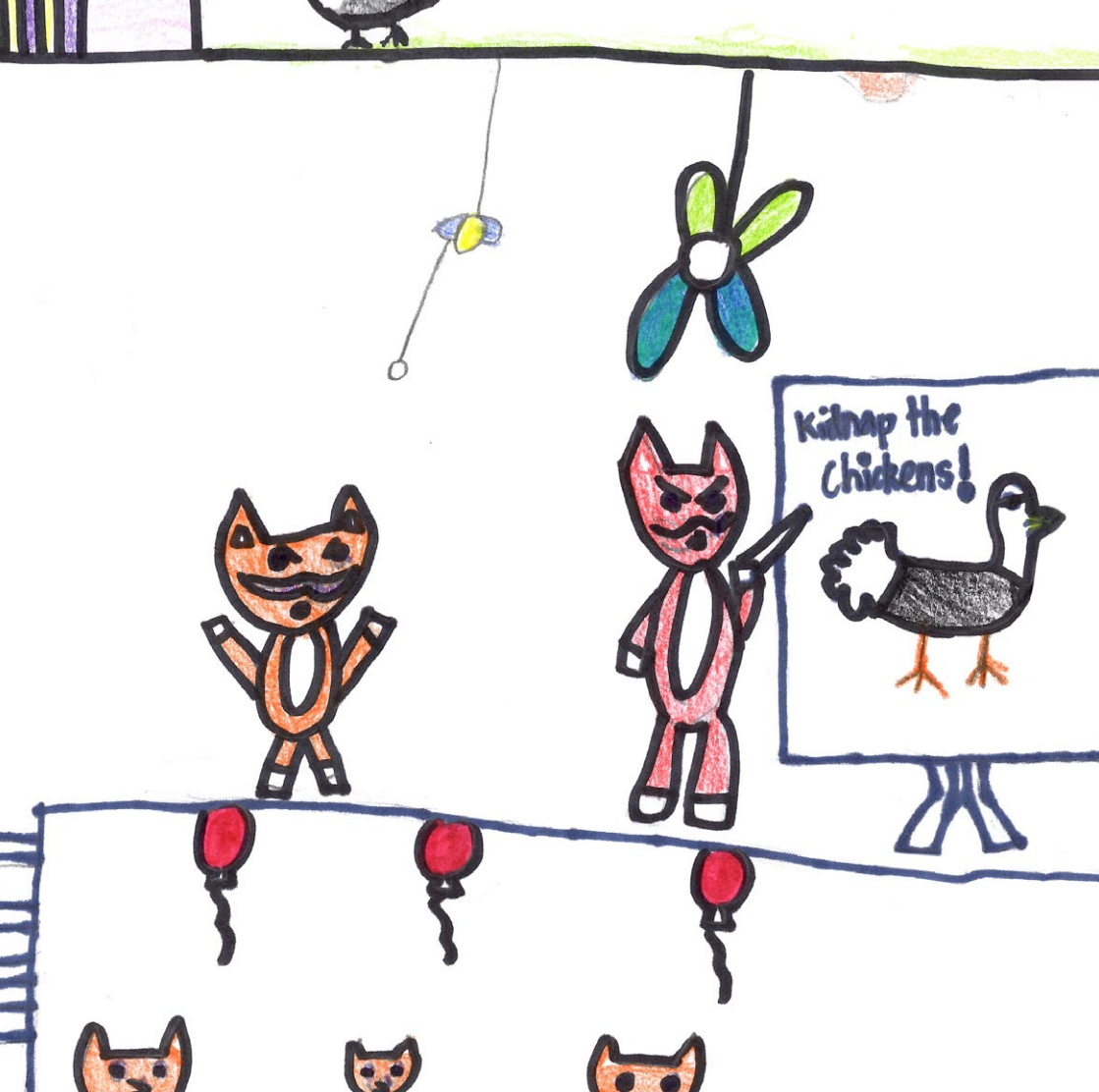
Their days were spent milking cows, collecting eggs and feeding animals. They enjoyed waking up every morning to the fresh air of the countryside.



Farmer Jeff owned the farm and worked alongside his lovely wife, Farmer Rosie. Their grandchildren, Summer and Lucas, loved bumpy rides on the tractor and playing with Digger, the cheerful dog.



The grandkids enjoyed going to the chicken pen and collecting eggs. Although, they were no ordinary chickens. They were the 'Chickens In Black', who protected all lives on the farm from threats.



But there was this one greedy animal that wanted all the animals on the farm as his slaves, and even some of them to eat. This bad, horrible animal had a name... 'Fancy Fox'.

Mr. Fancy Fox could be found in his new underground den.



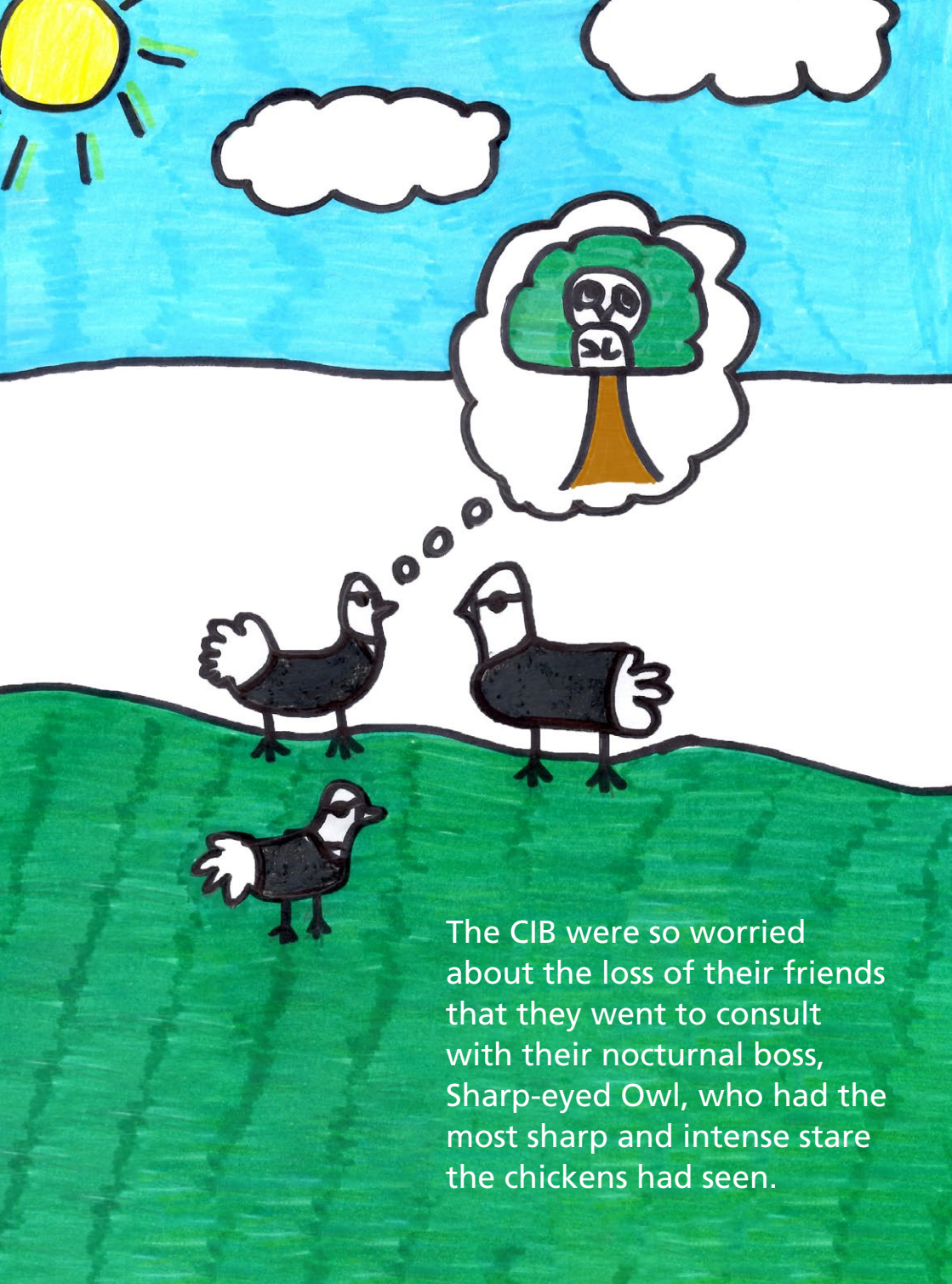
Every night, Fancy Fox would dig a hole and get into the chicken coop. He glanced at the chickens but heard a noise and ran back into the hole towards his secret underground den. The next night he tried again and was successful in his mission.





While the fox was planning his next scheme, the Chickens In Black were very confused. The Chickens In Black had become the three Chickens In Black (CIB), with all the other chickens having disappeared. So the CIB settled down to have a secret meeting to discuss what was going on.

"We had six chickens to begin with but now only three," explained Jenny in a sad voice.



The CIB were so worried about the loss of their friends that they went to consult with their nocturnal boss, Sharp-eyed Owl, who had the most sharp and intense stare the chickens had seen.



"I was expecting you," said Sharp-eyed Owl. "I hear you need some assistance with this fox. I can give you some information, but you must give something in return".

"We would be happy to help you Mr. Sharp-eyed Owl, what is it you need?" said chicken Genius.

"I would like the right to hunt the mice," replied Sharp-eyed Owl.

"I don't love this idea, although maybe it would keep the mice out of our chicken coop," agreed Pecker the chicken.

Once Sharp-eyed Owl agreed to help the CIB, a great idea came to him. He would write a letter to Farmer Jeff and Farmer Rosie, informing them about the missing chickens.

A good night's rest was needed so in the morning they could get their feathers dirty and get to work.



Dear Farmer Jeff and Rosie,

Someone has been committing theft and kidnapping at the CIB headquarters. There will be even more problems and less eggs if we can't stop this! We have a suspect and have dusted for fingerprints. We have come to the conclusion the prime suspect is **Fancy Fox**. Could you please help us and call Local Land Services, they can tell us how to stop Fancy Fox.

Yours in protection,

CIB ♡♡♡



The next day, the CIB were awoken by the noise of a car near the headquarters. The CIB assembled, ready to face the intruders.

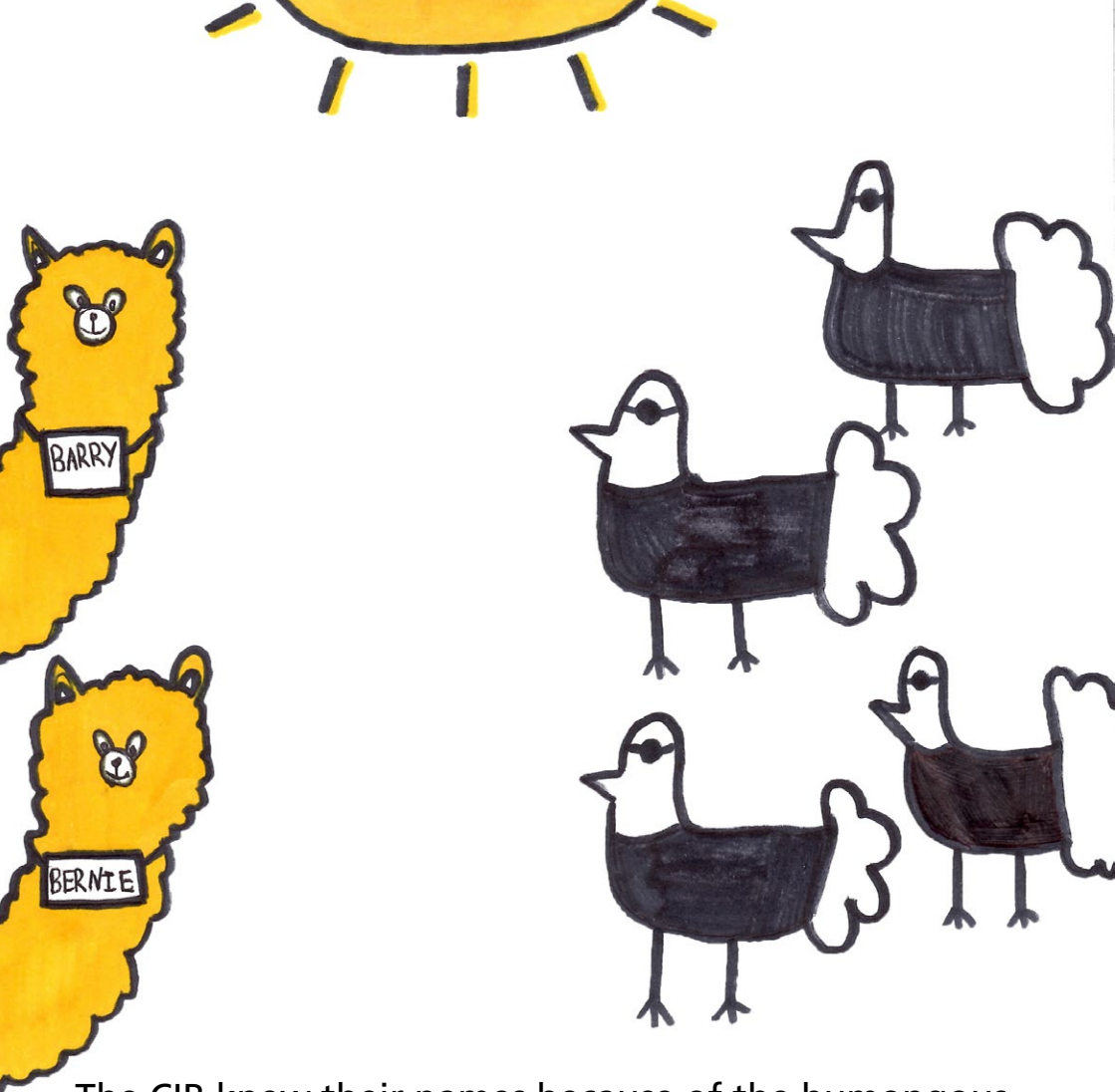
Stepping outside, they found a car with the logo of 'Local Land Services' plastered across the side of it.

Local Land Services came up with an unusual solution.

"We can suggest the option of adopting two new animals to protect your headquarters."

As the agent from Local Land Services was explaining his solution, two odd alpacas hopped out of the boot of the car. Their names were Bernie and Barry.





The CIB knew their names because of the humongous name tags hanging from around their necks.

“Hi, I’m Bernie and this is Barry. We have heard you are in a bit of a pickle and we have come here to help you out with your foxy problem.”

As Bernie and Barry were explaining, the CIB started to bicker and discuss the proposed solution.



The CIB marched back into the pen to discuss this newfound idea and their unwelcome new family members. They argued and argued until the boss of the CIB headquarters started yelling.

"STOP! This idea is something outside of our comfort zone, but our farm needs the help. We can't afford to lose another CIB member."

6 Months Later...



The farm was peacefully quiet and the CIB had changed its name to 'Animals in Black' (AIB).

Bernie and Barry were adored by their chicken family. They had an agreement with Mr. Fancy Fox, that he stayed way from the farm and the chickens. All thanks to Local Land Services.

ENVIRO

stories



Back: Kaitlyn Cahill, Mwewa Mwenya and Lilly George
Front: Danika Bachelor and Zara Bengé
Muswellbrook South Public School, Year 6 2020

