

Matchstick Banksia Rescue

Written and illustrated by Macey Dall, Molly Wilton and Jasmine Keir
from Quairading District High School



ENVIRO
stories



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource management issues. Developed by PeekKdesigns, 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

Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated (Wheatbelt NRM) is an independent community-based organisation involved with natural resource management endeavours within the Avon River Basin.

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Matchstick Banksia Rescue

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Hotspot Heroes

The Hotspot Heroes Enviro-Stories Program involved schools from the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia learning about the biodiversity, threatened species and feral animals in the wheatbelt area. A Hotspot Hero is someone who is willing to stand up and take action to help prevent our threatened plants and animals from fading into oblivion.

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National
Landcare
Program



wheatbelt
natural resource
management

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Samantha and Levi have been best friends for years and love nothing more than getting outside and going on huge hikes.

They also love finding and identifying new plants as they walk through the bush.





Today they are hiking around Quairading in the Wheatbelt region of WA.

They are looking for a plant that they saw on a program on TV. They thought that because it was so rare it would be very interesting to try and find the Matchstick Banksia and draw it in their plant book.

Whilst hiking, Samantha and Levi found a plant called *Grevillea paniculata*.

They decided to have a break and sketch it in their book.





As they continued on their walk, Samantha thought she spied an interesting looking shrub in the distance. Was it the Matchstick Banksia they were looking for?

They planned to check it out, but became distracted by a beautiful purple and white plant they stopped to admire.

Samantha and Levi walked closer and became excited, it was the one they saw on TV. They had found their Matchstick Banksia!

The leaves were a nice green colour and it had pretty pink and cream flowers that were tipped in green.

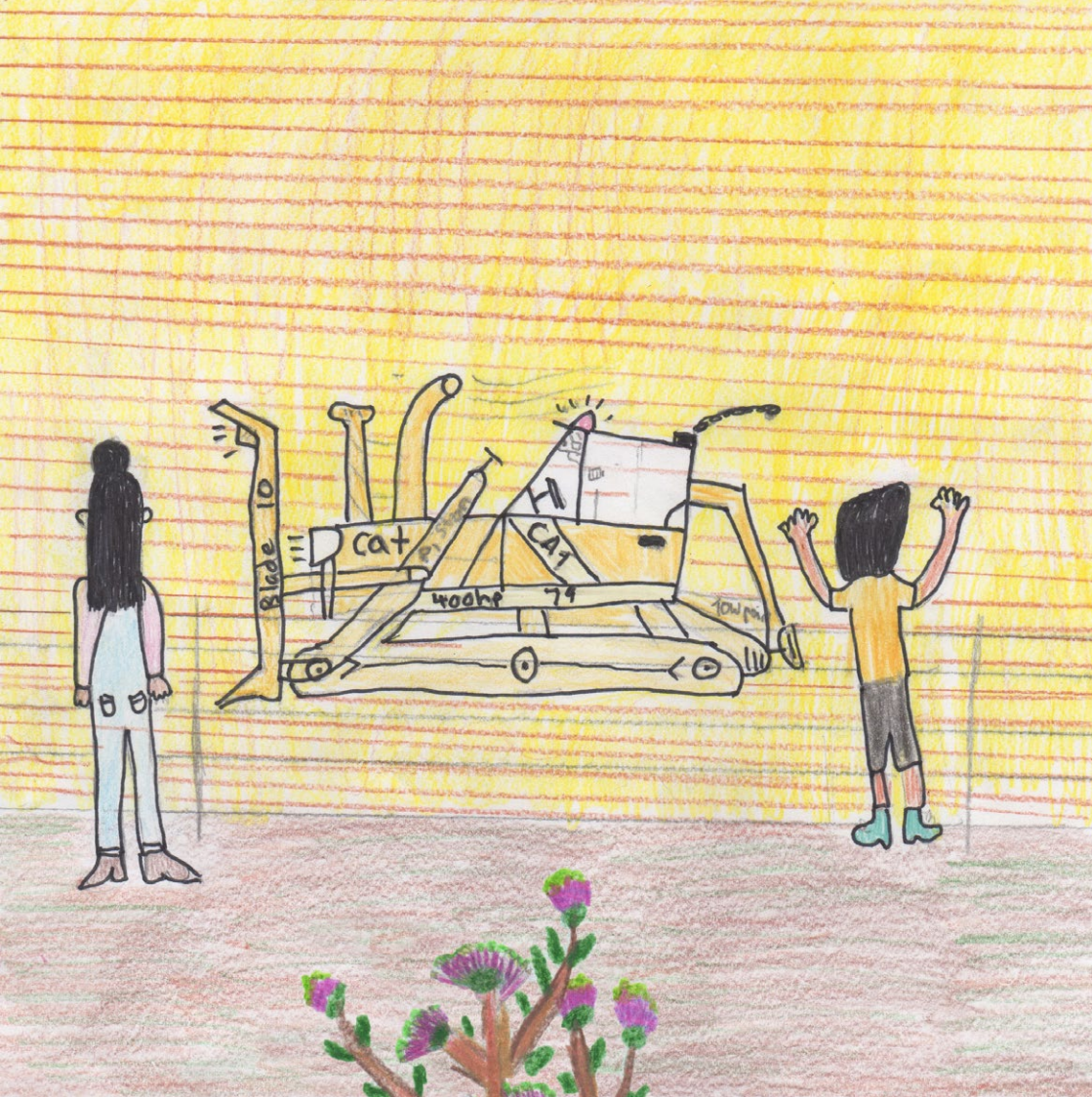






They were so happy that they had found their Matchstick Banksia.

As Samantha and Levi were drawing the Matchstick Banksia in their book, they noticed a farmer driving across a paddock in his big bulldozer. It was coming right towards them!

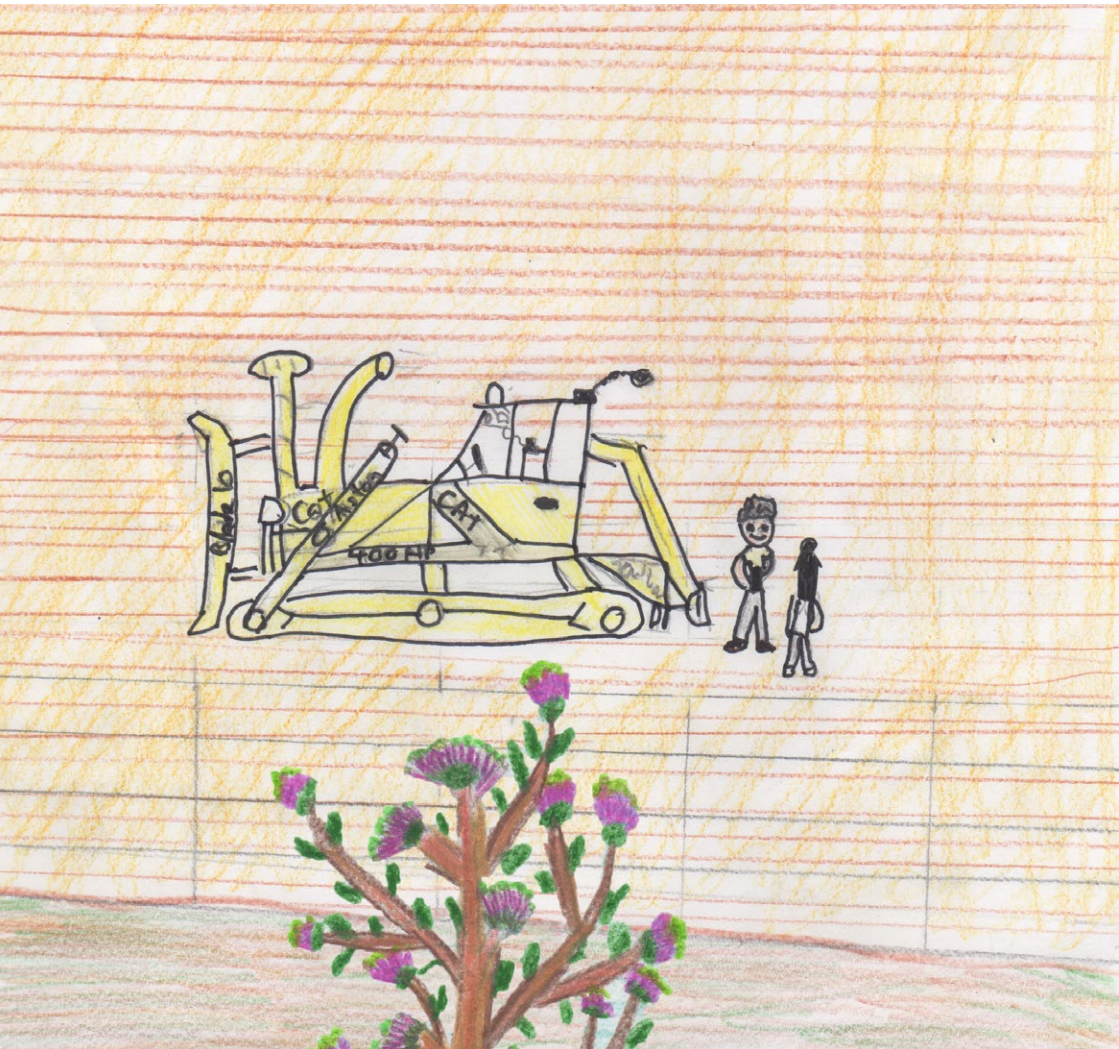


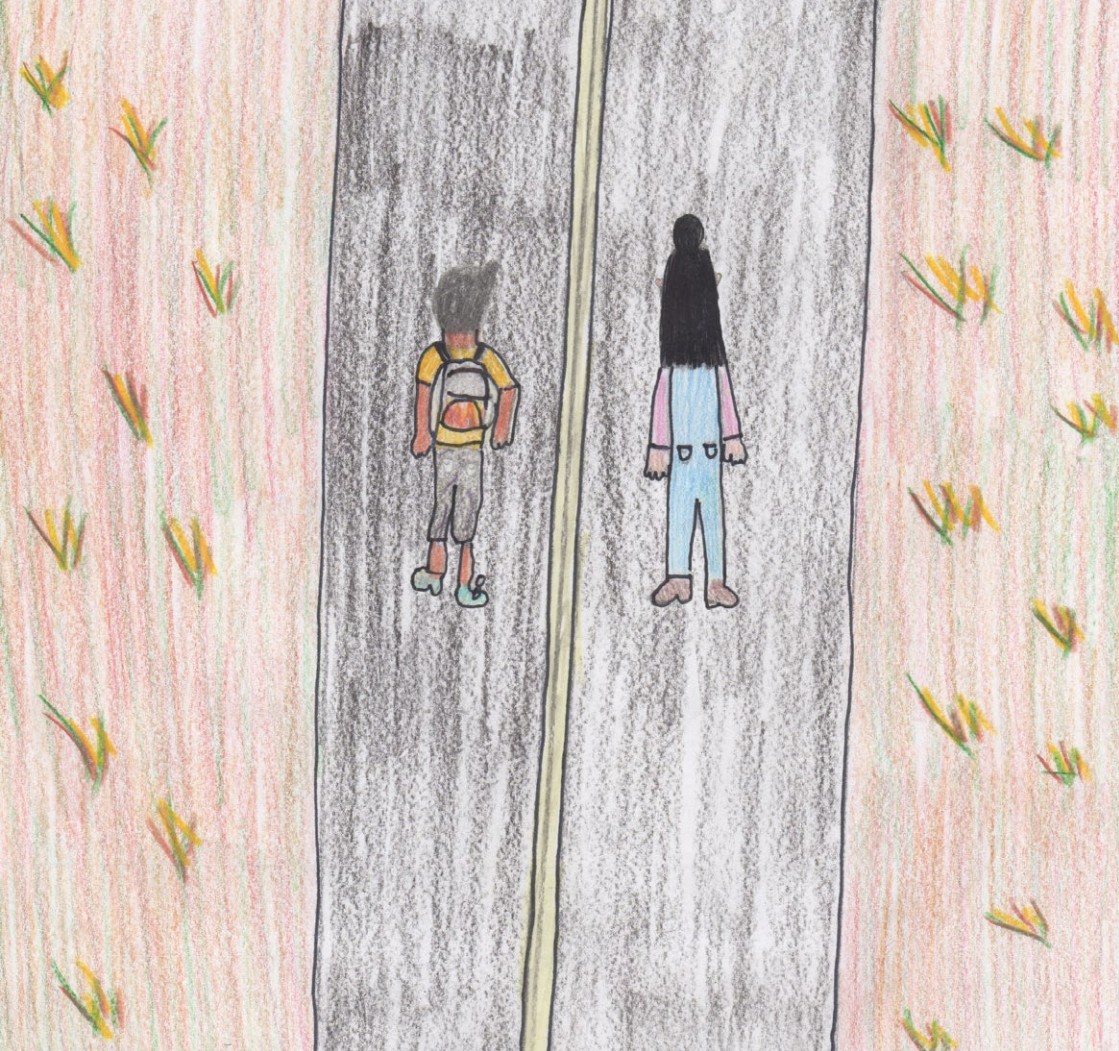
The farmer came right up to the edge of the paddock and then started to lower his blade. He was going to clear the bushland where they found the Matchstick Banksia.

Samantha and Levi started waving their hands and jumping around madly so the farmer could see them through his window.

The farmer stopped. Samantha and Levi asked the farmer what he was doing? The farmer said that he was clearing the bush paddock to expand his crop.

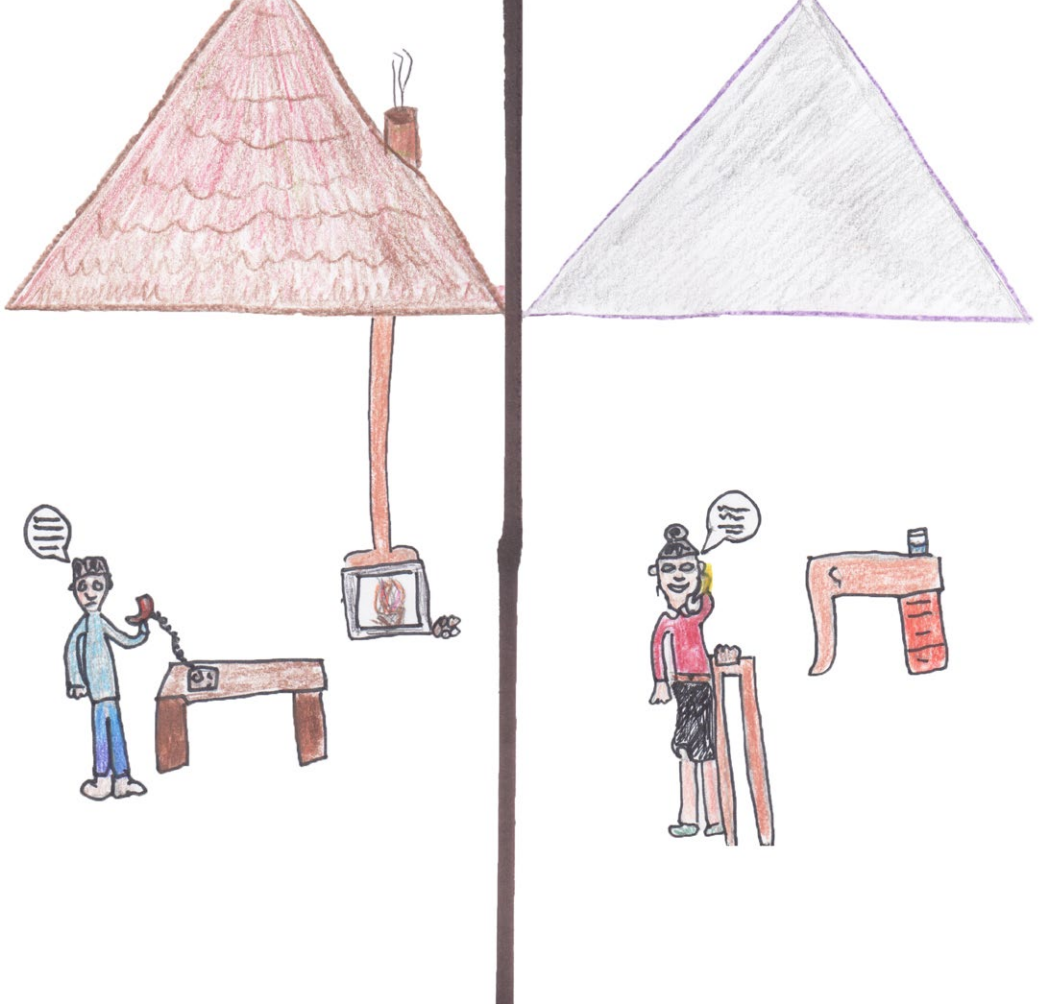
The kids told him that they had found a Matchstick Banksia there, which is an endangered species. They asked him if he would mind waiting until tomorrow before clearing the area.





The kids ran to town as fast as they could. When they got there, they went straight to the Shire offices and told them about the Matchstick Banksia and how it is endangered. Well, it was mostly Samantha talking! She was so excited she wouldn't let Levi speak.

They asked them whether the shrub could be saved. The Shire said that they would tell Samantha and Levi tomorrow morning.



An officer from the Shire called the farmer in the morning. She explained how rare Matchstick Banksia's were and that there were only 500 more of those plants left.

Samantha and Levi woke up in the morning, got ready and then ran to the Shire. The officer told them, "We called the farmer, he said he will think about it."

A week later, Samantha and Levi were coming back home from their cubby house to watch TV. When they arrived, the farmer pulled up on his motor bike. Samantha came out but they had to wait because Levi was in the toilet.



The farmer told them that he came around to say sorry. He said that he did some research and didn't realise that there were so few Matchstick Banksia's left.

He explained that he had decided to protect the bush area where it was growing.



He thanked them for caring so much about the Aussie Bush and told them he was so impressed that he was going to help raise awareness about how special they are.

Lastly, he winked and said he had arranged a bit of a surprise for them.

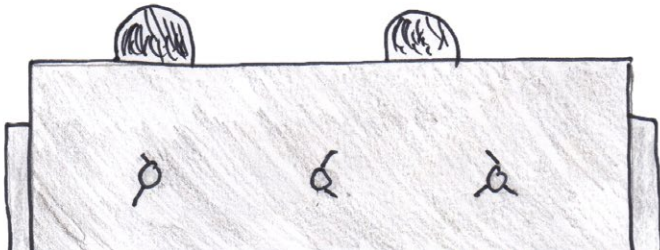
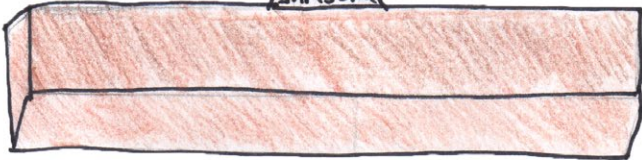


The next day Samantha and Levi were amazed when a TV station showed up at their house.

They got to do an interview on TV about how important it was to save the Quairading Matchstick Banksia from extinction.



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2019 Year 6, Quairading District High School

