

# Farmer Elsie's plan for success



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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.

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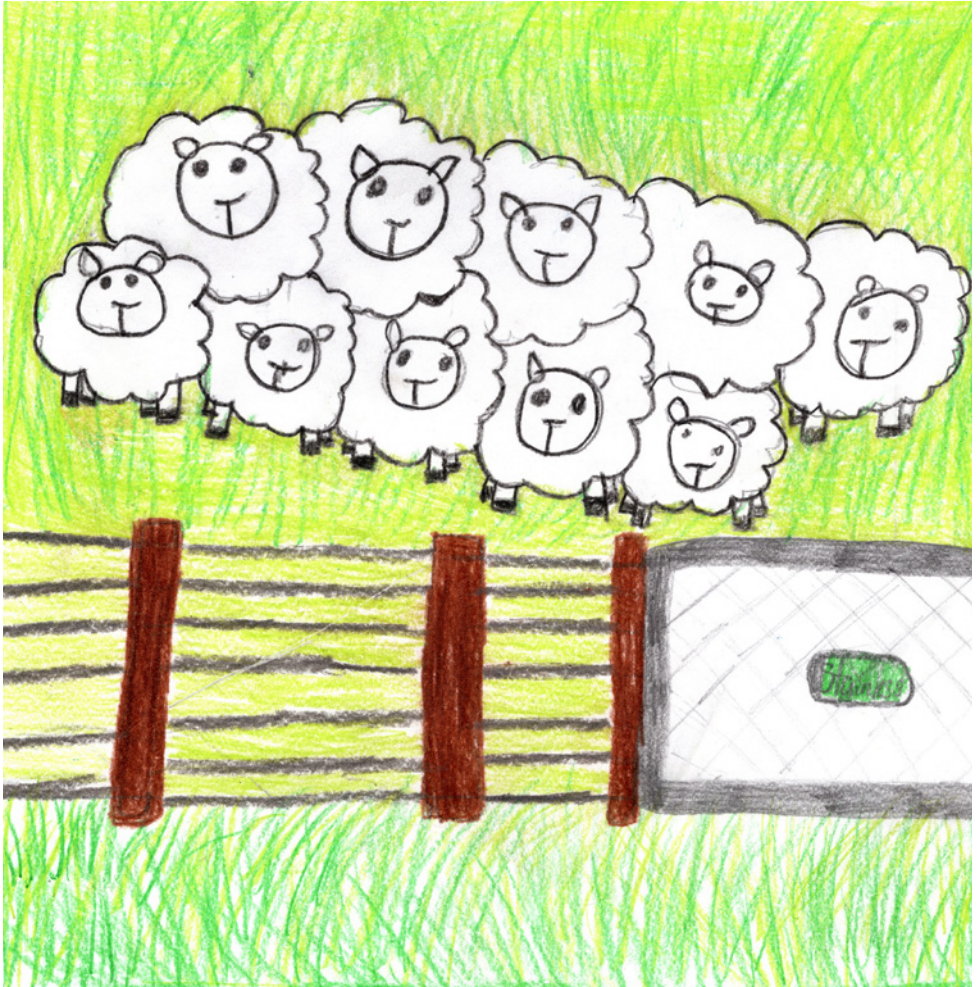
Woolford, E. 2022. *Farmer Elsie's plan for success*. Cotton Research and Development Corporation, NSW.





Once upon a time, far over the mountains on a not quite luscious green farm called Glennevis, there lived a farmer called Elsie.

Elsie was a very kind and intelligent person who loved farming. For this reason, she tried to do it in the most regenerative and sustainable way she could.



Elsie raised sheep on her farm. Now you may be thinking, sheep? Why sheep? Well, for two reasons...

Reason number 1: Wool is a natural fibre that is very soft and useful for making all sorts of wonderful things.

Reason number 2: Their meat can be sold.

Elsie spent years researching, trying to find the best natural animal fibers and found that wool was one of them. She bought some sheep and two sheep dogs, called Banjo and Bella.

Now she was ready to start her project. Her dream was to farm in the most sustainable and regenerative way possible.





Every day from morning to night she did small things to achieve her goal. One day, farmer Elsie realised that it was time to shear her sheep.

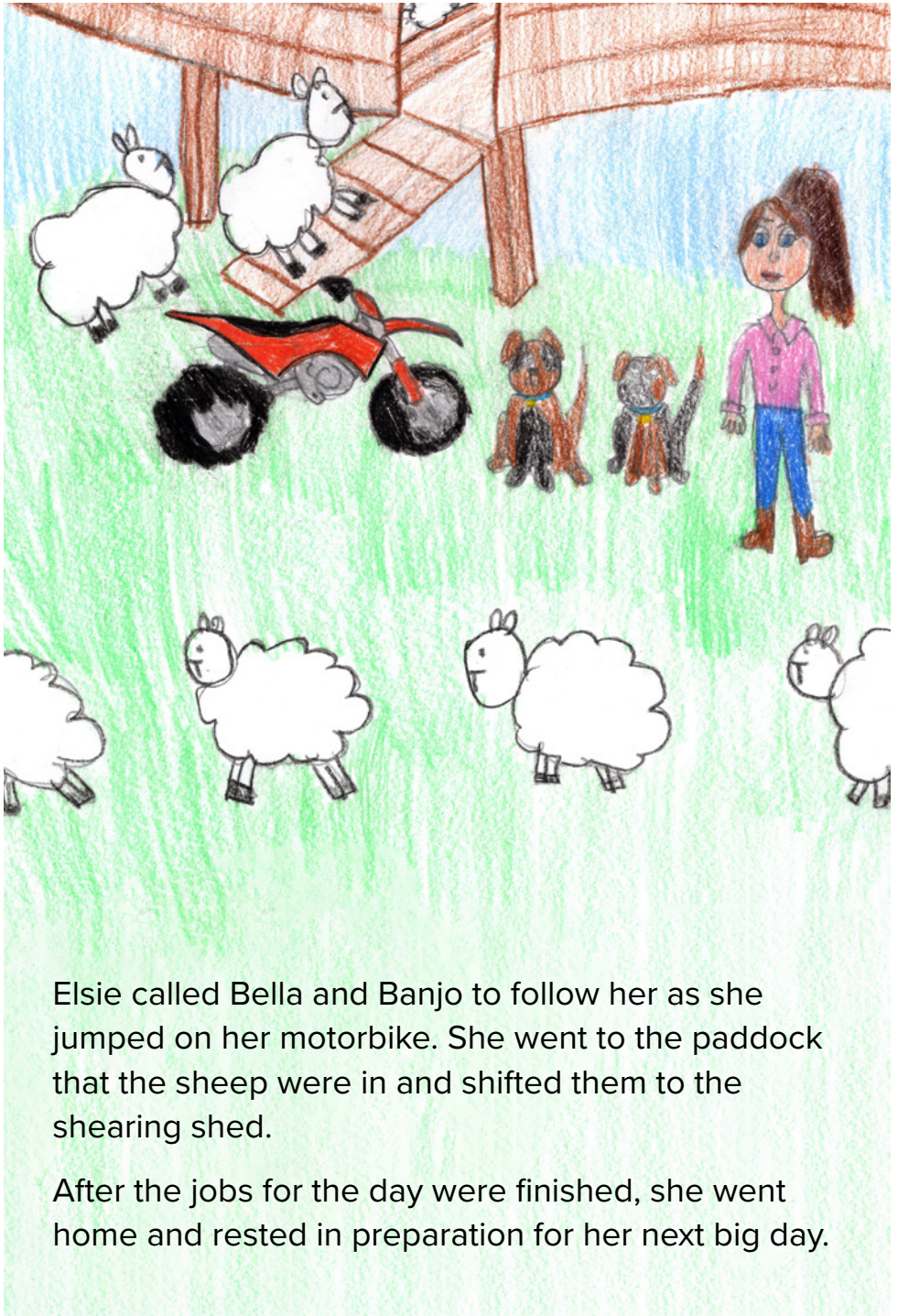
She was so excited as it would be her first time. Elsie contacted the shearers and called her dad to ask if he would come to help as well.



The shearers said they would love to help. Her dad excitedly agreed and suggested that she would need to make some morning tea and lunch for everyone who was coming.

That afternoon she went home and started making the most delicious slices and sandwiches.





Elsie called Bella and Banjo to follow her as she jumped on her motorbike. She went to the paddock that the sheep were in and shifted them to the shearing shed.

After the jobs for the day were finished, she went home and rested in preparation for her next big day.



Elsie got up super early the following morning so she could go to the shearing shed and get everything ready. She organised the woolpacks, wool press and shearing gear in preparation for the shearers.

Just as she finished busily getting everything ready for the shearers, her dad and the shearers arrived. She ran to her dad and gave him a huge hug and warmly welcomed the shearers.

She told them everything she had done to prepare and explained where everything was. They got started shearing, and then one by one the sheep had no more wool.





Once the shearers had finished for the day, Elsie thanked them for coming, paid them and even gave everyone leftover food for the trip home.

Elsie decided she would pack the wool and send it away to begin its next journey. But as she walked back into the shearing shed the wool that the shearers had spent all day shearing had disappeared. She whistled for Banjo and he was gone as well.

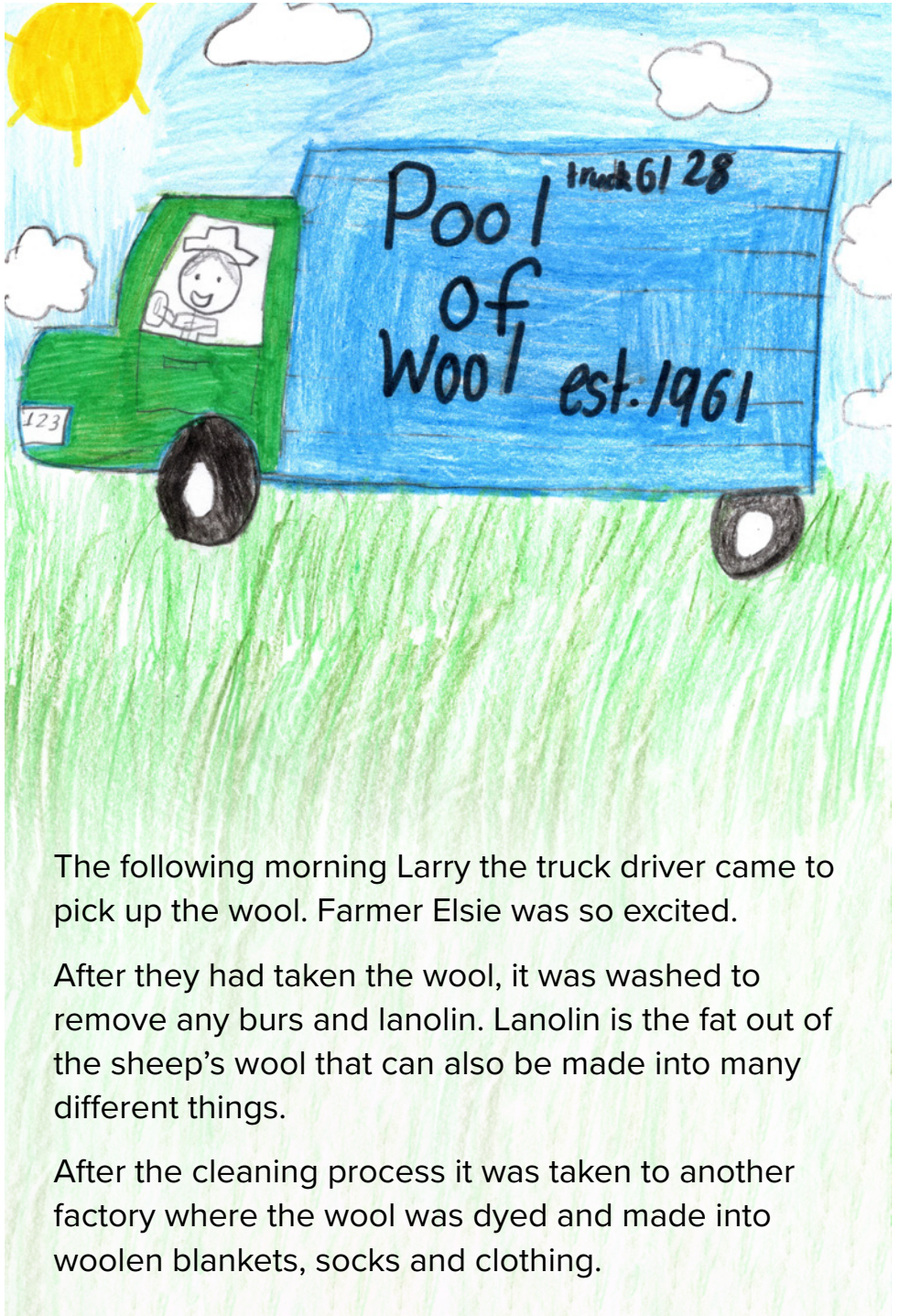
“Oh no!” cried farmer Elsie. “What am I going to do?”

She rang everyone who had come that day and asked if anyone had seen her wool and her dog, but no one had any answers. Elsie frantically looked around everywhere calling Banjo's name. Finally, she heard a bark in return, she had found him!

She ran towards the noise behind the shed and there was Banjo happily perched up and rolling around on her missing wool. Someone must have moved it there and forgotten to tell her.

“Oh Banjo!” she laughed. She picked up Banjo and put him in the back of the Ute. Then Elsie grabbed the wool and pressed it into wool packs. Finally, after her long day of hard and exhausting work she went home and slept like a baby.





The following morning Larry the truck driver came to pick up the wool. Farmer Elsie was so excited.

After they had taken the wool, it was washed to remove any burs and lanolin. Lanolin is the fat out of the sheep's wool that can also be made into many different things.

After the cleaning process it was taken to another factory where the wool was dyed and made into woolen blankets, socks and clothing.



From here her products could be sold all over the world. Farmer Elsie loved to teach others about how the wool was processed and how it is made into so many different things.

Elsie was determined to have the best wool possible and knew that it all started with the soil on her farm, as this grew the feed for her sheep. She started planning how to make the soil healthier, stronger and more nutrient rich.

Elsie investigated many theories on how to enrich the soil and crops for her sheep. From what she learned, she thought the best solution was to plant many different crops like sunflowers, legumes, pastures and fruit. This would provide her with a harvest as well as add good things like nitrogen back into the soil.

She used manure from her sheep to help her crops grow better and then use some of those crops to feed her sheep. She would also rest her pastures more often so they had time to grow and were not overgrazed.

Elsie also bought some chickens to provide her with eggs and help control any bugs that may eat her crops.







Many months later, Elsie looked over her farm with pride and satisfaction as she thought she had finally reached her goal.

Her farm was far greener and healthier looking, she had wonderful produce, and her sheep had magnificent coats of the finest wool.

She was super happy with her success and threw a huge party to celebrate and show people her awesome farm.



When everybody arrived, they all told Elsie how amazing her farm and sheep were and congratulated her on what a good job she had done.

The party went late into the day. After everyone had gone home, she smiled as she went and rewarded her great farm companions, her two loyal sheep dogs.





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