

# Leave Our Home Alone

Written and illustrated by Milla Walker, Holden de Waal, Adrian Phillips,  
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ENVIRO

stories



## Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource 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)**

## 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](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au)**

# Leave Our Home Alone

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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.

This project is supported by Wheatbelt NRM through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



National  
Landcare  
Program



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It was a windy autumn morning and Nutsy and Buddy the malleefowl were up early flicking leaf litter on to the mound over their big eggs to keep them warm.



"I think they will be nice and warm in our mound," said Nutsy, as Buddy checked the temperature of the mound with his beak.





“Yes,” said Buddy. “We want them to be warm especially as they are going to be incubating in there for at least sixty days.”





After about 2 months, slowly and surely the eggs began to hatch. Suddenly, a little malleefowl made its way out of the nest and tumbled down the mound. Her name was Nina.

Not long after, another little malleefowl tumbled its way out. His name was Bluey.





The little birds started to wander off and fend for themselves. Nina said to Bluey, “We don’t need to find food for at least two days because we still have full bellies of egg yolk.”

“Oh yeah,” said Bluey. “But we better practice our scratching and digging in the meantime.”



Over the following weeks, Nina and Bluey happily scratched around learning the ropes on what it was to be malleefowl.



One day a few cars and a truck pulled up right in the middle of their home territory. They became alarmed as they heard a worker talking about how they were planning to build a house right in their neighbourhood.

Nina and Bluey rushed off to tell their family and friends to gather for a malleefowl meeting. The next day everyone was ready to make a great big noise to show the humans that this site was occupied.



They puffed up their feathers, stretched their muscles and got ready to make a big loud noise.

“SCREECH! SCREECH! SCREECH!” the malleefowl all shouted.

The workers suddenly had to stop.



The workers told farmer Josh about the malleefowl protecting their home. They explained to him that they were an endangered species.



Farmer Josh was very annoyed with himself because he didn't know that endangered malleefowl were living there and he hadn't thought to check.

He took pride in how he protected the natural environment both on and around his farm, and he loved how all the native animals loved visiting him there.





Farmer Josh decided that he wanted to help the malleefowl as he would love them to stay around on his farm.

He fenced off their area so it wouldn't be disturbed and set baits for the ferocious foxes, who were the malleefowls' main predator in their area.





Farmer Josh chose another site to build his house and planted more trees, bushes, and ground covers in the malleefowls' area.

He wanted to make sure that the malleefowl had plenty of native habitat and lots of leaf litter to build their mounds.



Farmer Josh checked on the  
malleefowl every day. He wanted  
to make sure they were okay.







One day Farmer Josh never came and the malleefowl were worried.

Eventually, Farmer Josh arrived. He was just late because he had been setting more baits for the ferocious foxes.





All the foxes kept coming back and eating the bait, until finally the foxes on the farm died out and the malleefowl were safe.





When Nina was four years old, she found a nice malleefowl to settle down and start a family with. Her new life partner was called Nut.

Bluey also found a life partner and her name was Olivia. They were all hoping to have lots of malleefowl chicks.





Each of the couples made a mound of their own.  
They collected lots of leaf litter to fill their holes and  
then they waited for the rain.

After the rain came, they laid their eggs.





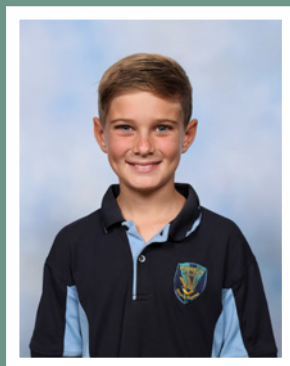
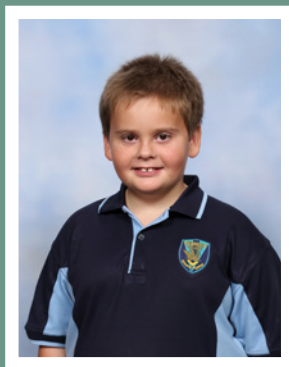
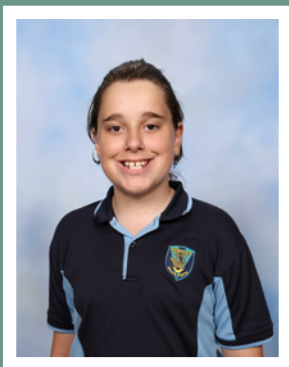
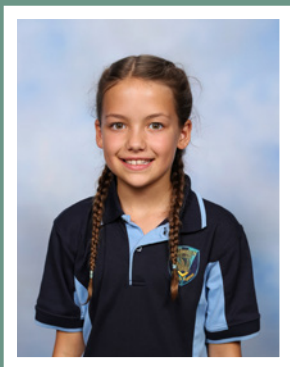
Thanks to Farmer Josh for protecting their home from foxes and future clearing!

Nina and Bluey have both gone on to have large families who now live in their protected neighbourhood on the farm.









Top: Milla Walker, Holden de Waal and Adrian Phillips  
Bottom: Gabrielle Campbell and Nathan Major

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