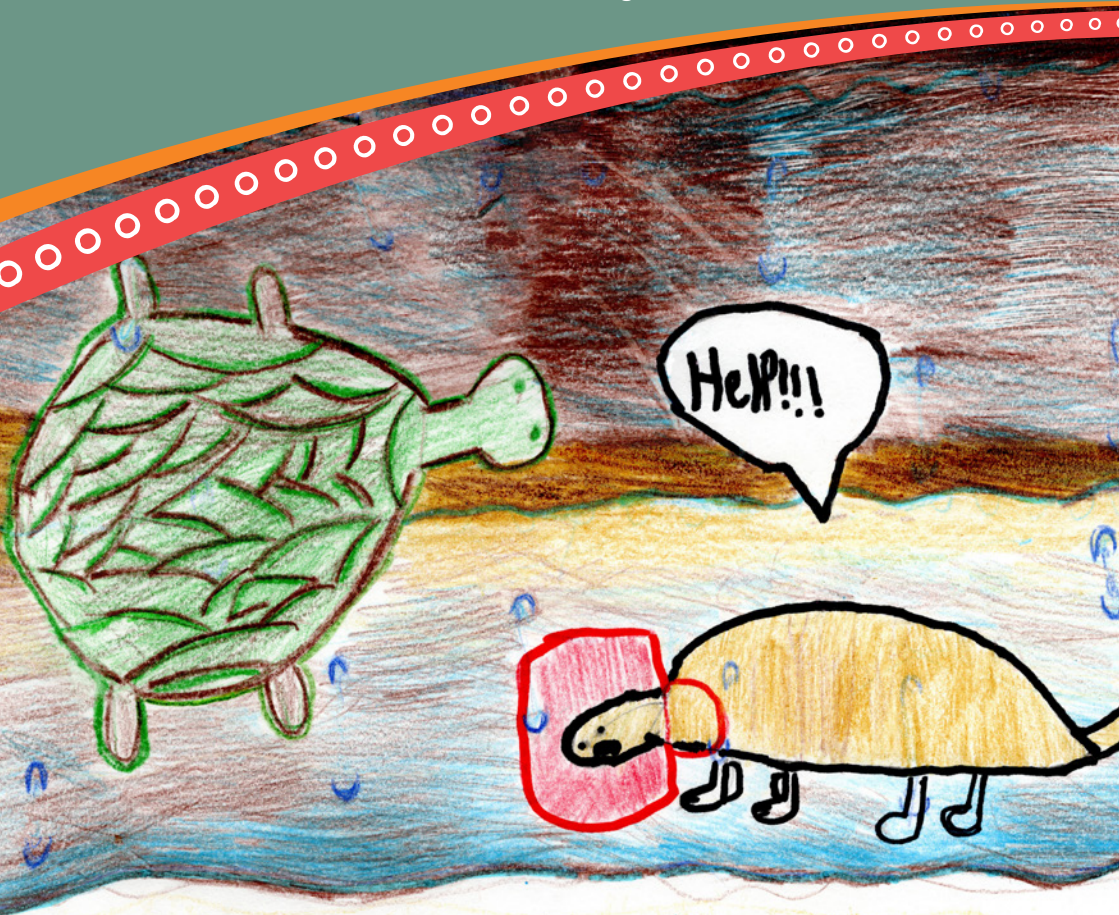


Rakali and the River Challenge

Written and illustrated by Room 13, Year 4/5
from York 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 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

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

Rakali and the River Challenge

Authors: Room 13, Year 4/5
School: York District High School

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



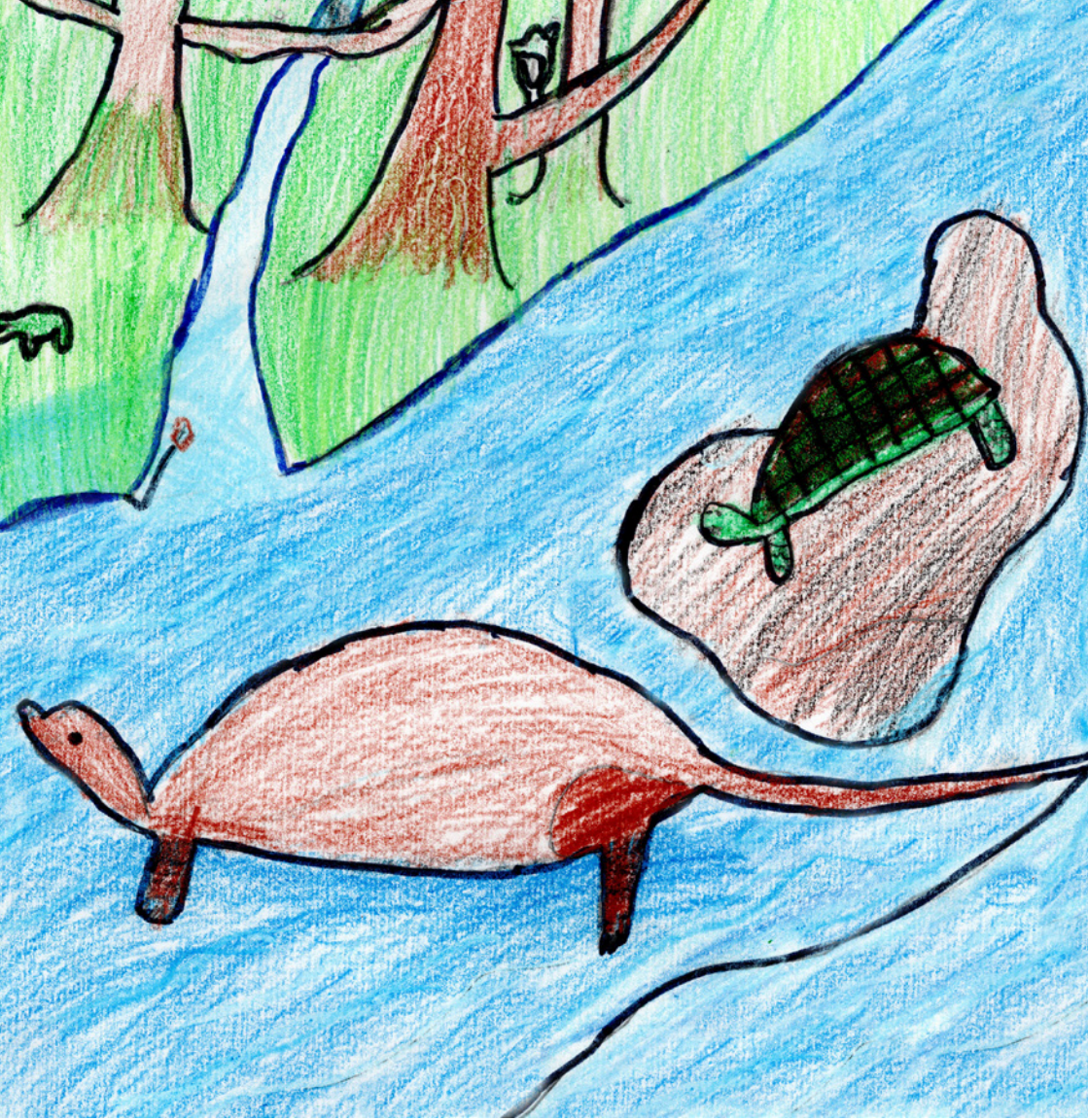
wheatbelt
natural resource
management

© 2021 Wheatbelt NRM, www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au
Wheatbelt NRM Phone: (08) 9670 3100
269 Fitzgerald St | PO Box 311 Fax: (08) 9670 3140
Northam WA 6401 Email: info@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Citation: York District High School. 2021. *Rakali and the River Challenge*. Wheatbelt NRM, WA.
ISBN: 978-0-6483306-7-7
Series: Hotspot Heroes Enviro-Stories, Book

Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au
Phone: +61 411 729 444
Email: office@peekdesigns.com.au





Rakali, the water rat, lived in the sparkling river known as Bilya. He was happy splashing in the water, hunting for shrimp and playing with his friends.

The river was clean and healthy, and Rakali and his friends were very happy together.



One day, the river started to change. The algae started to bloom, chemicals floated on the water and killed many fish, and rubbish started to float down the river.

Bilya (river) started to die.



Rakali grew anxious. His food started to disappear. He grew sad and thin.

One day, Rakali dived into the water and became trapped in a plastic bag that was floating in the murky water.

It wrapped itself tightly around his neck. The harder he tried to wriggle away, the tighter the plastic bag held on.

“Help me,” cried Rakali. “I will drown!”





“I can’t help you,” said Kwiya (frog).
“I am too small.”



"I can't help you," said Djildgit (fish). "I am too slippery and I don't have any arms."

“I can’t help you,” said Noorn
(snake) from the riverbank.
“I don’t want to get wet.”





"I CAN help you," said Yardiny (turtle).
"I am strong and I have spiky flippers."
Yardiny clawed at the plastic bag and
soon Rakali was free.



“Thank you Yardiny,” exclaimed Rakali. “The Moort (humans) have polluted our river and it’s putting our lives in danger. We need to make sure this does not happen ever again.”



“I can help there,” squawked Ngoolyarnak (cockatoo). “I have the loudest voice in Barladong Country.”

Ngoolyarnak (cockatoo) flew over the Avon Valley, calling out to the Moort (humans).

“Our river is dying. We need you Moort (humans) to change your ways! Please save Bilya (river).”

The message was heard all over the valley. The Moort (humans) looked up and started to think about the river.



One special group of Moort (humans) heard the message and decided they could make a difference. They were the River Conservation Society.

The society gathered the people together and told them that the river was dying and needed their help.





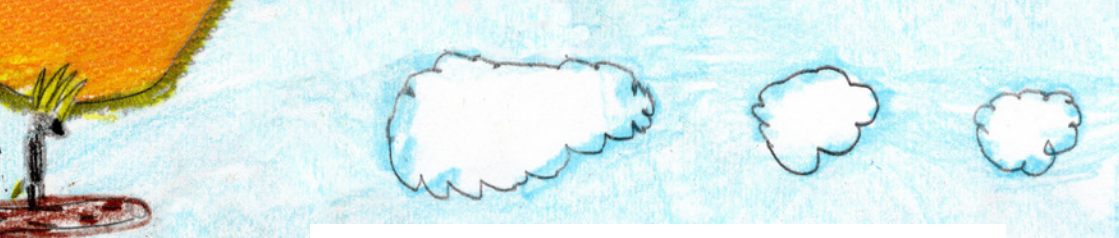
Moort (humans) started to change their habits. They stopped using plastic bags and started to recycle bottles.

The farmers used fewer chemicals and less fertiliser. The children started to learn about Bilya.



The River Conservation Society taught everyone how to look after the Bilya (river) and slowly the river became healthy again.

To this day, the River Conservation Society works hard to keep Bilya (river) safe and healthy.



Rakali and his friends are happy and healthy too. They flourished in the nice clean waters of the Bilya (river) in their Barladong Country home.





2021 Room 13, Year 4/5 from York District High School