

# The Special Egg

Written and illustrated by William Walker and Erika Stewart  
from Newdegate Primary 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](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)**

# The Special Egg

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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



wheatbelt  
natural resource  
management

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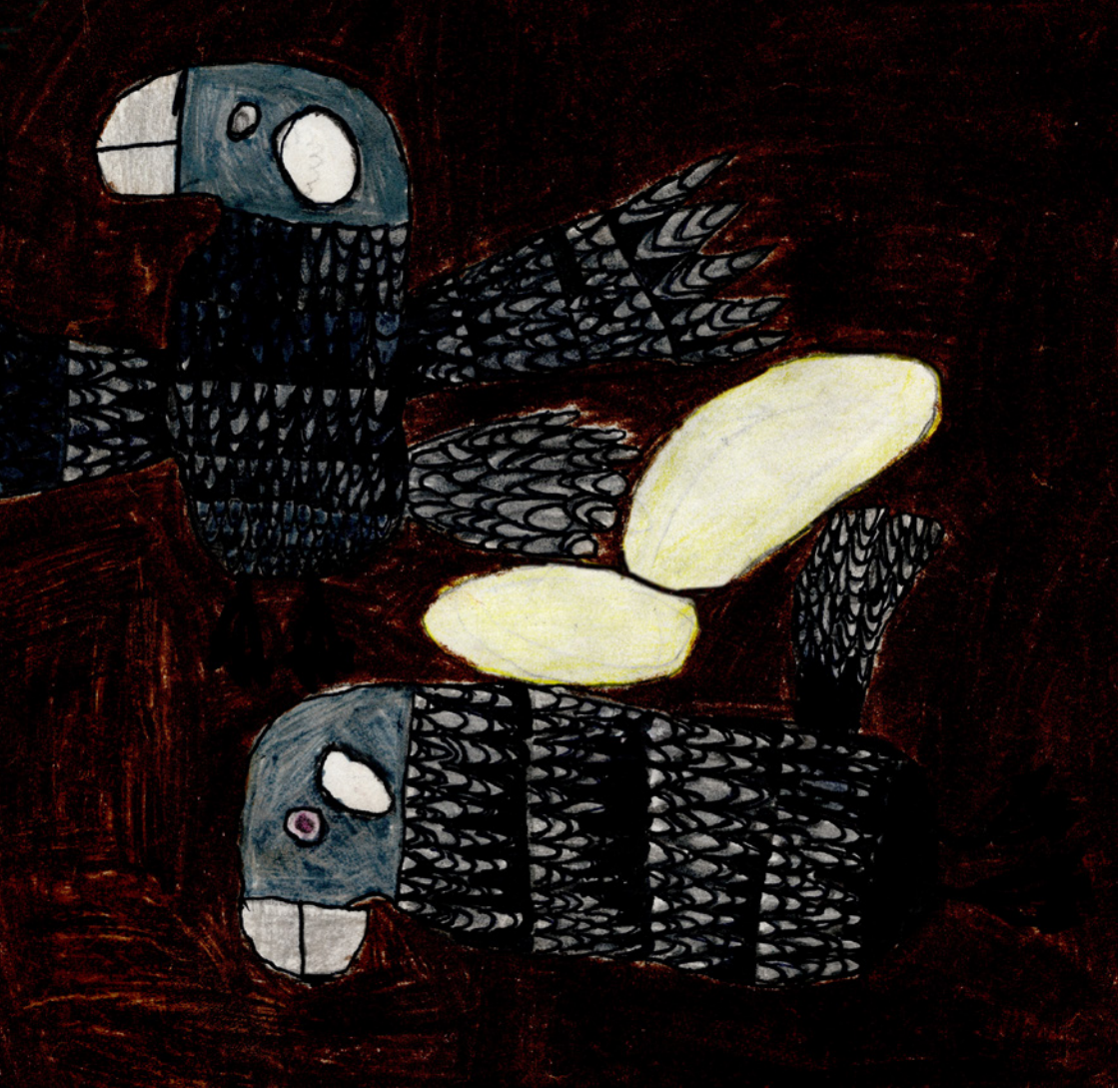
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Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns initiative, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au)

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Lilly, a Carnaby's black-cockatoo, woke up in the middle of the night because her throat was dry. "John, wake up! I need some water," she said very loudly.

They flew out of their high salmon gum home in search of water, hoping their two eggs would be safe.



“Here’s a puddle,” said John. They dove down to get a drink and found a banksia bush to nibble on next to the puddle. They ate the seeds from the banksia cones and started to head back to the hollow.

“I love our salmon gum home in Newdegate, it’s just so peaceful here,” said Lilly in a relaxed tone.

The moonlight shone on their feathers as they flew majestically back to their hollow.

Their laughter was so loud that it woke some of the other animals. What they didn't know was that something was waiting for them in the hollow.

"Is that snake skin?" asked John worriedly.



They nervously flew into the salmon gum, where a scaly black snake hissed at them. They saw eggshell laying on the floor of their hollow. It was too late. The snake had already eaten one of the eggs.

John spied an unbroken egg and quickly grabbed it with his claws and they flew off crying. Stopping on a low branch, breathless, they made a promise to protect their last remaining egg, no matter what!





They spent the rest of the night crying and protecting their last egg.

The next day they started the impossible task of looking for a new home. They rested at lunch and while anxiously thinking they'd never find a home, they heard a rustle in the bushes.



They were prepared for anything when suddenly a quoll jumped out of the bush.

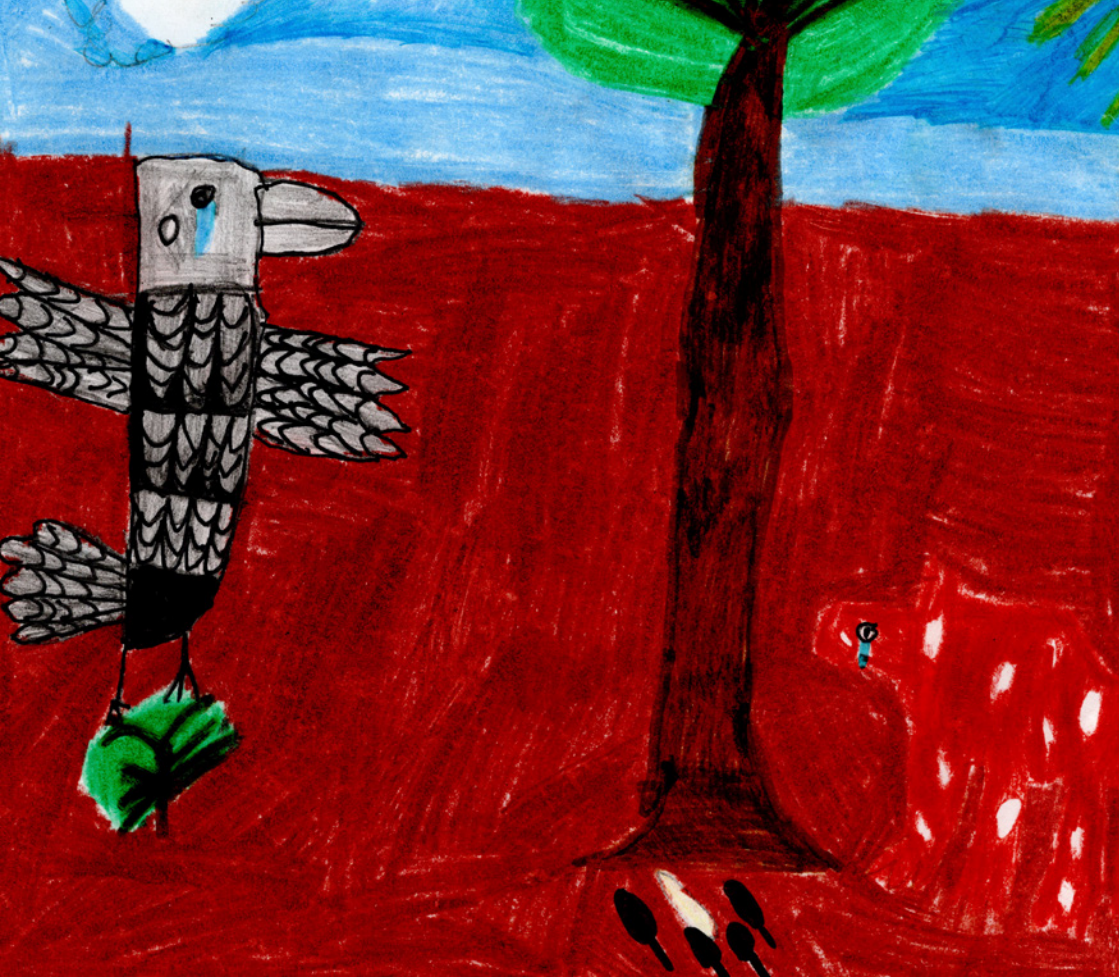
“Hi, I’m Spot! Don’t worry, I won’t eat you. I’m not like the other carnivorous quolls,” Spot said very kindly.

The birds introduced themselves and told Spot their sad story.

Spot kindly offered to help Lilly and John find a home to hatch their egg and raise a chick. They had no idea how to thank him.

One day, while Lilly and Spot were looking for a home and John was taking care of the egg, a large fox pounced on John out of nowhere and killed him in one bite.





The fox ran off carrying John in his mouth, leaving only a few feathers as evidence.

When Lilly and Spot came back, Lilly knew exactly what had happened and was so devastated. She huddled up close to her egg.

Lilly realised they had to keep moving, or the same thing might happen to her. She flew low and Spot ran so far that they managed to get all the way to the other side of Newdegate, with the egg tightly in Lilly's grasp.



Lilly and Spot decided to take a break because they felt like they were always destined to fail.

“Are you squawking?” Spot asked, annoyed. “No, it’s probably just some other birds,” said Lilly.

Suddenly, a cloud of white-tailed black birds flew over them.

“I’ll see where they’re going,” Lilly said as she flew off leaving the egg with Spot.

She blended in perfectly because the birds were Carnaby's black-cockatoos, just like her.

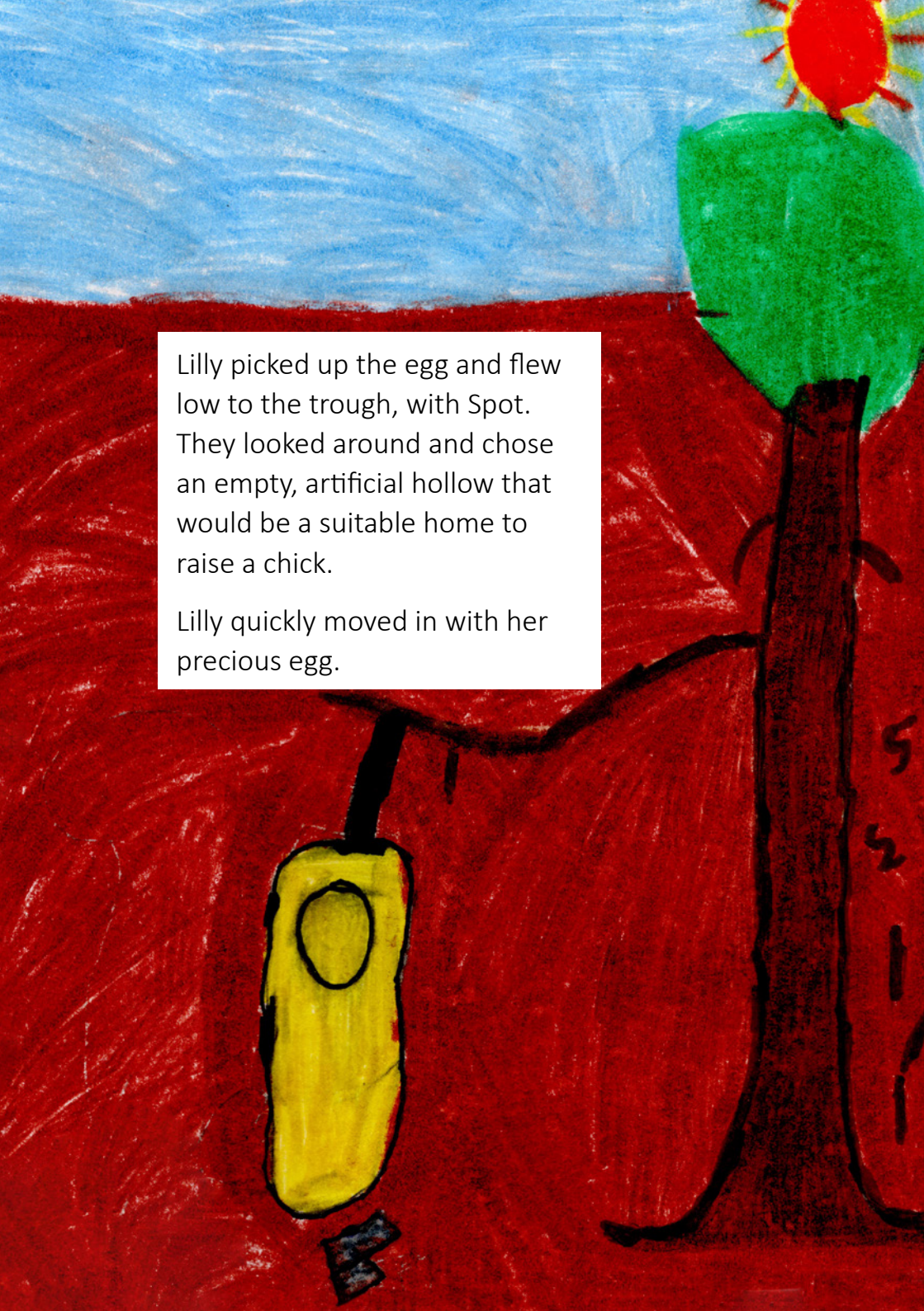
They lead her to a dark green trough that said Newdegate. She had a big drink, then looked around and noticed lots of odd looking hollows. Maybe one of these could be her home?





The hollows were big, up high  
and it seemed that not all of  
them were taken.

She quickly flew back to Spot  
and told him the news.



Lilly picked up the egg and flew low to the trough, with Spot. They looked around and chose an empty, artificial hollow that would be a suitable home to raise a chick.

Lilly quickly moved in with her precious egg.

“Lilly, I can’t live here. I’m a quoll, not a bird,” said Spot slowly.

“Do you mean you’re leaving?” Lilly asked sadly.

“Yes, but I could live close by, if that’s ok?” Spot said, bringing the excitement back.

“Yes, that would be lovely,” Lilly replied happily. With her wing over her egg, she watched Spot head off to find a home of his own.





Soon after, Lilly had a reason to be happy. Her egg was starting to hatch!

Just as Lilly noticed the beak poking through the shell, out popped a small ball of yellow fluff.

Lilly called her new baby girl, Moonlight.



Photo by Laurie Boyle (CC BY-SA)

The lack of suitable nesting hollows are one of the main threats to the survival of Carnaby's black-cockatoos.

Installing artificial hollows near suitable food and water sources is something we can do to make sure Carnaby's survive into the future.





Erika Stewart and William Walker

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