

Feathers, Fur and Fire



Boyne Island State School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is a literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment 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.

envirostories.com.au

Gladstone Wildlife

Gladstone Wildlife is a volunteer not-for-profit community organisation dedicated to the rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and release of native animals in Central Queensland.

Gladstone Wildlife provides training and education sessions to our carers through specialised carer workshops and community education sessions, regularly visiting schools and community groups sharing our love our wildlife and environment.

gladstonewildlife.org.au

A Country Arts Practice

A Country Arts Practice is a micro community arts business based in the Gladstone region with a focus on environment, conservation, and sustainability.

[@acountryartspractice](https://www.instagram.com/acountryartspractice)

Regional Arts Services Network

Central Queensland Universities Regional Art Services Network strives to deliver excellent regional arts programs and services to ensure that our Queensland communities are connected, creative and cultural communities to live and work. The Regional Arts Services Network is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

cqregionalarts.net

Feathers, Fur and Fire

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School/Program: Boyne Island State School

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This book has been published as part of the Habits for Habitat Enviro-Stories program and involves children learning about some of the precious animals and habitats of Central Queensland.

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Supported by the 'Here for Gladstone' program:

- Gladstone and District Wildlife Carers Association Inc.
- A Country Arts Practice
- Rio Tinto Yarrowun
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- Queensland Alumina Limited

'Boom... Crack!' The scorching fire surrounded the curlew family. The blueish-orange flames flickered in the dry wind. It wasn't long before Wild Cattle Creek was surrounded in a blazing fire, devastating the native bush and animal homes.





Carrie, the curlew, spotted the fire as she was flying south from Cairns to visit her family. She swooped down and quickly guided them to safety.

Among the trees, Gerald, the greater glider, cried for help. He knew he was in trouble.



Gerald's glider wing was badly injured, and he was unable to fly. His miniature legs could not move. His mental health was declining. With no hope left, he gave out one last cry for help.

Mary, the *Xeromys myoides* mouse with her big ears, heard Gerald's final whimper. She bounded toward the bushland and used her long, silky tail to encircle Gerald's waist like a long rope to heave him from the cindered scrub.





As Carrie and the family of curlews were moving to the mangrove area, they spied a struggling Gerald, accompanied by Mary, moving in the same direction.

Determined to help, the curlews picked up their pace.

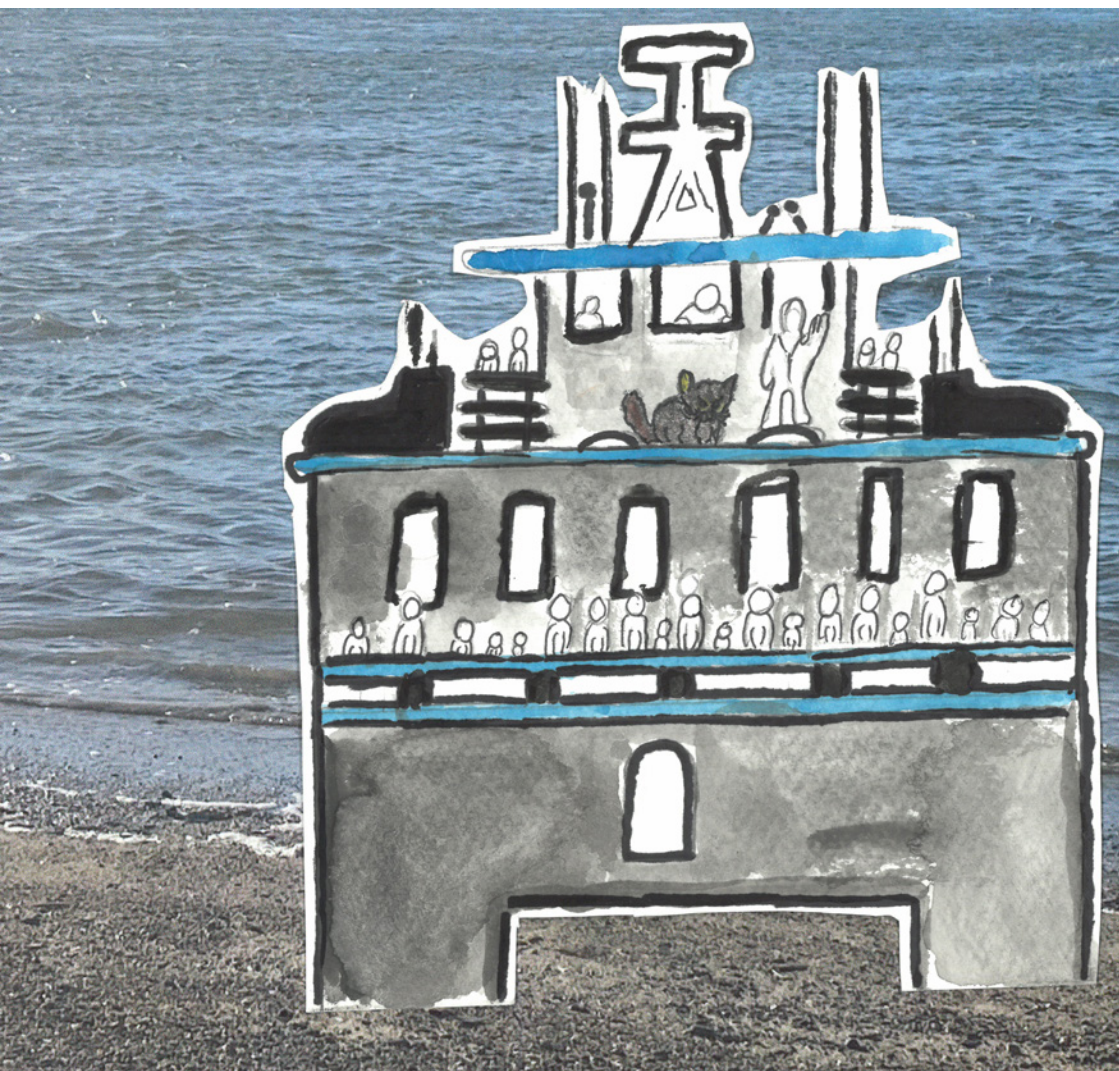
Mary greeted the curlews with a shrill squeal.
The curlew family surrounded Gerald, wrapping
their wings around him like a comforting
blanket. They continued together steadily to
Mary's sand house amongst the mangrove flats.



They landed at Mary's house, a carefully constructed mound nest. With a mangrove leaf Carrie had plucked from an overhead tree they bandaged Gerald's wing. They knew this refuge would be safe due to its moist environment.



Later in the day, the Federal Inspector, Jeffery-Bob the brushtail possum, was taking a cruise on the Gladstone Ferry Boat. He was on his way to inspect the remains from the devastating fire. Fellow passengers were transfixed by the possum.

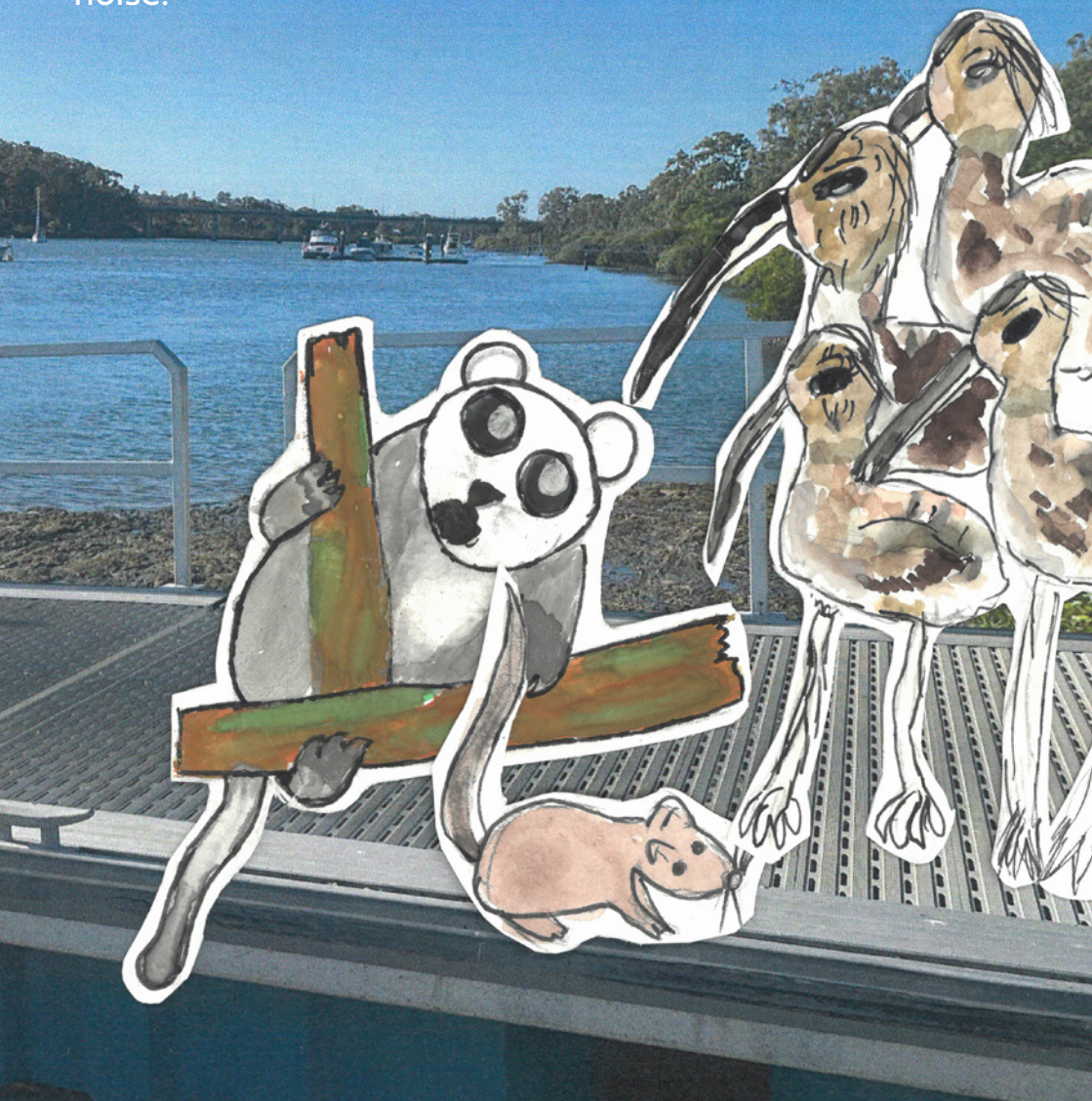


Scanning the harbour, the Inspector saw a group of animals wading through the water waving for his attention.

The rattled animals boarded and the skipper turned the boat around, delivering the animals to East Shores, off the coast of Gladstone.



The four animals were safely on land now. As the Inspector questioned them about their harrowing journey, Gerald's crippling anxiety showed. He nervously fidgeted with his long claw and felt like running away, frightened by all the attention and noise.

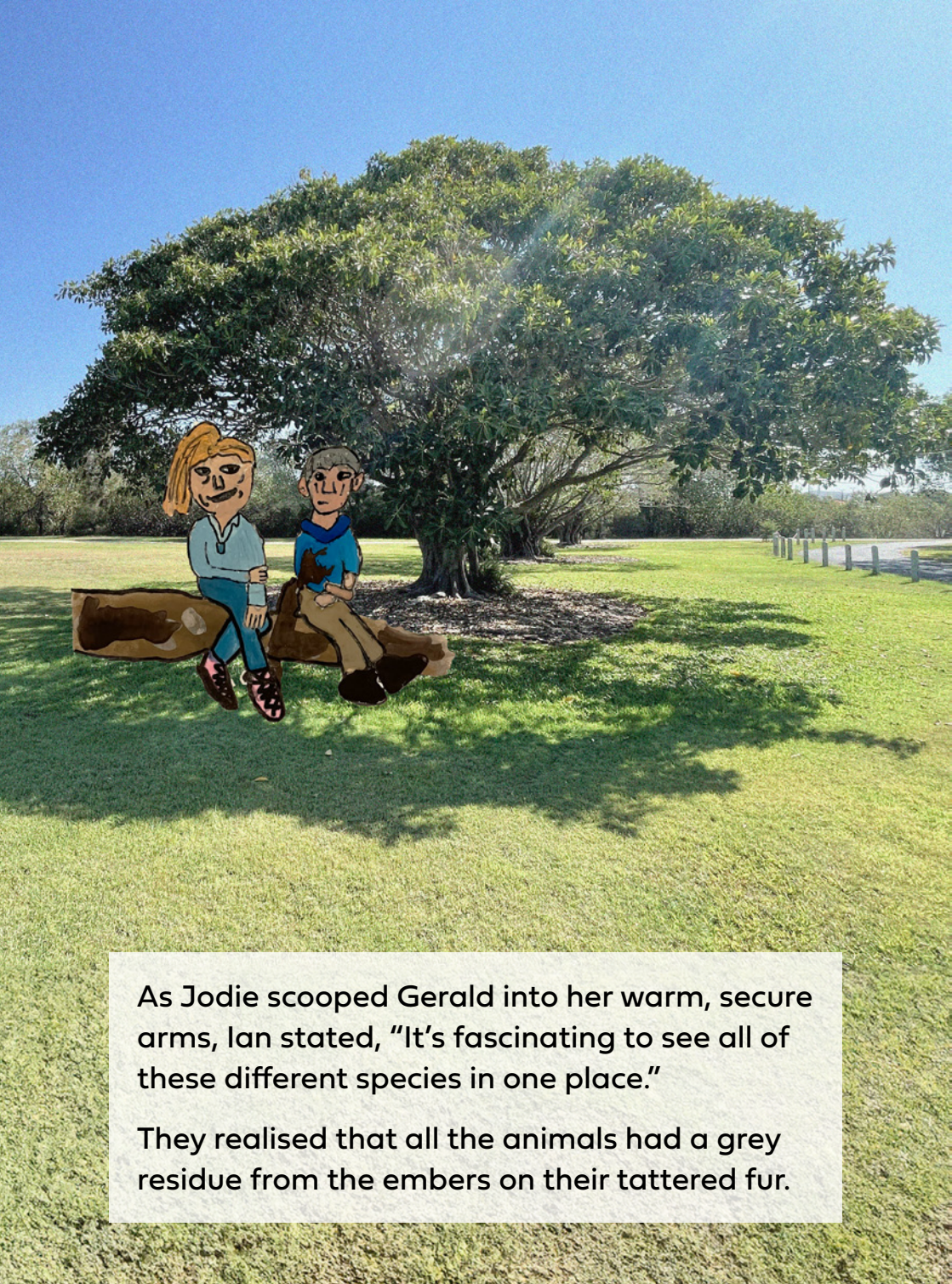




Without thinking, Gerald ran as fast as he could, leaping in the air, spreading out his wings and... splat! Down he went, plummeting at full speed. He landed with a sickening thud, howling in pain. Alarmed, the others raced towards him.



Gerald's hurt wing was torn from the harsh landing. The jagged edges of the tear were like torn sheets of paper. The animals screamed when they saw Gerald's injuries, catching the attention of Jodie and Ian; two local wildlife carers.



As Jodie scooped Gerald into her warm, secure arms, Ian stated, "It's fascinating to see all of these different species in one place."

They realised that all the animals had a grey residue from the embers on their tattered fur.

As Jodie tended to Gerald's wounds, Ian reassured the rest of the animals that they had done the right thing in getting help when required.

No problem is too much when shared with a trained professional. Gerald's relief was evident.





From then on, Jodie and Ian worked with their skilled community to ensure all animals were well cared for. Plastics were minimised, reused and recycled, and burning off was done carefully. Food and shelter was provided for any injured wildlife.

After the Wild Cattle Creek fires occurred, no matter if you were human or animal, respect and help was evident everywhere.

ENVIRO

stories



Year 6

Boyne Island State School, 2023



regional arts
SERVICES NETWORK

AN INITIATIVE OF THE
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