

Farmer Todd

Written by Tahlia Ashmore from Narembeen District High School



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 of Western Australia.

www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au

Farmer Todd

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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.

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Scratch! Scratch! Scratch!

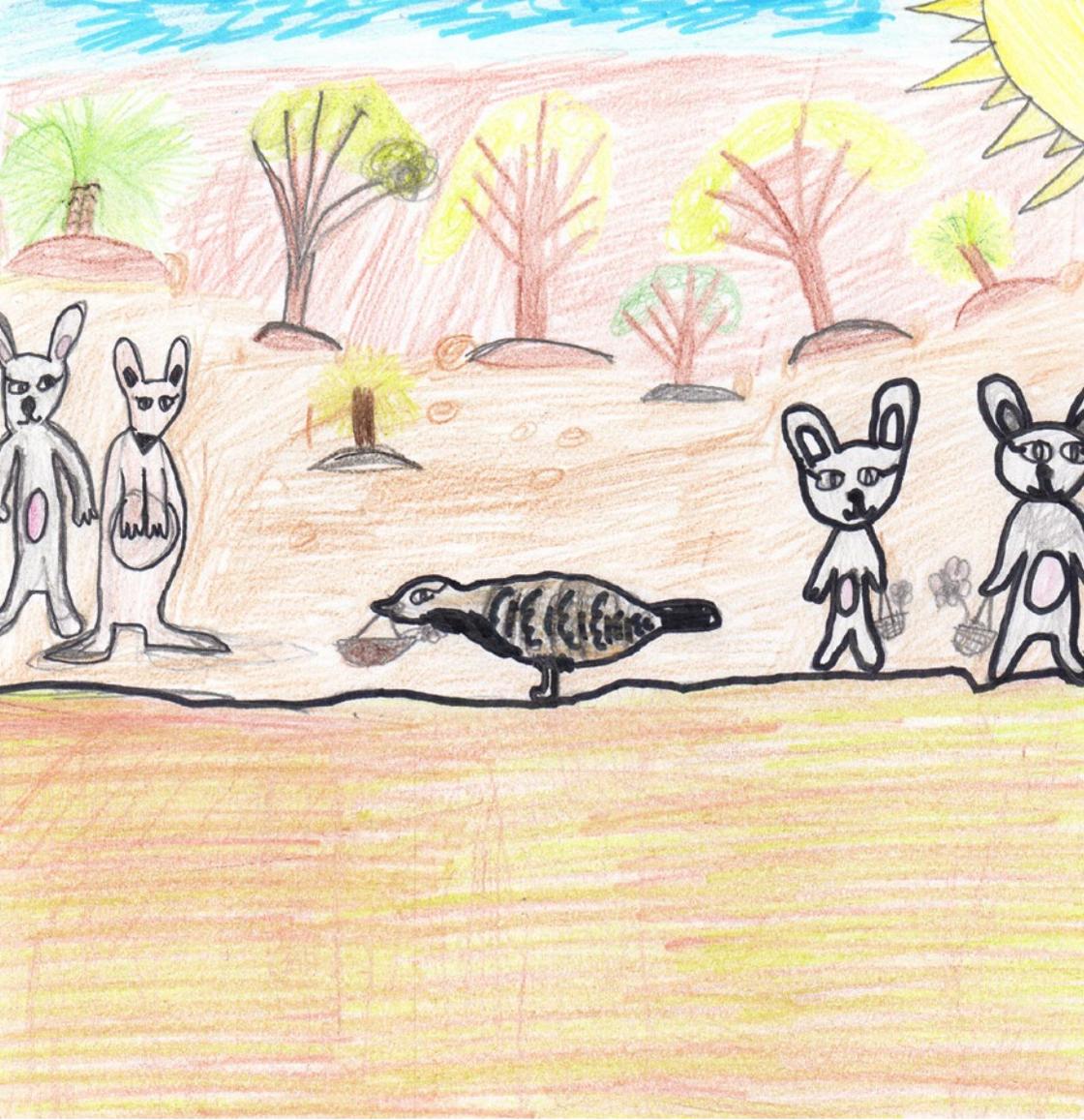
Maley the malleefowl kicked and scraped, preparing to lay her eggs in her enormous mound. She laid them and then covered them over so they would keep warm...

...After a long wait of nearly 60 days the eggs will finally be ready to hatch.





When the chicks finally do break free of their eggs they will have to battle their way through leaf litter and sand to the top of the mound. They will be welcomed into some lovely mallee bushland.



One afternoon, Maley was shopping for some seeds, herbs and flowers at the local scrub market. She was just about to leave when she overheard two strangers talking about Todd the farmer.



Jumping Jack the kangaroo asks, “Did you hear that Farmer Todd plans to knock part of our bush down?”

Polly Possum replied, “What! He can’t do that! We have so many endangered friends living in our bush.”



“Oh no,” Maley gasped! “I must do something about this! You know what? I will. We already have a sheep problem to deal with let alone our beautiful home being destroyed,” she mumbled to herself.

Maley walked off feeling very sad.



Maley found her husband Stripes at the mound.

“Stripes! Stripes!” cried Maley.

“What is it dear? My legs are exhausted from maintaining our mound all afternoon and waiting for our chicks,” complained Stripes.

Maley interrupted, “Yeah, yeah, I know you might be sore, but we have a bigger issue! I overheard a kangaroo and a possum saying that Farmer Todd is going to clear our land for his sheep! But don’t worry I’ve got a plan.”





Stripes angrily puffed his feathers out and cried, “Clear our land, that’s ridiculous! Honey, we have to do something before our chicks appear. What’s your big plan?”



“Well, Stripes. I’ll fly up onto the windscreen and show this Farmer Todd that malleefowls are living here! So perhaps, just perhaps, he will be kind enough to spare our home,” explained Maley.



The bulldozer arrived. Brum! Brum! Maley ran up to the bulldozer and flew up and pecked the windscreen! Todd screamed, “Aaaggghhh!” The bulldozer came to a stop. “Eeeeek!” Todd cried. “I’ve never seen any malleefowls around here before!”

Todd felt ashamed of himself that he did not check the bush before he was clearing it to see if there were any endangered animals.

“Hmmm, maybe I should help the malleefowls as I know they are endangered,” he thought, “and it would be a privilege to have some on my farm.”



So Farmer Todd talked to Tahlia, the local ranger, to see what he could do to help. Tahlia was very helpful and gave him lots of advice.

Todd decided to move his sheep away from the native bush and fenced around it to keep the sheep out of those areas. He also placed some poison baits around the bush to keep those nasty foxes away.





When his work was complete, Todd felt happy. He had a great sense of achievement that he had done something good for the environment and good for his farm!

Todd decided that he would continue to work on his farm to make it as sustainable as possible. He would try to make his farm a place that both farm and native animals could share.

Maley was exceptionally proud of herself. She knew now that Farmer Todd was helping them and that her chicks had a great chance of surviving. Farmer Todd was helping the malleefowl population recover in the area!





Not long after, Maley and Stripes noticed some disturbance in their mound. The chicks finally appeared after making their way to the surface. They were the cutest and fluffiest things anyone could imagine!



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Enviro Stories