

# Why Water is Blue

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Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.



**[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

# Why Water is Blue

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## “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program

In 2012, the Creative Catchment Kids program delivered the “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School. It was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Teys Australia, Wagga. Additional support came from the Wirraminna and Riverina Environmental Education Centres.



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Murray

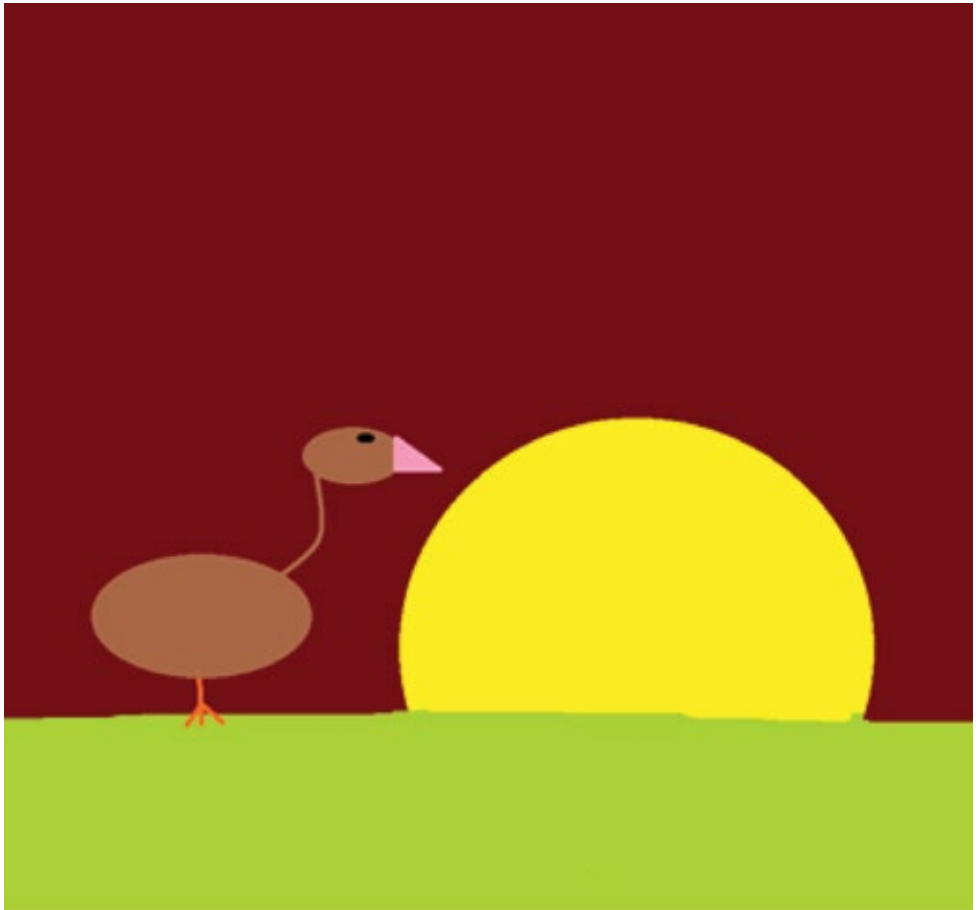


CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

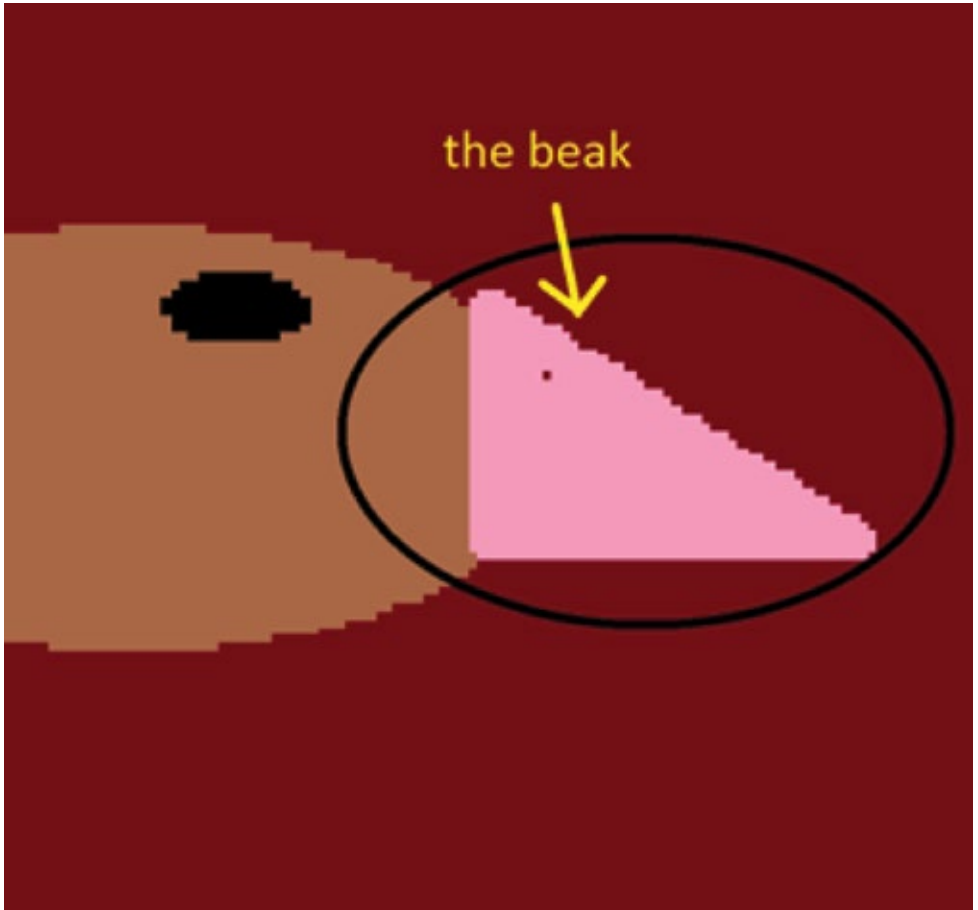


Catchment Management  
Authority  
Murrumbidgee





In a time when Australia was beautiful, there was a tribe of emus with pink beaks just like the water. This tribe was like a family and, like all families, they look out for their children and other chicks. It was the time of breeding and being on guard for predators, for the chicks would be in danger if their dads didn't look out for them. One of these emus was Billy and this story is about him.



We know that emu beaks were blue, but these emu's beaks were pink because of the water. These beaks are the emus pride and joy.

Each evening, at a certain time, the emu's went to the sacred waterhole to drink. It was forbidden to drink at any other time for fear the water would become poisonous.

One day Billy was thirsty but it was not time to drink.

“Well one quick sip won’t hurt,” he thought. He was so thirsty!



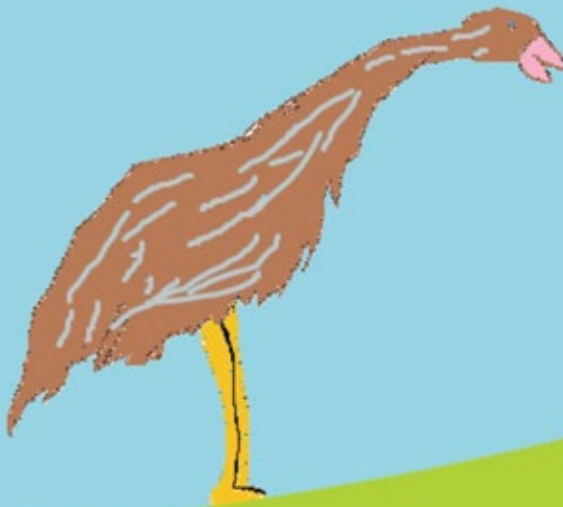
Billy looked around to make sure no one was watching him. He took a quick sip and the water flowed into his beak. He hoped that nothing would happen, as it was told in the sacred law.

On the way back to the nest Billy noticed something horrible, his beak was BLUE! This was bad, very bad. Billy tried to hide his beak the rest of the way back, but his attempt was feeble and many noticed. He eventually gave up but...this was a big mistake.

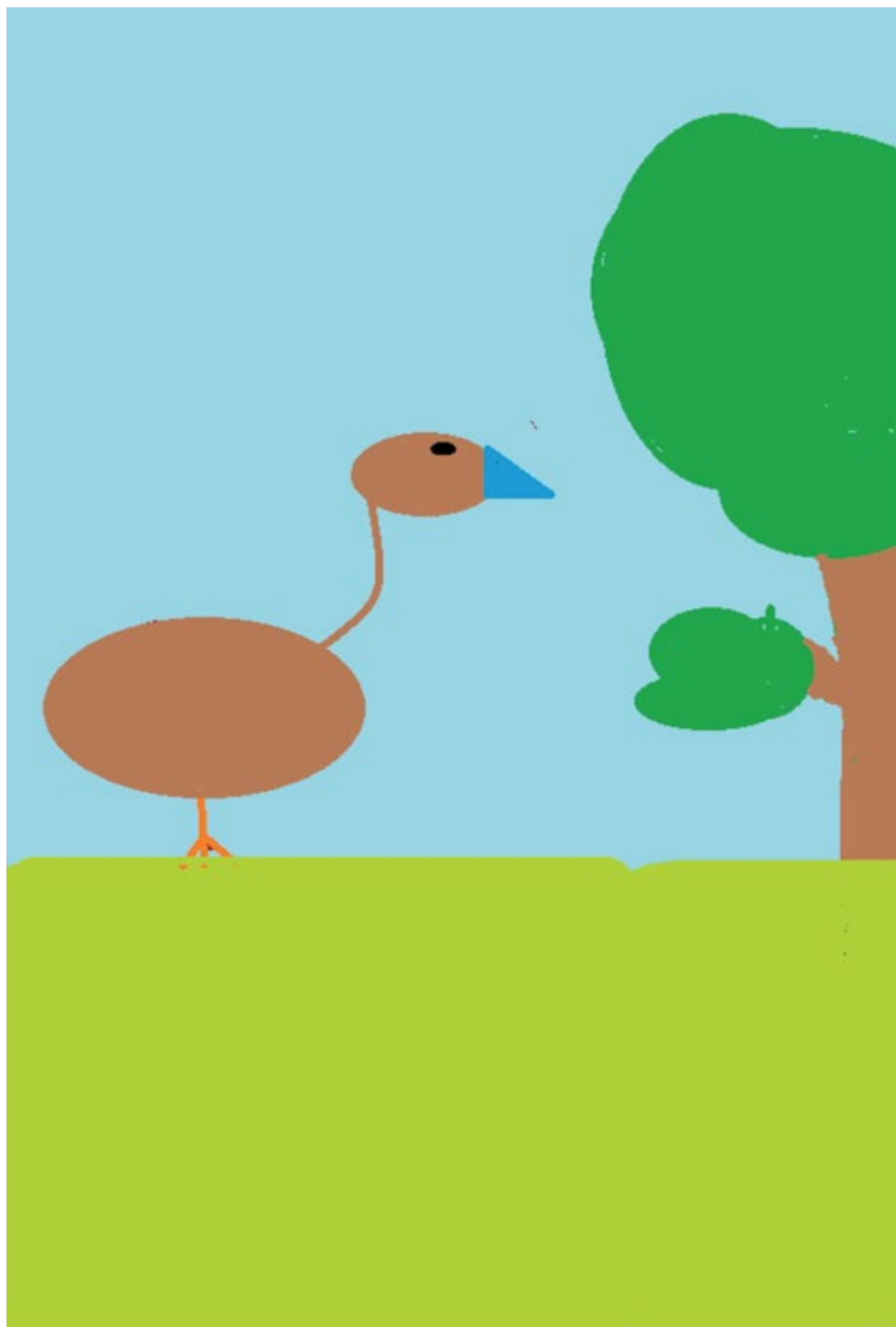


As he was passing the elders gathering ground, Zeblin noticed his blue beak.

“Betrayer of sacred law. You’re banished, and the right to drink and eat around the water hole has been taken from you,” yelled Zeblin scornfully.





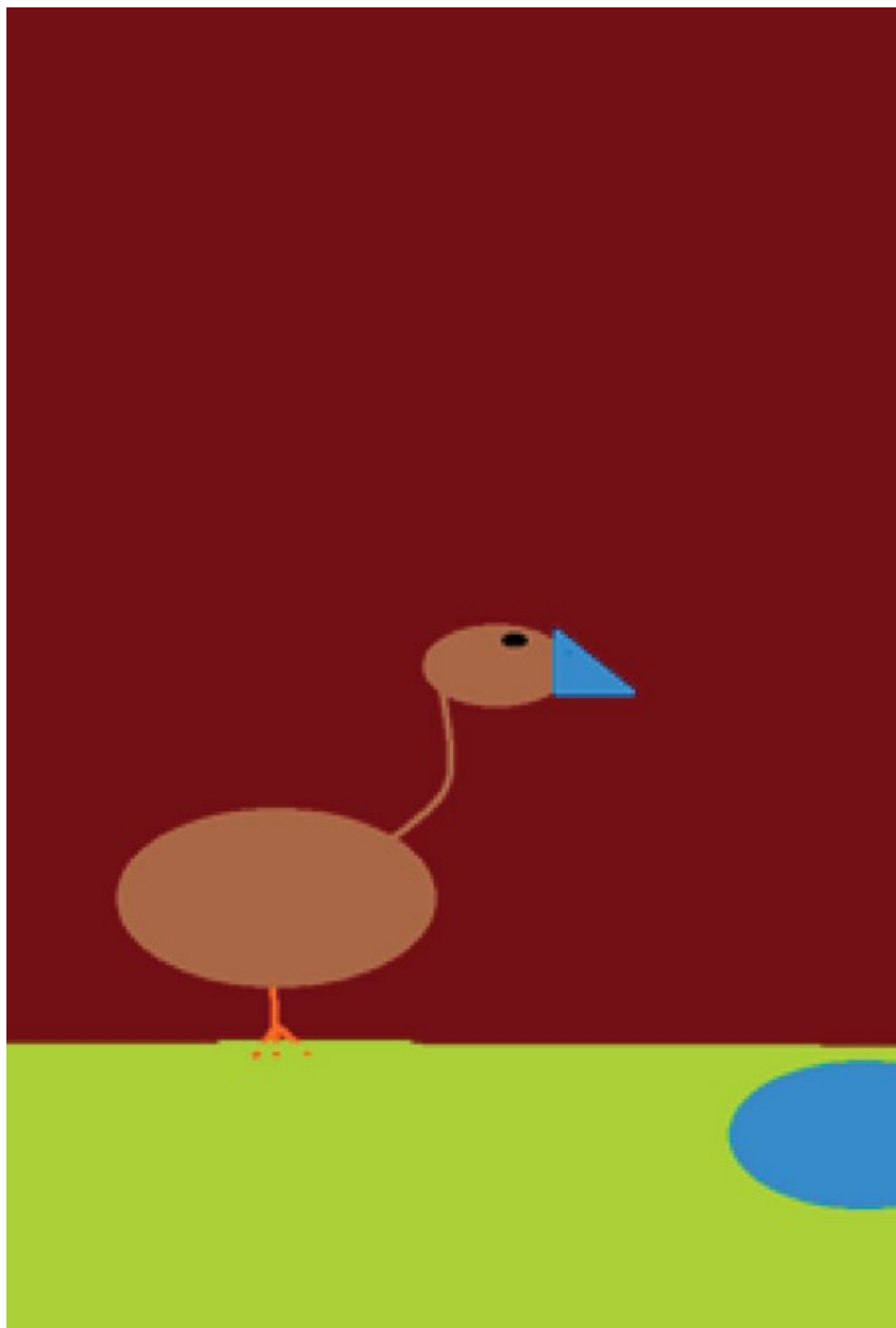


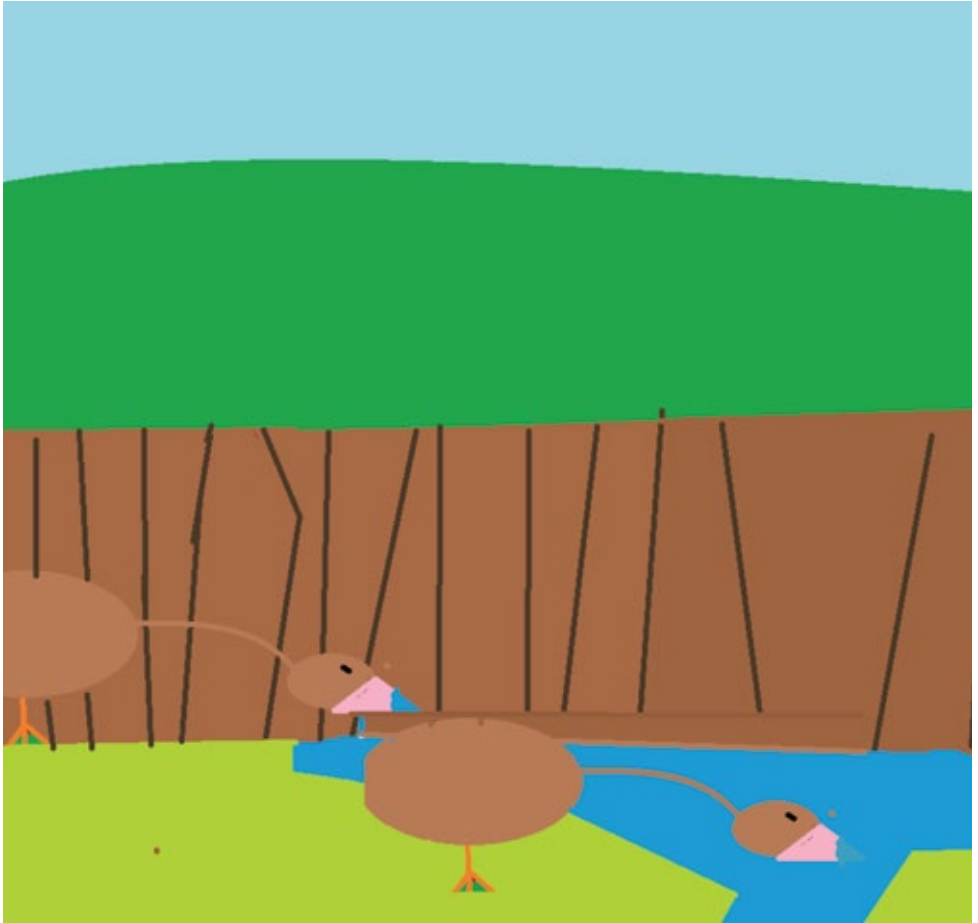
Hours later Billy was on the road out of the place he had called home since he was born. Billy felt sad leaving now, though he knew he had done the wrong thing. He was out there for days and days. With each passing day he grew more hungry and thirsty.

Finally Billy came across a river.

“WATER! I don’t want to die of thirst but...never mind there’s nobody here so...” GULP, GULP and GULP!

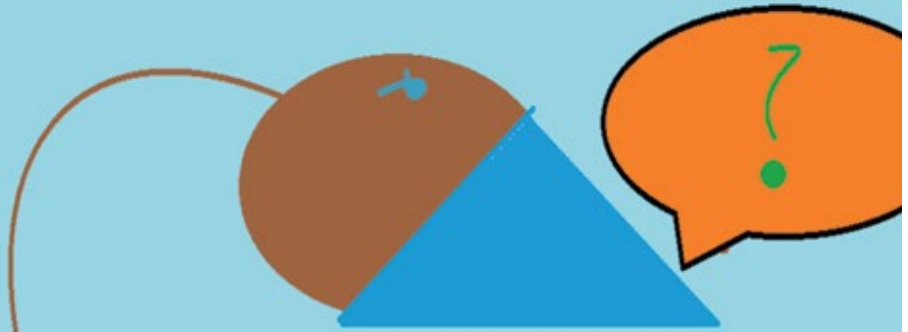
“What did I do? The water is now blue,” said Billy. Little did he know that this water bed was connected to the sacred water hole back at his home.





At that very moment it just so happened that all the other emus were drinking at the same time. The blue colour leaked into the water hole and onto the others beaks. They all screamed in terror at their blue beaks.

The elders were also drinking from their own pond. They too screamed in terror.



“Hey! Nothing’s happening to us,” said Zebelin. “The water is not poisoned.”

“Hooray!” yelled everyone. They celebrated until a figure walked into the gathering ground.

“Come here Billy,” said the message emu.

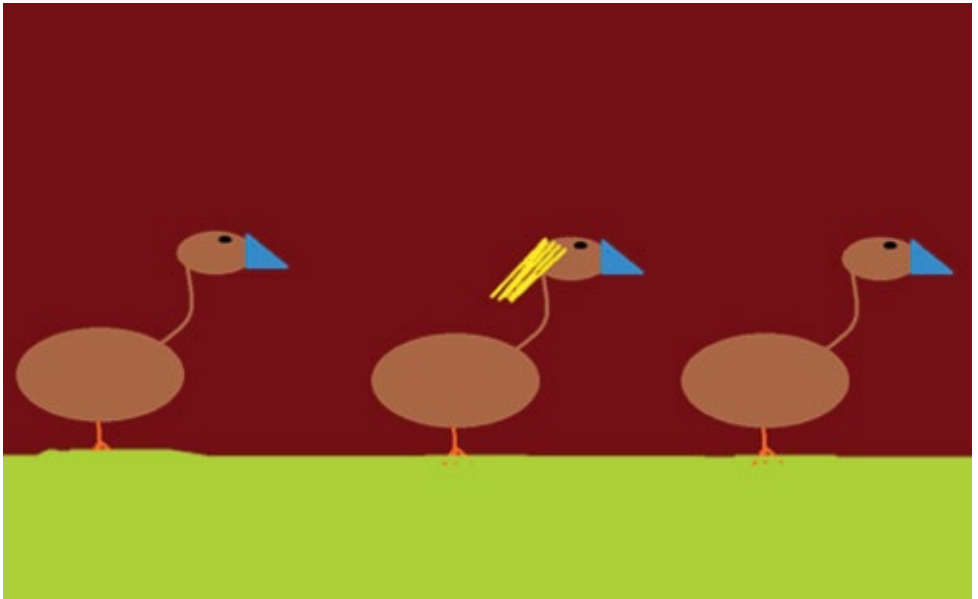
“What do you want?” asked Billy.

“You are welcome home to be our leader,” said the message emu.

“WHAT! What happened to your beak? It’s blue,” stated Billy.

“I know and so are all the other emu’s beaks,” said the message emu. They walked home then!

“All hail Billy,” chorused the emus.







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