

# THE FATE OF THE *Feathertail Gliders*



Maria Regina Catholic Primary School, Avalon Beach and  
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Narrabeen



## **Enviro-Stories**

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment 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)

## **Greater Sydney Local Land Services**

Greater Sydney Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes. We help people make better decisions about the land they manage and assist communities and agricultural industries to be productive and sustainable into the future.

The Greater Sydney region accounts for 5 percent of the state's agricultural production, even though we only cover 1.5 percent of NSW land area. Greater Sydney Local Land Services works with landholders across the region to control the threat of pests and disease through coordinated campaigns and compliance activities. These are essential to protect both our agricultural industries and natural environment. We focus on sustainable land management that enhances productivity while reducing impacts on soil and water resources.

[www.greatersydney.ils.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greatersydney.ils.nsw.gov.au)

## **Taronga Conservation Society Australia**

Taronga Conservation Society Australia (Taronga) is a leader in the fields of conservation, research, animal welfare, wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education. Taronga is a not-for-profit organisation with an absolute commitment to conservation and securing a shared future for wildlife and people. Taronga's two Zoos, Taronga Zoo in Sydney and Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, create experiences for its 1.9 million guests that inspire lasting connections between people and wildlife. Taronga believes that a future without wildlife is not an option. Taronga is for the wild.

[www.taronga.org.au](http://www.taronga.org.au)

# The Fate of the Feathertail Gliders

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## **Acknowledgements**

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The 'Fate of the Feathertail Glider' was written as part of the Project In situ Feathertail Glider conservation education program. Stage 2 and 3 students from three primary schools were guided by year 10 high school mentors from Mater Maria College to learn about the species and create a community awareness campaign to assist in its recovery in the Upper Northern Beaches area.

This book has been published as part of the City Livin' Ferals Enviro-Stories program which was supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

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THE FATE OF THE  
*Feathertail Gliders*



By Georgie Geftakis, Imogen Mellor,  
Sophie Holmes, Sarah Dreyer, Charlotte Fisk,  
Tara Neasmith, Charlie Brown, Faith Buckner and  
Hannah Lambert.

Maria Regina Catholic Primary School, Avalon Beach

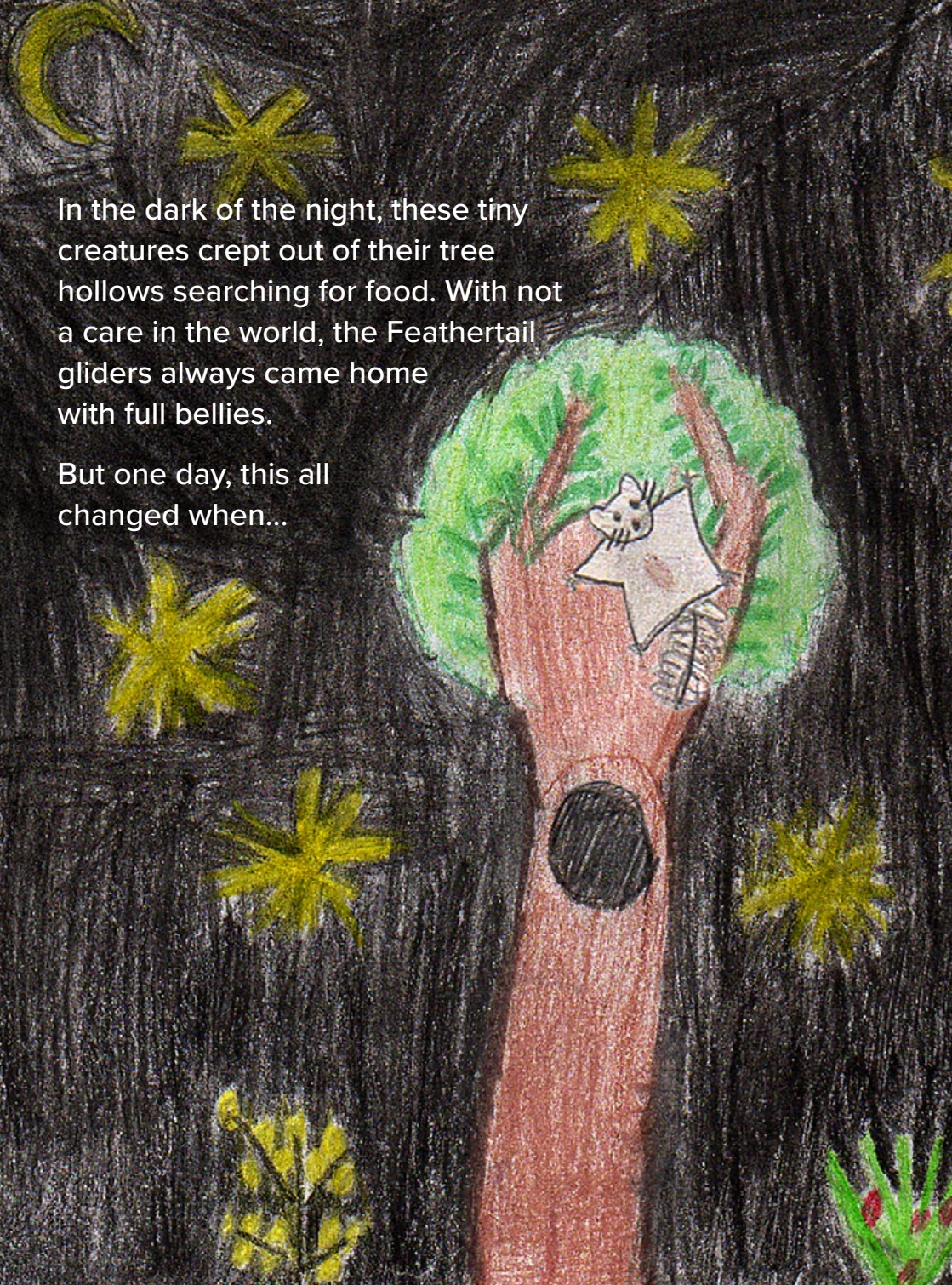


Long ago, everything was green. The land was covered with tall trees, long grass and lots and lots of glorious, sweet nectary food.

In these tall trees lived the smallest, softest and sweetest marsupials of all time... the Feathertail gliders.

In the dark of the night, these tiny creatures crept out of their tree hollows searching for food. With not a care in the world, the Feathertail gliders always came home with full bellies.

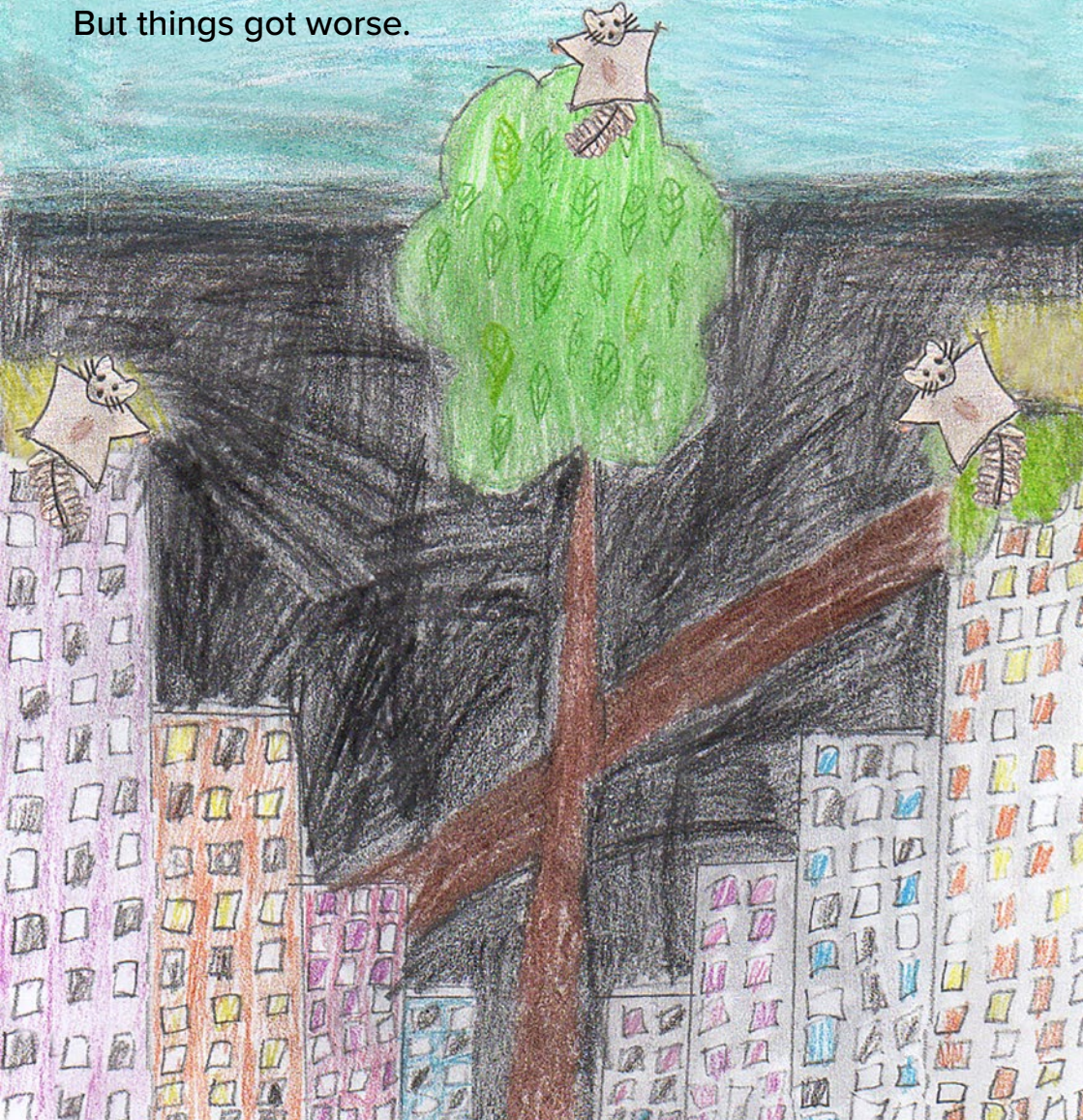
But one day, this all changed when...



...the clearing of the trees began.

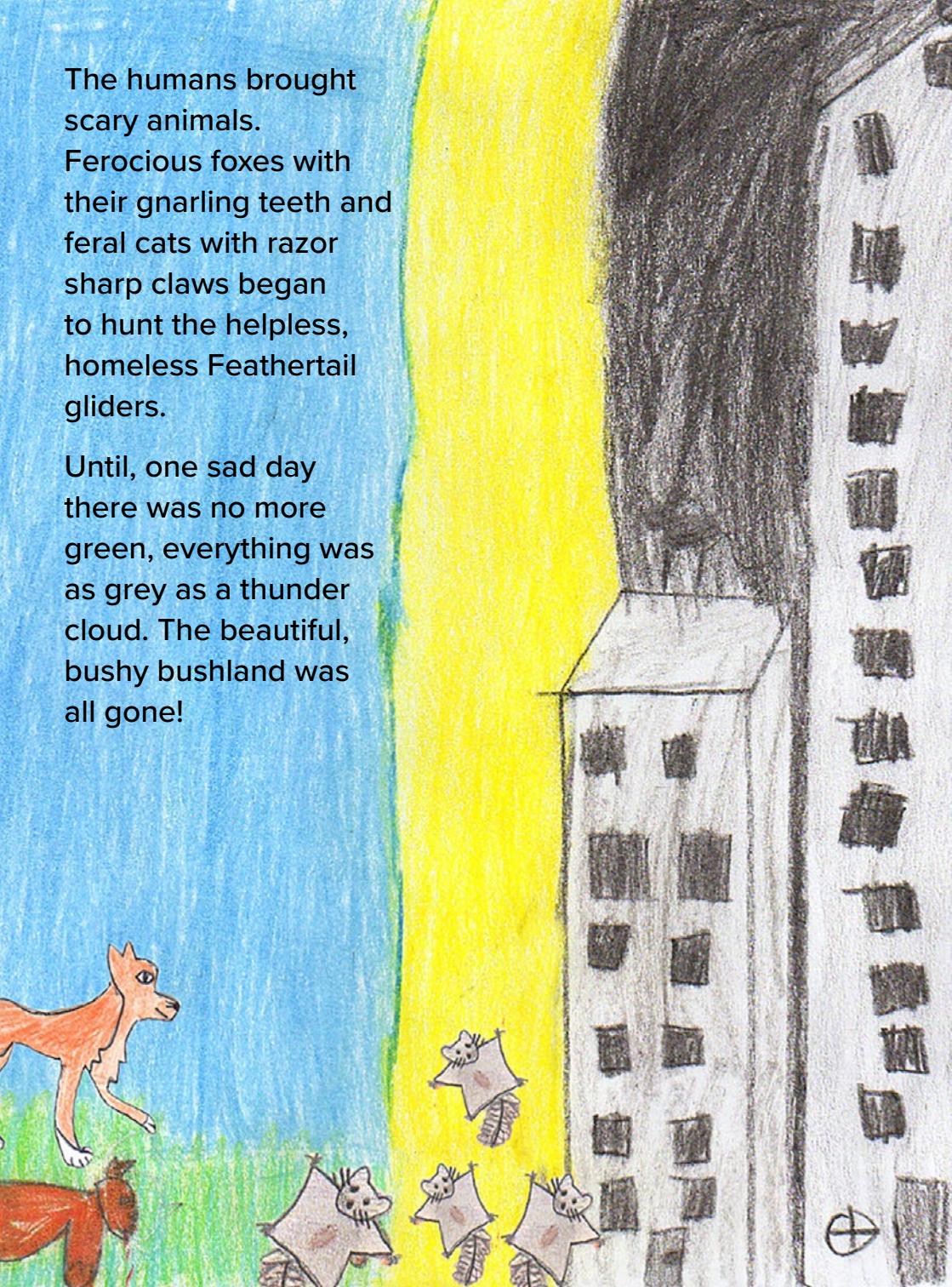
Humans had arrived and were destroying important native bushland. Houses were built, roads created and the Feathertail gliders lost their homes. Feathertail families became separated as the habitat was broken up.

But things got worse.



The humans brought scary animals. Ferocious foxes with their gnarling teeth and feral cats with razor sharp claws began to hunt the helpless, homeless Feathertail gliders.

Until, one sad day there was no more green, everything was as grey as a thunder cloud. The beautiful, bushy bushland was all gone!





Luckily, six girls found the last Feathertail glider family when they were playing under a shady gum-tree. The girls realised that they needed to help these little furry creatures, as they were an important part of the native environment.



Georgie, Faith, Charlotte, Imogen, Sarah and Charlie decided to plant native trees and protect any leftover patches of bushland.

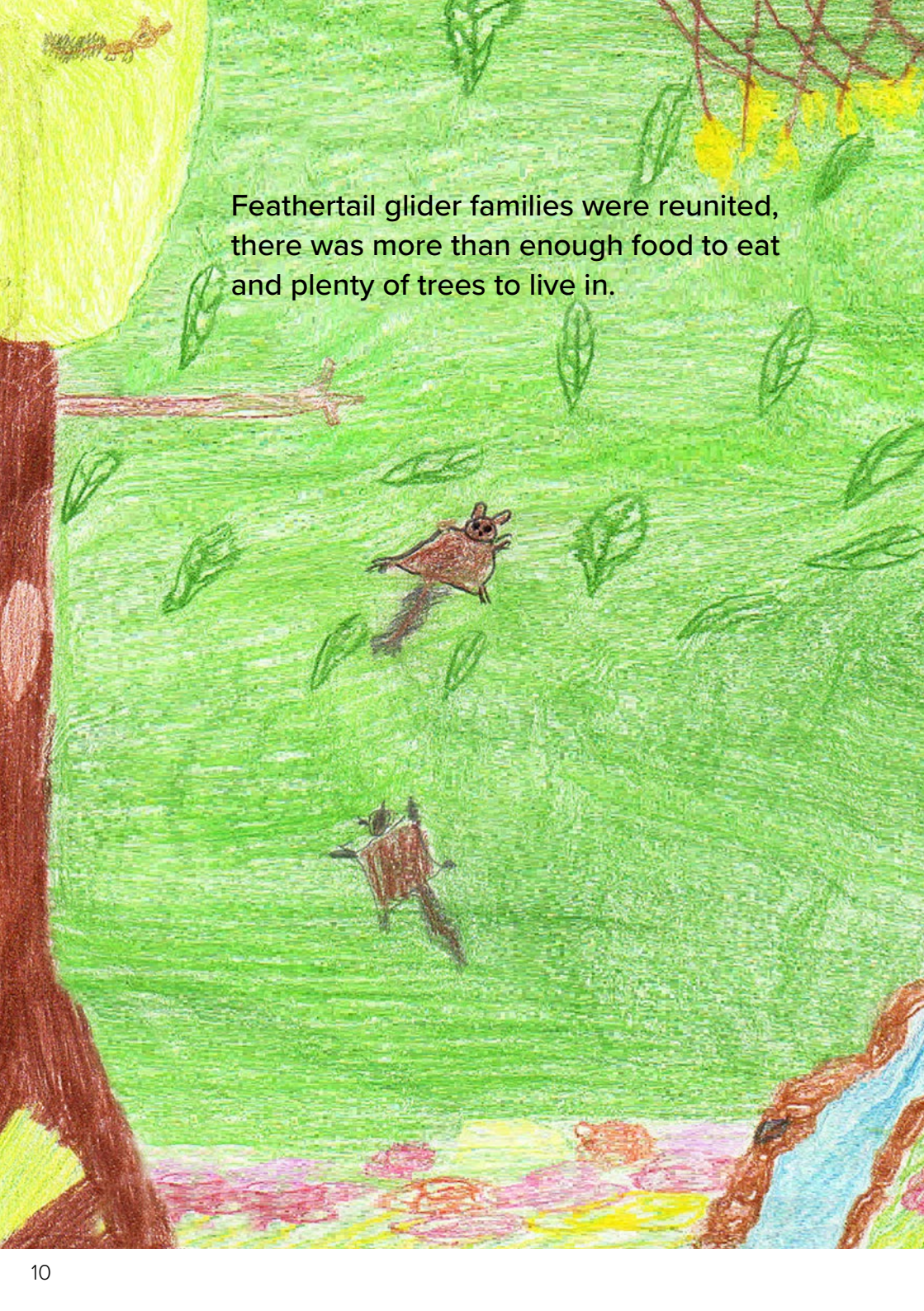
They raised awareness about needing to protect Feathertail glider habitat by telling their friends and the rest of the community about them.



As the word about Feathertail gliders started to spread, people started to change their behaviour by not clearing trees and controlling both feral animals and their pets.

Once again the trees began to grow taller and the bushland slowly came back.





Feathertail glider families were reunited,  
there was more than enough food to eat  
and plenty of trees to live in.



Everything was green again!

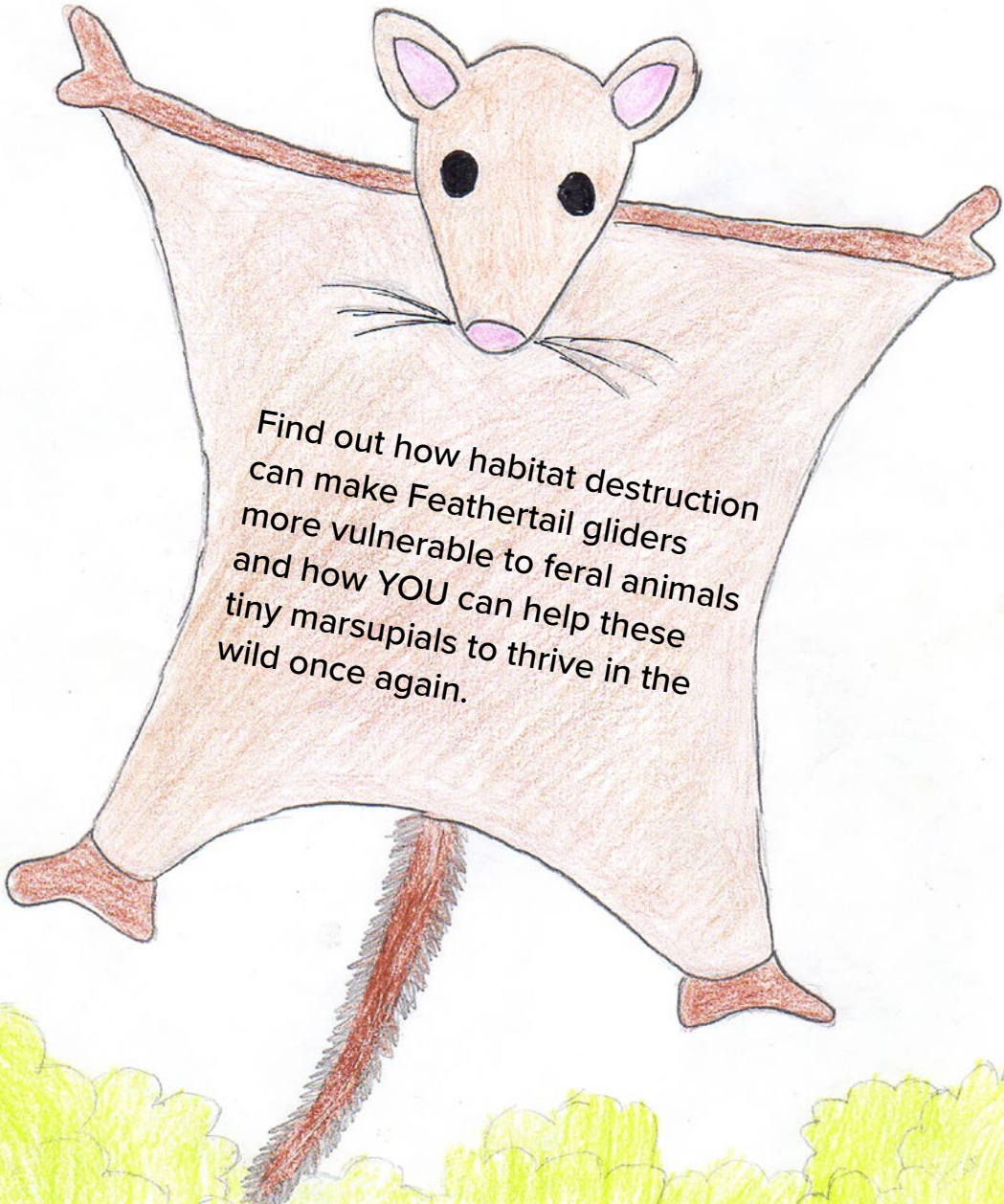
# THE FATE OF THE *Feathertail Gliders*



By Paige Fenton, Grace Montague, Francesca  
Kinkade, Gabriel Cross and Luc Debien.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Narrabeen

Feathertail gliders, the world's smallest gliding mammals are under threat. Their homes have been lost and feral animals hunt them.



Find out how habitat destruction  
can make Feathertail gliders  
more vulnerable to feral animals  
and how YOU can help these  
tiny marsupials to thrive in the  
wild once again.



Feral animals are a major threat to Feathertail gliders.

A feral animal is an animal living in the wild that doesn't naturally belong in the area. Feral animals are usually descended from domestic stock or pets that have escaped; or other animals that have been introduced for purposes like hunting. Feral animals are sometimes called 'introduced' animals.





## Common Feral Animals

Feral animals can cause native species to become extinct.

The main two feral animals who prey on Feathertail gliders are foxes and cats. These ferocious foxes and crafty cats are dangerous predators as they have sharp teeth and claws, and excellent senses of smell, hearing and sight to find the tiny gliders.

Worse still, near cities and towns, people's pets are a large part of the problem. Uncontrolled pet cats and dogs can also prey on the vulnerable Feathertail glider.

Did you know that your pets can be feral animals and hurt our native wildlife?



So what can we do to stop feral and pet animals hurting Feathertail gliders?

1. Help raise awareness that there are precious native animals like Feathertail gliders in your area.
2. Don't leave pet food outside as it can attract both feral and native animals to your house.

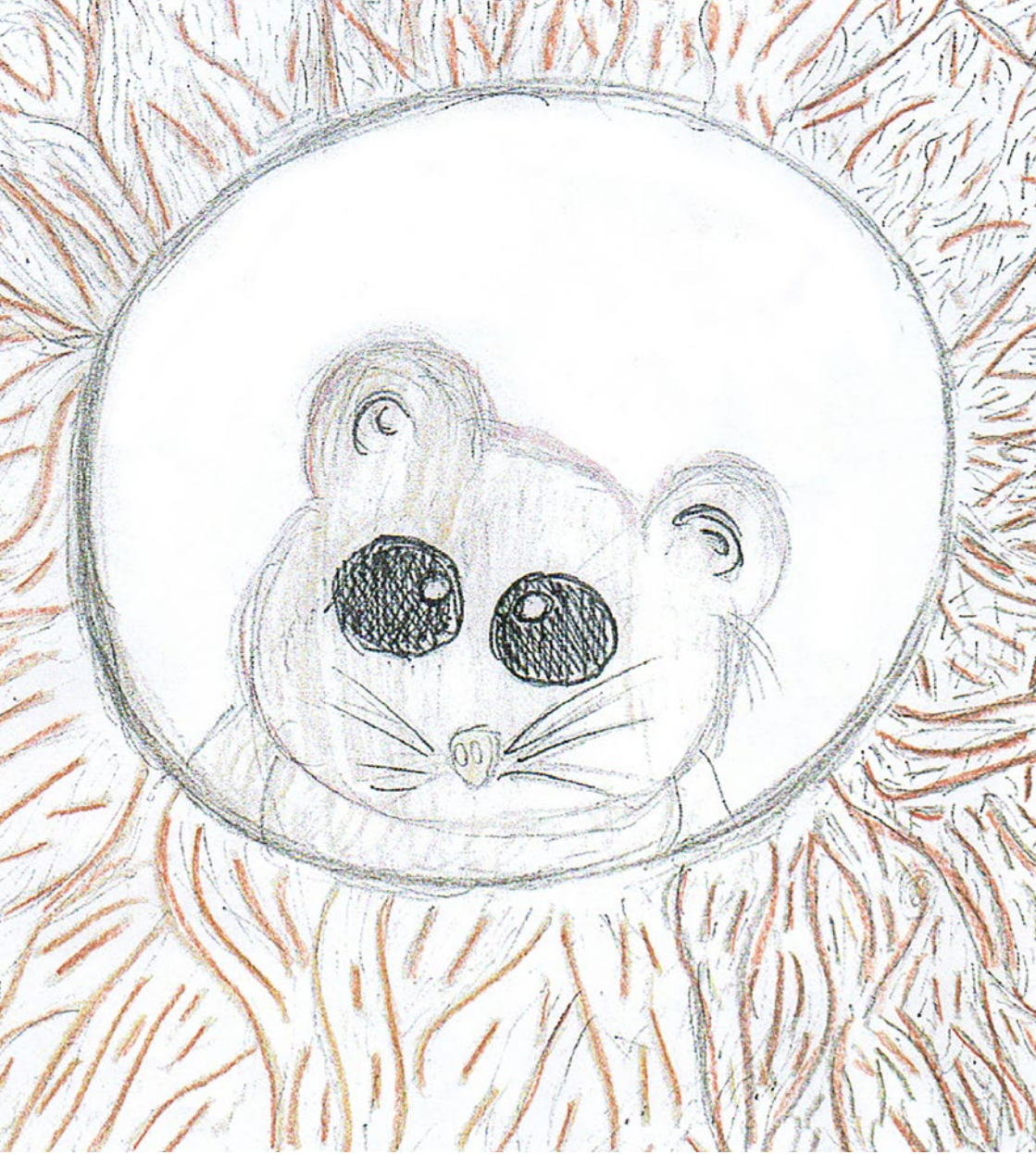




3. Keep your pets inside at night so they don't prey on native animals (most hunting is done at night).
4. Keep your pets on leashes when walking them so they can't chase native animals.



5. Put a bell on your pet, so our native animals can hear when predators are coming.
6. Join a local Landcare or nature conservation group that helps native species by protecting their habitat.



Lets all help save the Feathertail glider.

*Together we can make a difference.*





ABOVE: Georgie Geftakis, Faith Buckner, Charlotte Fisk, Charlie Brown, Sarah Dreyer and Imogen Mellor with mentors Sophie Holmes, Hannah Lambert and Tara Neasmith. Maria Regina Catholic Primary School, Avalon Beach. Year 3 2017.

BELOW: Paige Fenton, Grace Montague, Francesca Kinkade, Gabriel Cross and Luc Debien. St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Narrabeen. Year 5-6 2017.



*Who's living in your backyard?*