

HYDRO AND LILY SAVE BUSSELTON'S WATER



This book was specially crafted to celebrate National Water Week, an annual awareness week held to promote the protection of water as a precious resource across Australia.

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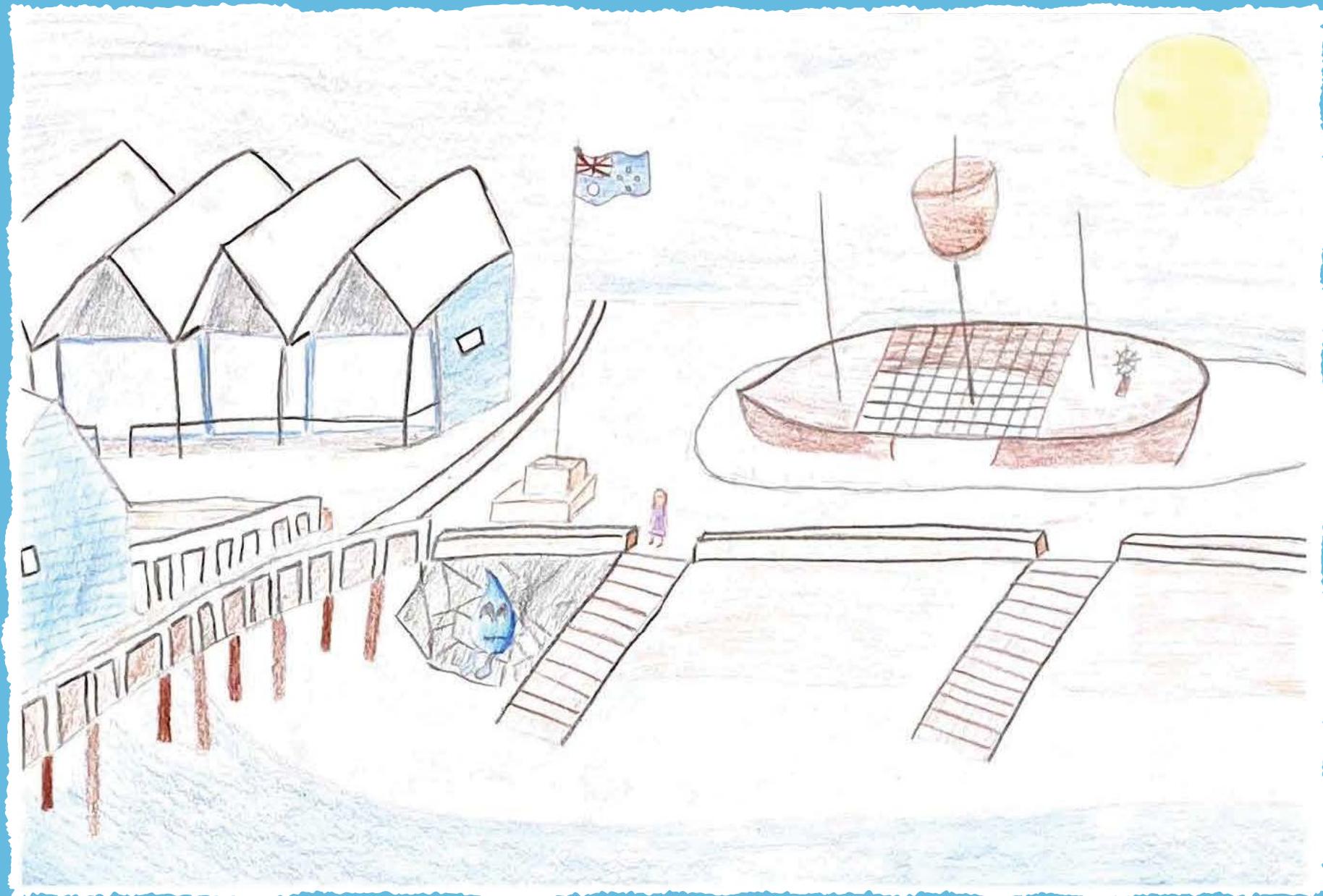
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Written by Busselton Water

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One spring day, the sun was shining bright, with the warm rays sparkling across the Indian Ocean.

A group of friends were at the Busselton Foreshore Park playing together on the big pirate ship, imagining they were shipwrecked.

With the telescope, Lily was on the lookout for other pirates when she noticed Hydro, sitting on one of the rocks, staring out towards the Jetty.

Lily wondered why Hydro wasn't playing with his friends and joining in the fun. He was usually a very happy and friendly water drop, but not today.

“What’s up Hydro? You don’t seem your normal self?” yelled Lily as she treaded through the deep warm sand around the pirate ship.

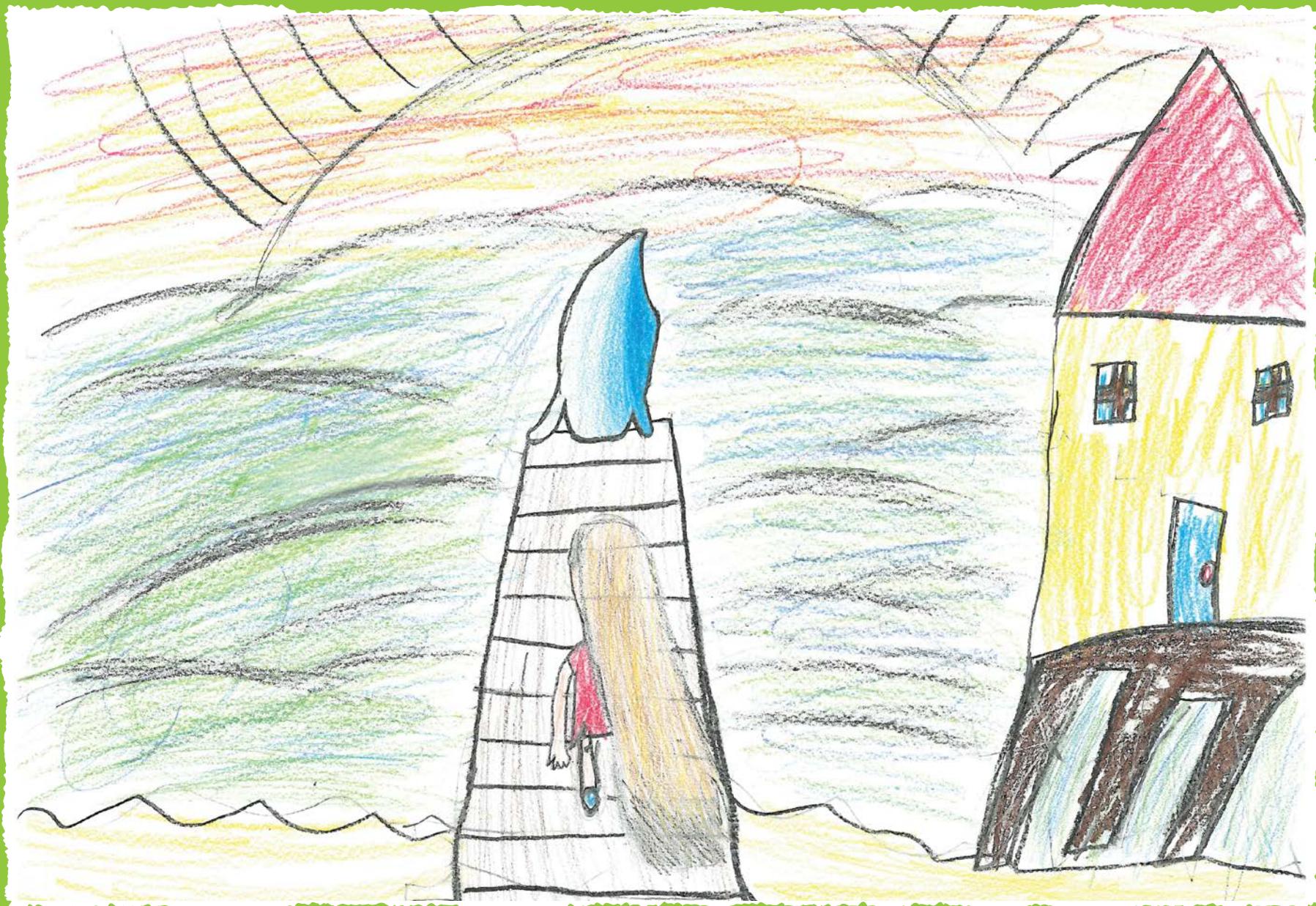
“I’m a bit worried Lily and I’m not sure what to do,” replied Hydro as he looked down at his blue feet.

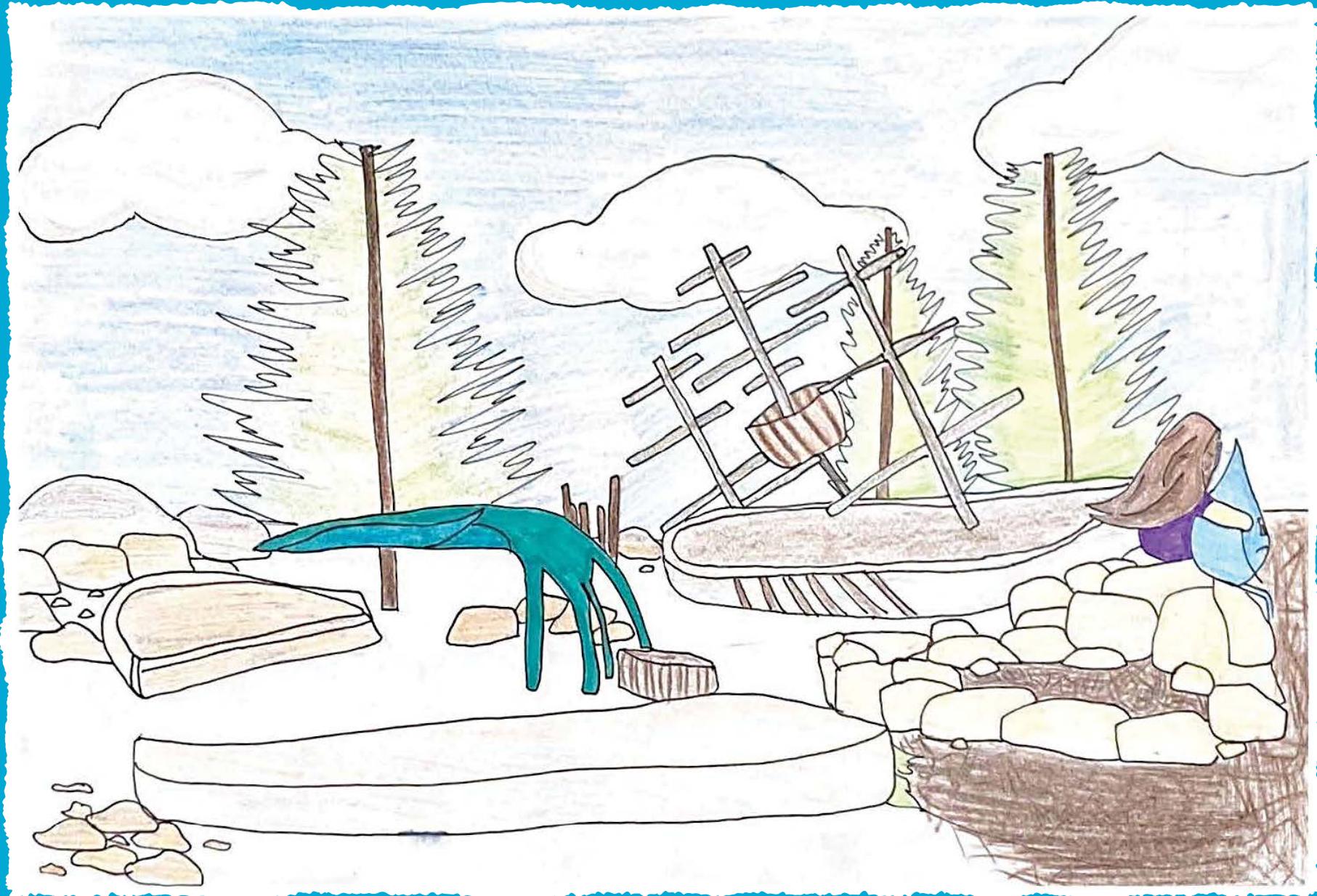
“What are you so worried about Hydro? Maybe I can help!” Lily said as she came and sat next to Hydro.

“I don’t know if you can Lily but let me explain. Where I come from, the Yarragadee, it has been around for thousands of years... even dating back to the dinosaur age! For all that time it’s been full of water, little and big drops just like me – and that’s the water we use here in Busselton. But the supply of new little drops is starting to disappear. My home’s starting to disappear. And no one really cares,” Hydro explained as tears filled his eyes.

“What do you mean disappear? Where is it going?” asked Lily in shock. She couldn’t understand what Hydro was saying.

“Well the water comes from the Yarragadee, which is deep down in the ground, to the taps in our homes here in Busselton. It normally refills with water from the new little rain drops from the sky, but that doesn’t happen as much anymore,” explained Hydro.





Lily could see this was a big problem to solve. She gave Hydro a hug and whispered, “We’ll find a way to make sure your home doesn’t disappear, don’t worry.”

As Hydro and Lily were sitting on the rocks, with the sea breeze blowing through Lily’s long brown hair, thinking about how to save Hydro’s home, Lily had a thought. “Why don’t we go and ask Ms Banks! She always knows what to do!”

The pair walked from the beach down Geographe Bay Road to Ms Banks' house. When they got to her bright red front door, they reached up to the doorbell which sung 'ding-a-ling-ding'.

"Hello, what can I do for you?" Ms Banks chirpily sung as she opened the door to see little Lily and Hydro the water drop standing on her doorstep.

"We're trying to find a way to make sure the water doesn't disappear from Hydro's home in the Yarragadee. Can you help?" asked Lily.





"I know all about the Yarragadee – that's where our water comes from. It is called an aquifer and sits hundreds of metres below ground. It is the major freshwater resource for the south west of Western Australia!" Ms Banks recited as she invited the pair in for a cold glass of water from her fridge.

"Yes, that's the one Ms Banks! That's where I came from" Hydro excitedly replied.

"So how does water get into the aquifer?" asked Lily.

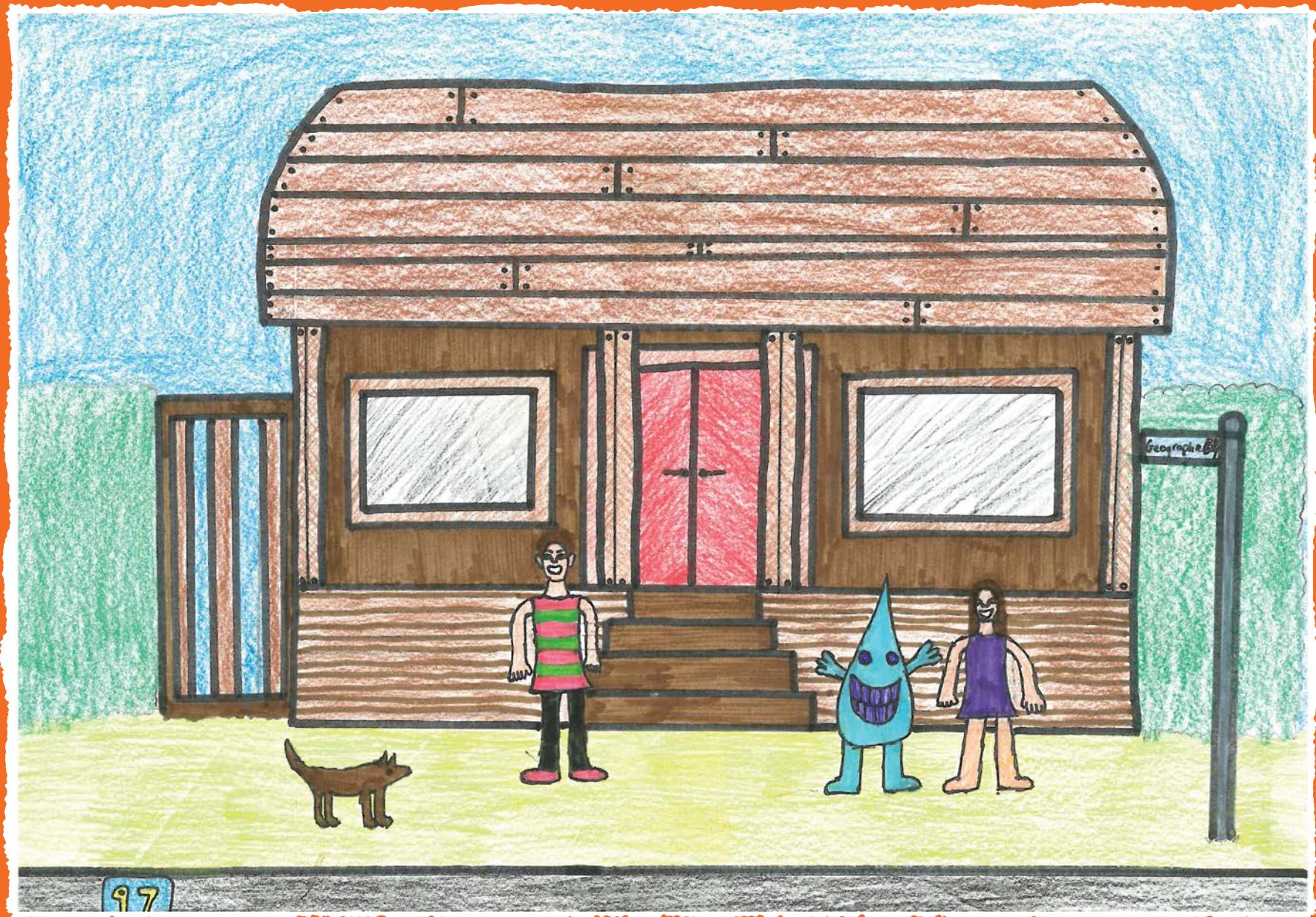
"Well my dear, when it rains, the water eventually trickles down through the rocks in the ground and makes its way into the aquifer. We like to call it groundwater replenishment," explained Ms Banks.

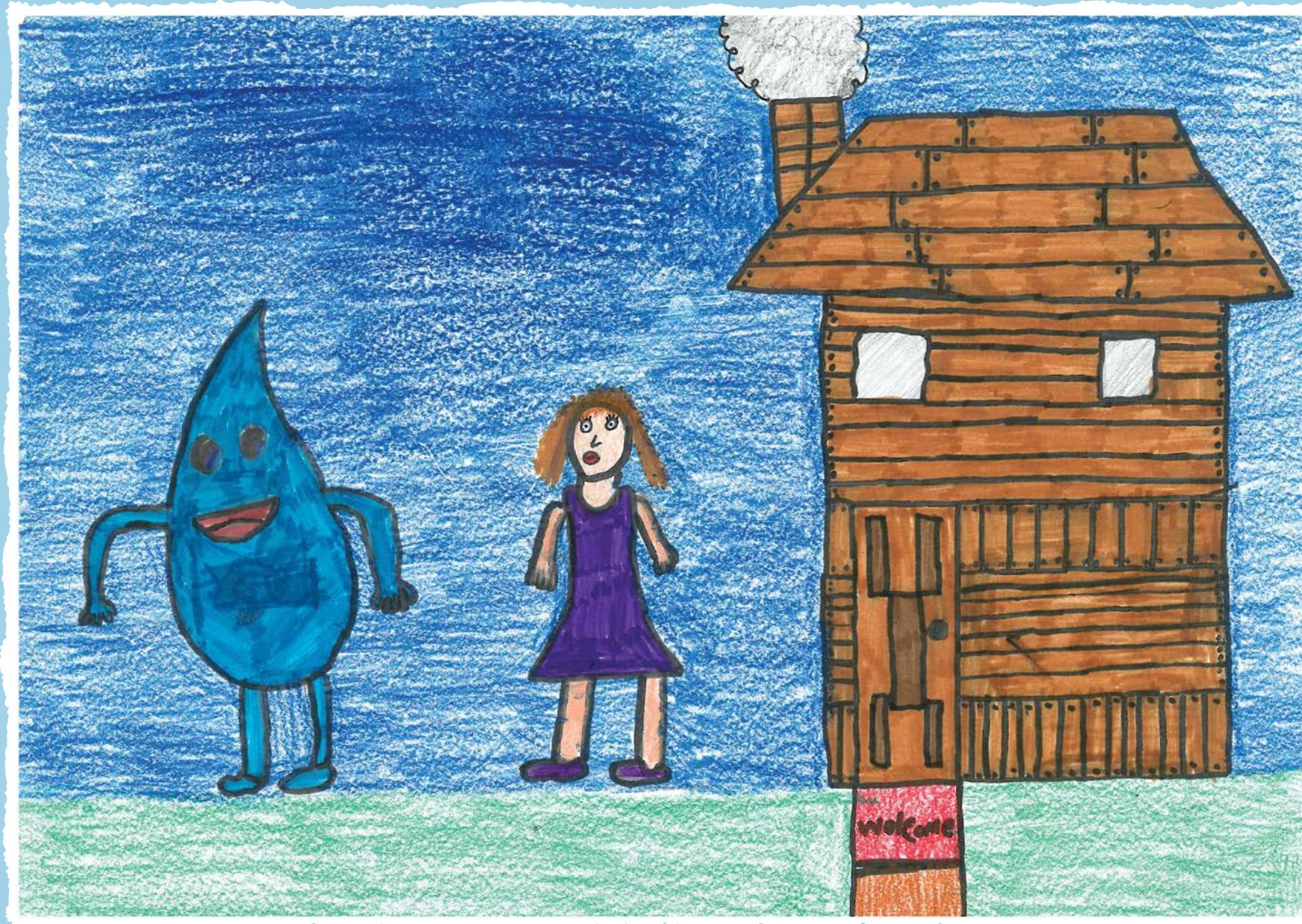
“So how do we stop the water from disappearing Ms Banks?” Lily questioned.

“That’s a good question Lily, but the answer is a little complicated I’m afraid. Have you heard about climate change?” Ms Banks asked Lily and Hydro.

“No,” they said together.

“Well, scientists have found over the past 50 to 100 years that the Earth is getting warmer. You may think this a good thing because we love summer, especially here in Busselton when we have lots of people come and visit our beautiful town, but it’s actually a bit worrying, especially for the Yarragadee” said Ms Banks.





“Why does climate change affect the Yarragadee?” asked Hydro.

“Well Hydro, the hotter it gets and the less it rains, means the less water that goes back into our groundwater,” explained Ms Banks.

“So, if there’s not as much water going back into the Yarragadee, we need to be more careful of how we use the water we have?” Lily added.

“Yes, that’s right – and I have heard Mr Everett has some good ideas about how we can stop the rest of the water from disappearing,” said Ms Banks.

Hydro and Lily thanked Ms Banks for her wise words and the glass of refreshing water before heading further down the street to Mr Everett’s house.

Lily and Hydro saw Mr Everett sitting in his front garden, watching the birds. Mr Everett was known around town for his glorious garden. It was the best garden on the street!

“Mr Everett, Mr Everett, Mr Everett!” Lily yelled, which caught his attention. Mr Everett waved them into his front garden where he was rescuing a caterpillar which had been caught in a spider’s web.

“Have you seen how well my waterwise garden is growing?” Mr Everett asked.

“What do you mean by waterwise garden?” asked Hydro.

“Well Hydro, I’ve chosen which plants are in my garden very carefully and filled it with native plants that do not need much water to grow. The birds love it!” said Mr Everett.





“Mr Everett, we thought you might be a good person to ask about saving water,” said Lily.

“The Yarragadee, where Hydro comes from, has been made different by climate change and we’re trying to prevent all the water from disappearing!” she added.

“Well that’s easy Lily, we just all need to do our bit to reduce our own water use!” said Mr Everett.

“Wait, it’s as simple as that?” asked Hydro. “Yes Hydro, it’s as simple as that,” Mr Everett said.

Mr Everett gave Lily and Hydro a list of some good waterwise ideas to save water:

“Only stay in the shower for a short time – around two minutes.”

“Ask your parents to fix any dripping taps in your house.”

“While you’re brushing your teeth, turn the tap off.”

“When you are washing the dog, do it in the bath instead of with a hose.”

“Check around your house for leaks – they can be some of the biggest water wasters!”

Hydro and Lily looked at each other as their faces lit up with excitement. “So, if everyone learns to save water in their house, then it will help to save the water in Yarragadee!”

The pair jumped with joy as they ran down the path from Mr Everett’s yelling
“Thanks Mr Everett!”





Hydro and Lily made their way back to the Foreshore, where their friends were playing on the orange Octopus with metal legs.

They gathered everyone together and told them all about their adventures visiting Ms Banks and Mr Everett.

As Hydro was telling his friends about how Mr Everett saves water around his house, Lily had an idea.

“What if, together, we become water warriors? We can tell everyone how they can save water – first our families, and then our neighbours and friends. We can even tell our teacher, Mrs Peters, so our school can save water too!”

“Don’t worry Hydro, we’re all in this together and we can save your home!” said Lily.

At school the next day, Mrs Peters was waiting for everyone to come into class so she could begin their HASS lesson. She was suddenly swarmed by students including Hydro, Lily and their friends, all yelling and shouting about how they want to become water warriors.

“Slow down, slow down... one at a time!” Mrs Peters exclaimed.

Lily took the lead. “Hydro’s home, the Yarragadee, it’s disappearing. Ms Banks said it’s because of climate change and Mr Everett said we can help by saving water. We want to save water together and help other people save water, too!”





Mrs Peters agreed to help and they soon became the Water Warriors, a group of active school students who spent their afternoons and spare time helping people in Busselton learn about how important it is to save water.

They drew big colourful posters with waterwise tips and put information in everyone's letterboxes. They knocked on their neighbours doors and talked to all of the local businesses about how to save water.

Hydro was overjoyed to see all his friends had helped to make sure that Busselton's precious water was not wasted. He was especially grateful to his best friend, Lily.

"Thank you for all of your help Lily – the Yarragadee is sure to be safe for now. You are a wonderful friend," said Hydro.

Together they had saved the Yarragadee!

The end.



Groundwater. Most of Busselton's groundwater comes from the Yarragadee aquifer which is a major freshwater resource for the south west of Western Australia. It runs beneath the Swan Coastal Plain west of the Darling Scarp, from Geraldton to the south coast. The aquifer is situated hundreds of metres below ground and is around one kilometre deep.

The groundwater aquifers are replenished by rainfall and our drying climate means we need to monitor them carefully to protect our future reserves and make sure that salt water from the ocean doesn't find its way in.

You can help us save our groundwater by implementing these waterwise tips:

<https://www.busseltonwater.wa.gov.au/customers/waterwise-homes/water-saving-tips/>

Or alternatively, you could become a leak detective to reduce the amount of water wasted around your home or school through the Leak Detective Checklist on Busselton Water's website.

For more information on groundwater visit [busseltonwater.wa.gov.au](https://www.busseltonwater.wa.gov.au)



In the fight to save the water in the Yarragadee aquifer, which is Hydro's home, Lily and Hydro adventure across Busselton to learn about climate change and how to save water, before teaching everyone around them to save water in order to save Hydro's home! But can they do enough to stop the water from disappearing?

Find out more inside!

