

Luna the Stay-At-Home Cat



Molonglo Conservation Group

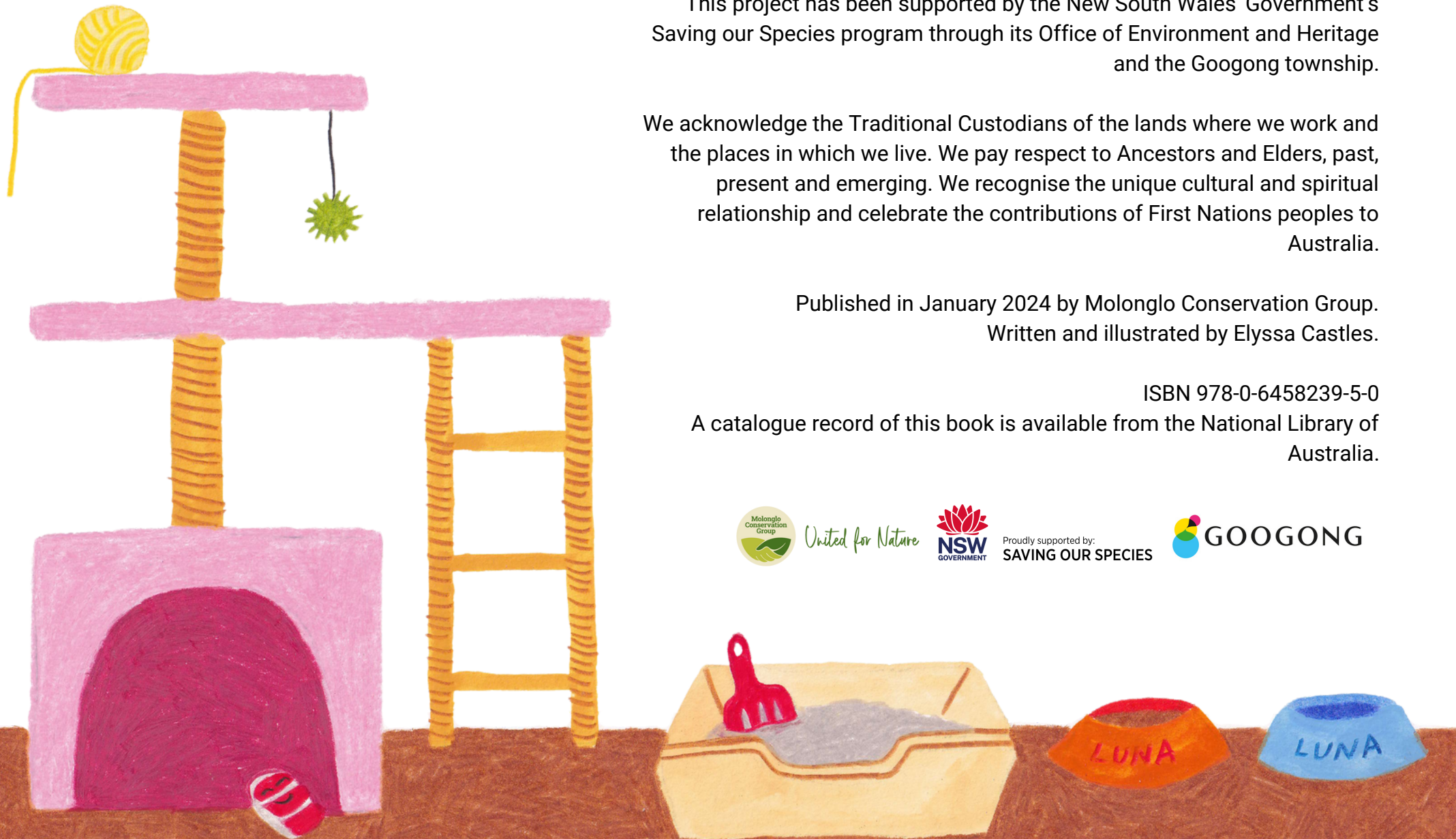
This project has been supported by the New South Wales' Government's Saving our Species program through its Office of Environment and Heritage and the Googong township.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and the places in which we live. We pay respect to Ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples to Australia.

Published in January 2024 by Molonglo Conservation Group.
Written and illustrated by Elyssa Castles.

ISBN 978-0-6458239-5-0

A catalogue record of this book is available from the National Library of Australia.



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Part One: Gift Giving



These are Luna's favourite things.
Every day, a gift she brings.



She searches hard for things to find
to give as gifts, oh how kind!



Except her plan has just one flaw...
her human doesn't want anymore.



It is getting much too hard
to dig more holes in the backyard.



They fear more will pay the price.
The time has come to seek advice.



Neighbours, farmers and the vet
say some boundaries must be set.



The solution becomes clear to decide-
it is best if Luna stays inside.



Luna adapts, as most cats do.
There are treasures in her home too!



Now her gifts make them happy,
while leaving the wildlife safely be.



These are Luna's favourite things.
Every day, a gift she brings.



Part Two: Enrichment



Luna jumps on the laundry pile
and nibbles on the chair a while.



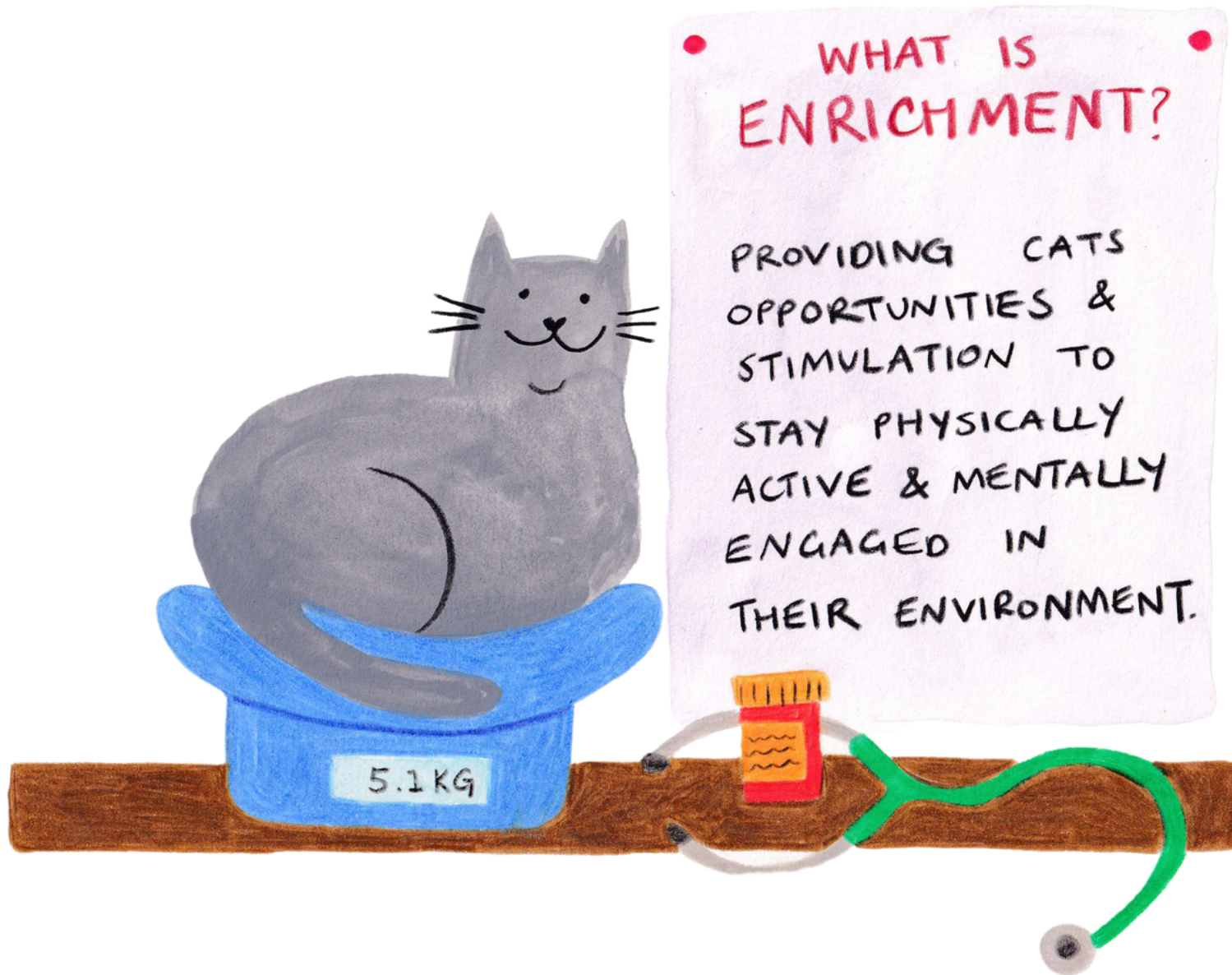
"Cheeky Luna!" Her human shrieks.
"I'll be cleaning this mess for weeks!"



They ask the vet what can be done.
It turns out Luna just needs some fun!



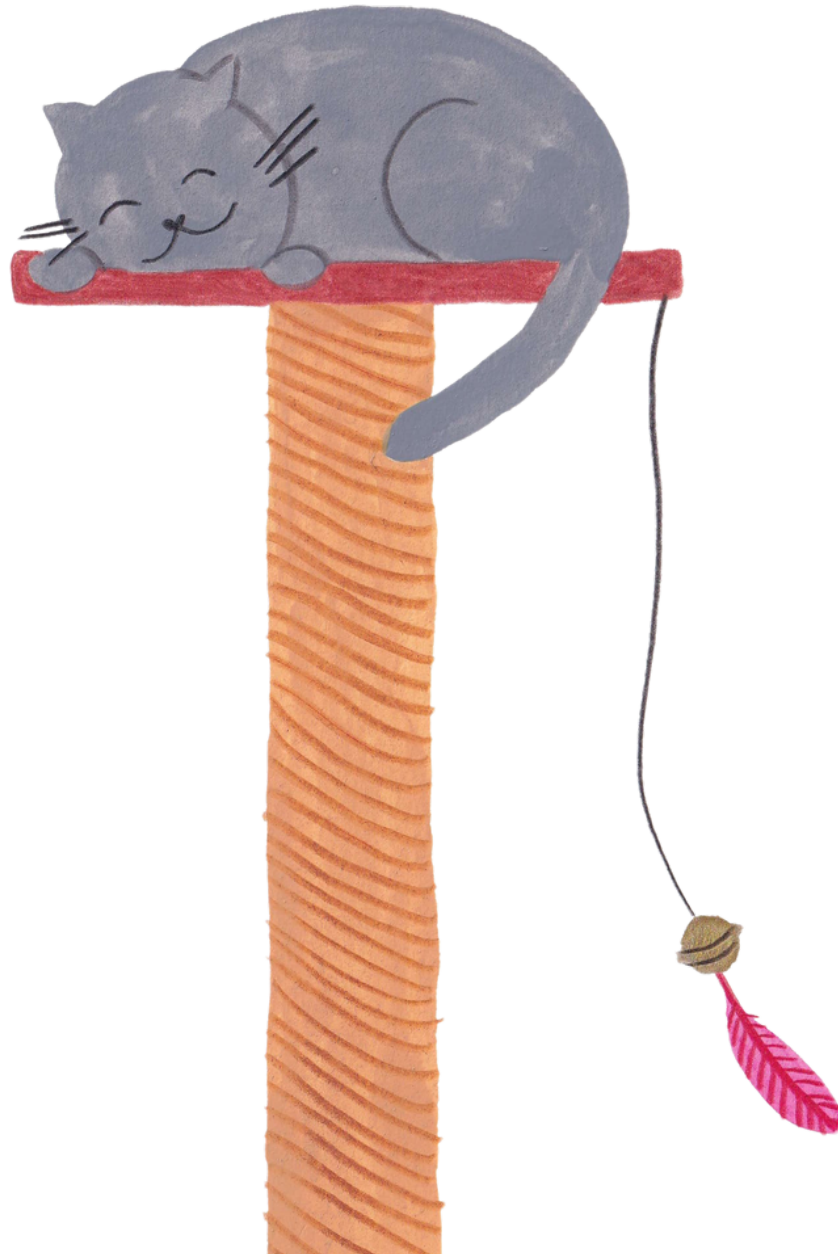
"It's called enrichment," says the vet.
"Cats need stimulus, don't forget."



Luna gets bored, that's all there is to it.
They make a routine that helps her get through it.



Some perches high for her to lay,
some jingly toys for her to play.



For her to scratch, they find a rug
and boxes to hide in, nice and snug.



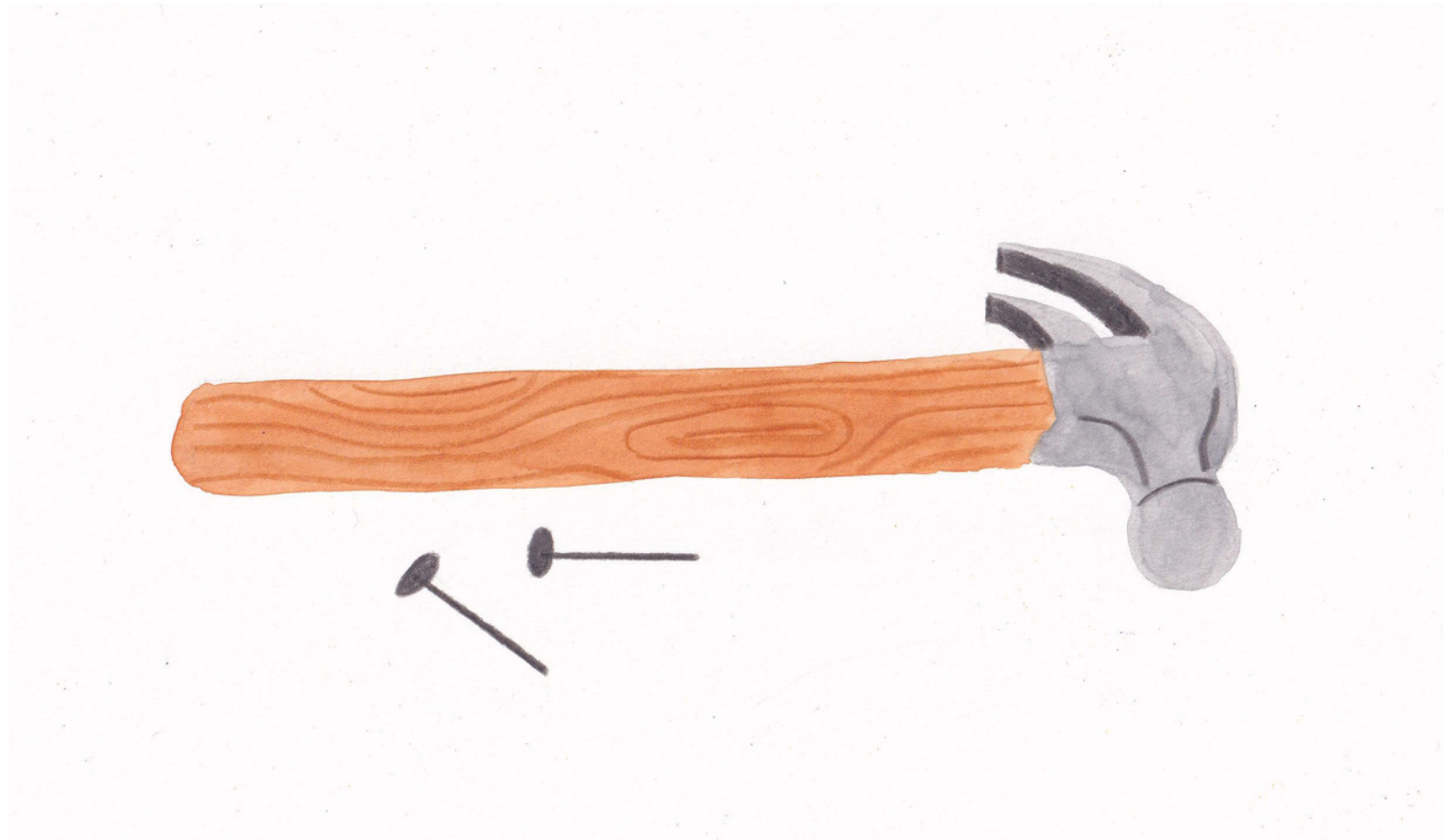
Some string to chase and some treats to chew,
now there is so much for Luna to do.



Busy with fun, Luna's behaviour switched,
with her home now structured to feel enriched.



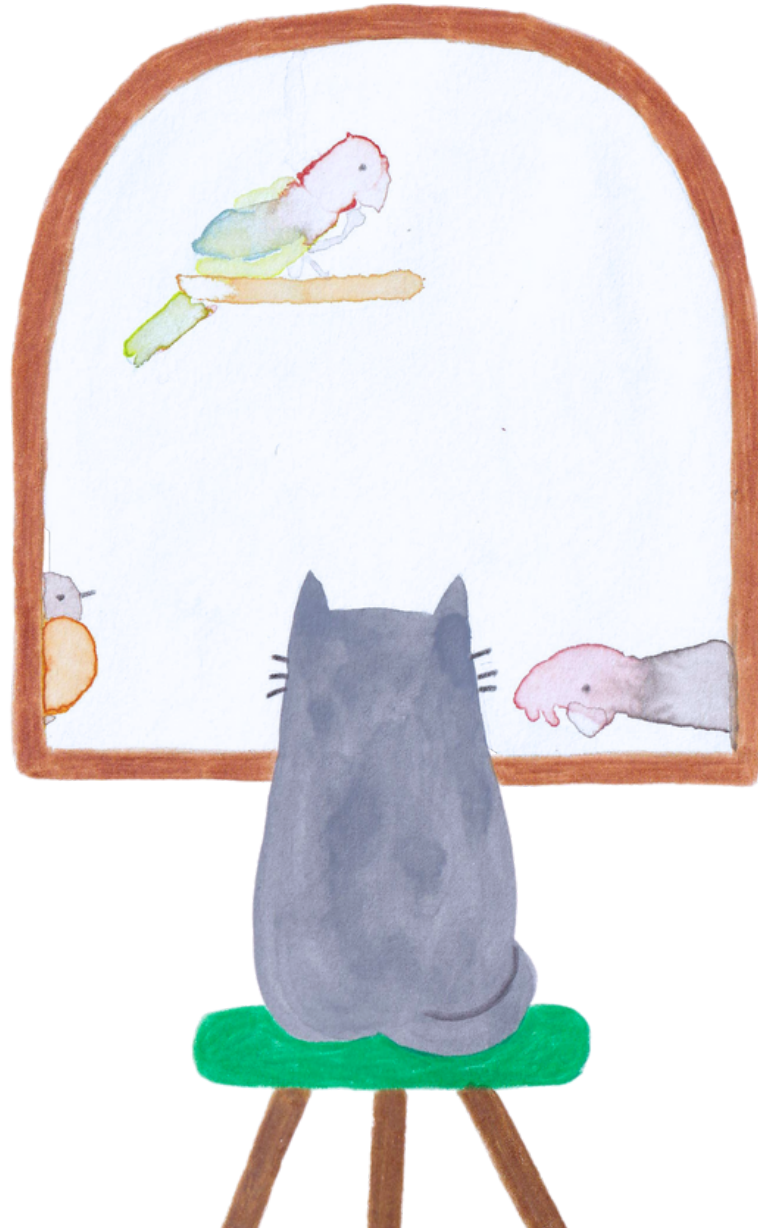
Part Three: Catio



Luna sits behind the glass
to watch the birds play in the grass.



She can't quite see or smell or hear,
they're further than they first appear.



Luna feels so out of place.
They decide she needs an outdoor space.



An area to sniff and hear and smell,
while keeping the wildlife safe as well.



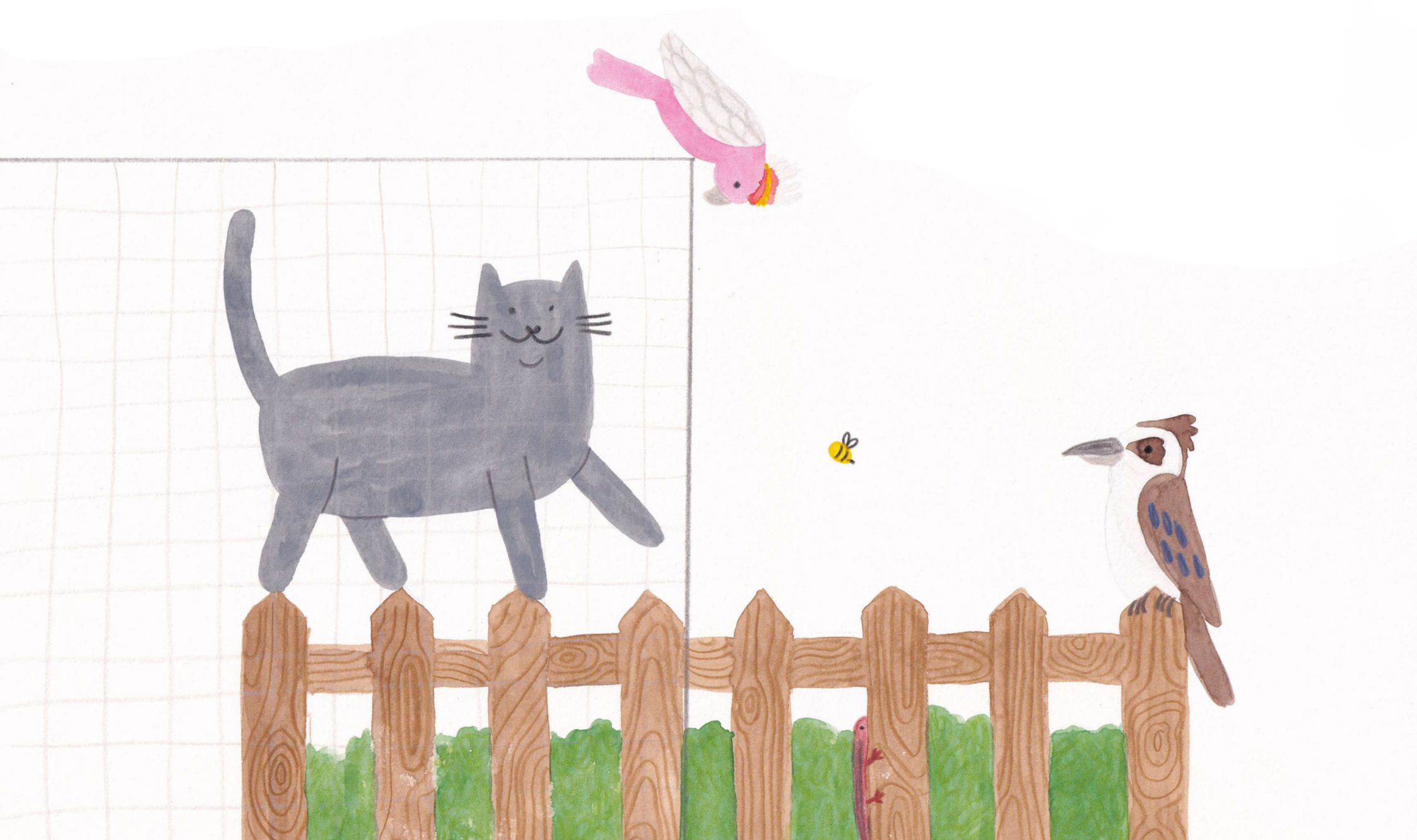
To make it safe they'll need to get shelves and rope and posts and net.



They gather tools and start to build.
Luna watches over, thrilled!



Net keeps Luna in and wildlife out,
with ample freedom to roam about.



Luna likes perches at various heights,
where she can see all the garden sights.



Some nooks to hide in and a spot for her food,
the enclosure is sure to boost her mood.



Inside Luna has so much to do,
but she loves spending time outside too.



Part Four: Walks



Luna loves her home, all her needs are cared for,
but she's a lot lazier than she was before.



Whether through age or a change in routine,
Luna is the plumpest she has ever been.



The vet says Luna needs exercise,
endlessly resting would be unwise.



Her human wonders if it will do Luna good to go for a walk in their quiet neighbourhood.



To attach a lead, a harness works best.
Luna tries one on, wrapping it snug on her chest.



Feeling nervous at first, Luna is unsure,
but with practice and patience she grows more secure.



Luna is excited now to go for a stroll.
Her human stays close behind, always in control.



There are so many new things to smell and to see-
A rock, a leaf, a letter box, a tree.



There are dangers around- a dog, a car, a cat.
Luna feels safe, her human makes sure of that.



Eager to break her lazy habit,
walking keeps Luna active and fit.



What is Cat Containment?

Cat containment prevents pet cats from roaming outside of their home or property at any time. Containment can be in the form of totally indoors, indoors with an outdoor enclosure and indoors with an outdoor space enclosed in escape-proof netting. Many cat owners practicing containment also walk their cats on a lead to increase health benefits. Cats can live fulfilled and enriched lives contained in their home as long as their basic needs are met. All cats require food, water, resting and hiding areas, toileting areas and something to scratch. Cats need and enjoy engaging in natural behaviours like chasing, stalking and pouncing, all of which can be done inside with the substitution of toys, activities and mental and physical stimulation.

What are the risks of Free Roaming?



Cats are popular pets and valuable companions however they are also efficient predators and pose a significant threat to our wildlife. Australian research has shown that a single free-roaming domestic cat can kill 75 animals every year on average. Across Australia, millions of animals are killed every year by free-roaming domestic cats. As obligate carnivores, cats have a natural instinct to hunt prey species including birds, reptiles and small mammals even if they are well fed at home. Research also shows that contained cats live longer and healthier lives than those permitted to roam. Roaming cats are four times more likely to be exposed to disease, injury and premature death.

Find out more

- RSPCA Keeping your Cat Safe and Happy at Home- www.sahc.rspca.org.au
- RSPCA Knowledgebase- www.kb.rspca.org.au
- Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife- www.safecat.org.au
- Indoor Pet Initiative- www.indoorpet.osu.edu
- SoS Project Information and Additional Resources- www.molonglo.org.au

This project has been supported by the New South Wales' Government's Saving our Species program through its Office of Environment and Heritage and the Googong township.

This resource was put together by the Molonglo Conservation Group as part of a Landscape-Species Conservation project pertaining to *Aprasia parapulchella* conservation in the Googong-Burra region of New South Wales.

Aprasia parapulchella, commonly known as Pink-Tailed Worm-Lizards, can be vulnerable to predation. Despite spending most of their lives under ground, these reptiles travel across the surface to move between rocky outcrops. This resource was created in response to roaming domestic cats entering a sanctuary site for *Aprasia parapulchella* in the Googong township, prompting an opportunity for broader community education about cat containment.

For more information on the project visit www.molonglo.org.au



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Luna loves to see, smell and explore the world around her.

As a cat, Luna also likes chasing, catching and eating the local wildlife.

Luna's human learns about their responsibilities as a pet owner and finds ways to provide Luna with safe and enriching ways to do all the things she loves inside.

Follow along this four-part series to see how Luna adjusts to life as a Stay-At-Home Cat!