

## **Chooks in Dinner Suits: A Tale of Big Dogs and Little Penguins**

By Diane Jackson Hill & Illustrated by Craig Smith

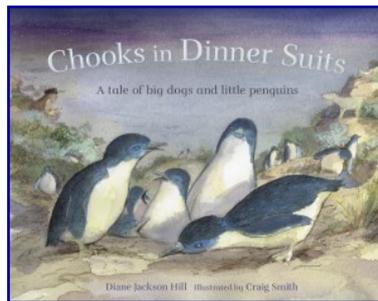
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On a tiny island lives a waddle of Little Penguins. But their numbers are dwindling. Swampy Marsh knows what to do, but no one will listen. Soon he can count the last few penguins on the fingers of one hand. The desperate townsfolk give Swampy, and his friends Max and Mimi, one chance. Will his solution work? Will Swampy save the Little Penguins of Middle Island?

A warmly funny account of one man's quest to save a penguin colony, with two very unusual helpers. This story is based on events that took place on Middle Island, Warrnambool and have become well known to the public. This true story, which features both human and animal heroes, has been written as a heartwarming tale by Diane Jackson Hill. Craig Smith's lively illustrations capture all the drama and humour of the predicament and the characters involved.



### **Themes:**

- Penguins
- Conservation
- Solutions
- Guard Dogs

### **Discussion Points:**

- Have you ever heard the term 'Chooks in Dinner Suits'? Why do you think penguins are called this?
- What do you know about Little Penguins? Have you ever seen one before? If so, where?
- How many other sorts of penguins are there?
- How did Swampy Marsh know that his dogs would guard the penguins?
- What sort of dogs were they?
- Why do you think the other people of the town were reluctant to believe Swampy about the foxes killing all the penguins?
- Why do you think they changed their mind?
- Why is it important to save endangered creatures?
- Swampy came up with an inventive solution to the problem. Have you ever come up with an inventive solution to a problem?

### **Activities:**

- Foxes came to Australia as an 'introduced species'. Do you know what this means? Conduct further research into other species that are not native to Australia and the impact, both good and bad, that they have had on Australia's natural environment and animals.
- Go to the website [www.warrnamboolpenguins.com.au](http://www.warrnamboolpenguins.com.au) to find out more about the penguins in this story.