

## **ELMO THE SNEAKY BED MATE: KAREN HENDRIKS**

Elmo our dog, is one of the smartest dogs in the whole wide world and knows that Picko loves dogs more than people. On this particular morning, when I was rushing around, packing my teaching things for the day, when Elmo had other plans. Why should he stay home alone when he had a place better to be? A place where he could be loved and play all day with other dogs.

So quick as a puppy wink, Elmo was off down the road without a care in the world. I searched high and low for the little sneak but alas he was nowhere to be seen. Unbeknown to me Elmo had darted across the road, past the church with the steeple and cruised on down to Little Park. There he had a sniff and pee and continued along the promenade down to Beverley Whitfield ocean pool. There the Shellharbour Dolphins were doing what they always do, swimming laps. Elmo sauntered past with a swish of his tail, a dog on a mission. Steve, called out from the pool, 'Elmo where are you going? Come here!' Elmo high tailed it out of there and detoured into the caravan park for a few pats before he cut through to the path along South Beach.

Meanwhile, I was frantically searching for the little fiend with no luck. Elmo trotted along past the houses on South Beach and stopped at the last house. He made his way to the front gate and waited. He knew that sooner or later the garage door would open. Bingo! Craig had opened the door and driven away. The door remained open. Elmo silently made his way into the garage and upstairs to inside the house. He sneakily made his way to the bedrooms. Not just any bedroom, but one in particular. The door was open and the very person he wanted to see was sleeping peacefully. With a jump, he wriggled his way under a soft arm, and curled up for a nice snuggly sleep.

Brrrrring! Brrrrring! 'Hey Picko, have you seen Elmo? I have to go to work, and I can't find him anywhere', I asked. 'No Karen, he's not here', said Picko as she silently patted a soft furry body. Her eyes opened and widened in total surprise, 'I thought I was patting Dolly, but Elmo's here in bed with me'.