

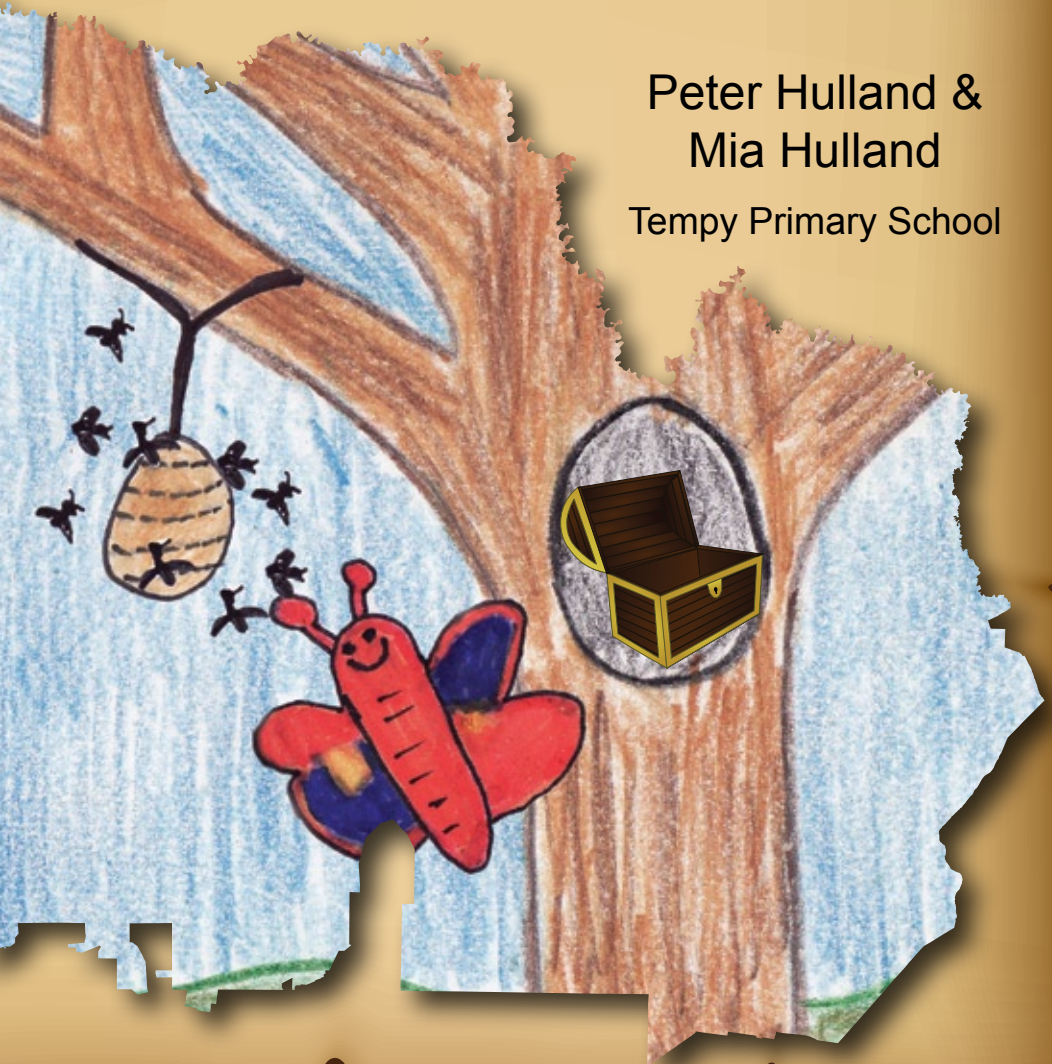
Mallee's Hidden Treasures



The Lost Butterfly

Peter Hulland &
Mia Hulland

Tempy Primary School





An Environmental Education and Community Engagement Program

Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.

www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2011, the Mallee Catchment Management Authority provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative program with their competition "Mallee's Hidden Treasures".

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The Mallee Catchment Management Authority sponsored the Enviro-Stories Education Program in 2011. "Mallee's Hidden Treasures" celebrates the unique biodiversity of the region, while raising awareness for its threatened species. It is important the youth of today learn about the natural environment so they can protect and preserve it for future generations.



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Once upon a time there was a beautiful butterfly named Mia. Mia was a happy butterfly that was always smiling. She loved to flutter around her Mallee home.

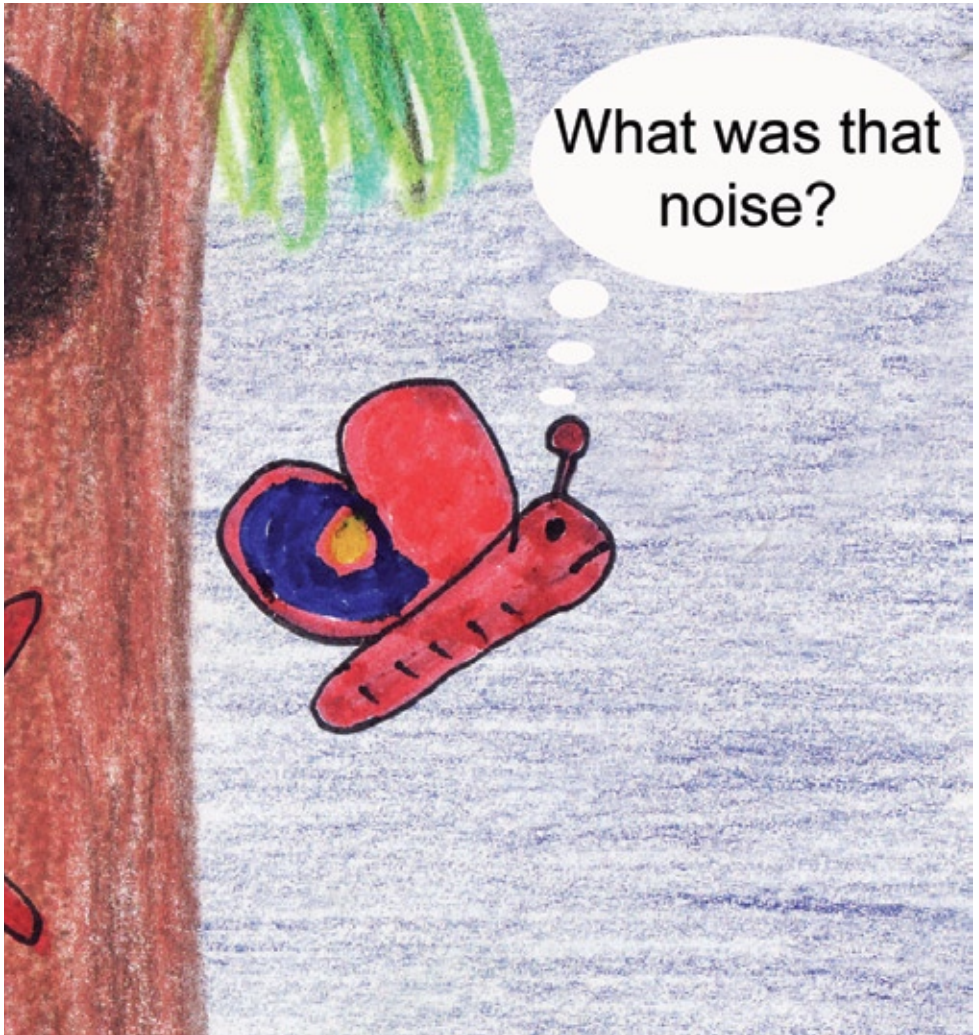


One day a huge storm rolled in. There was thunder and lightning and it was very frightening. Mia raced on the winds to make it home before the storm hit. As she made it to her tree home she noticed an unusual big red X mark on it.





She flew into her tree house and called for her pet Fur Ball. Fur Ball was a maggot that Mia kept to help eat away the mould that would grow in their home.



After the rain, Mia the butterfly flew outside to see if there was any storm damage.

All of a sudden she heard an enormous “crack”, then a “snap” and a tremendous “BOOM!”



The forest animals all gathered around as they wanted to know what had made the loud noises.

They scouted the surrounding area. The animals walked, flew, hopped and crawled searching for clues of whatever could have possibly made the noise.

What they found was very disturbing!



The animals found a number of trees that were all on the ground.

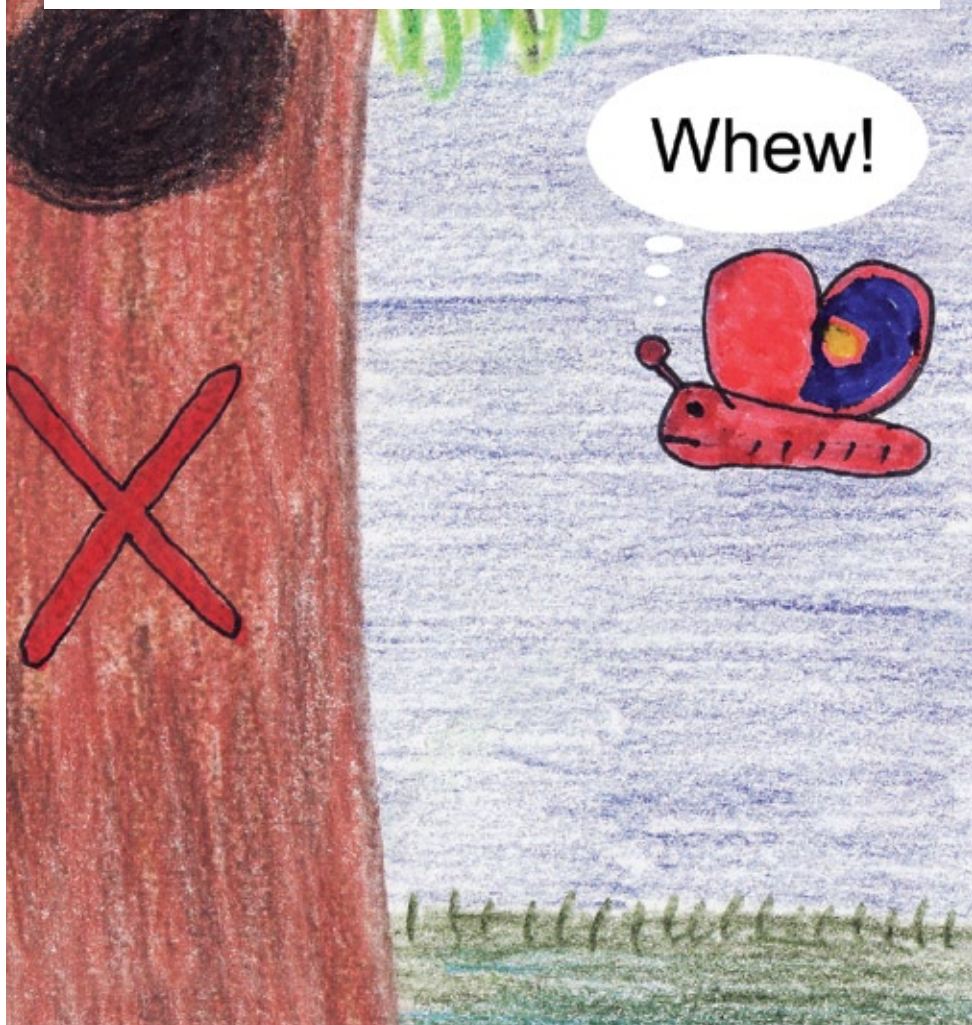
“These trees haven’t fallen over. They were deliberately cut down,” Oscar the wise old owl exclaimed.

One thing they noticed was that all of the fallen trees had big red X markings on them.

Suddenly Mia yelled, "Oh no! My tree has a red X mark on it too!"

She raced back to her house to see whether it too had been cut down.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief that the tree was still standing.



The animals all decided they would have to have a meeting to discuss who could have cut down the trees. These trees had been homes to all manner of creatures.

Rhianna the parrot shrilled a hauntingly sad song as one of the fallen trees had been her family home.



The meeting was very loud as all the animals talked at once. They talked and talked and nothing was being solved because they weren't listening to each other. Someone shouted, "The end of the world is coming."

Oscar, the wise old owl flew down and perched on a very big stump and shouted, "Enough! We are never going to solve what caused this if we can't listen to one another."





They were scared and had all panicked that they might lose their homes.

Everyone agreed that they had to work together. They decided that Peter the Major Mitchell Cockatoo was the best choice to be the detective who would help save the animals.

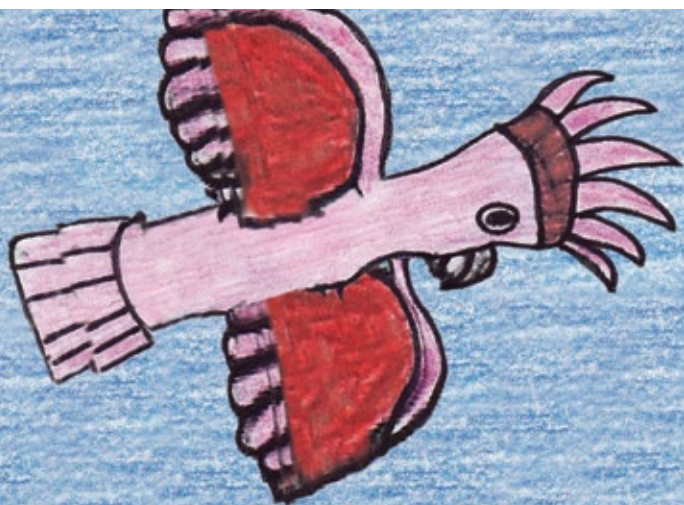


All the animals went home while Peter conducted his investigation.

Mia invited Rhianna to come and stay with her until she found a new home. She loved having friends over and was happy to help the parrot out.

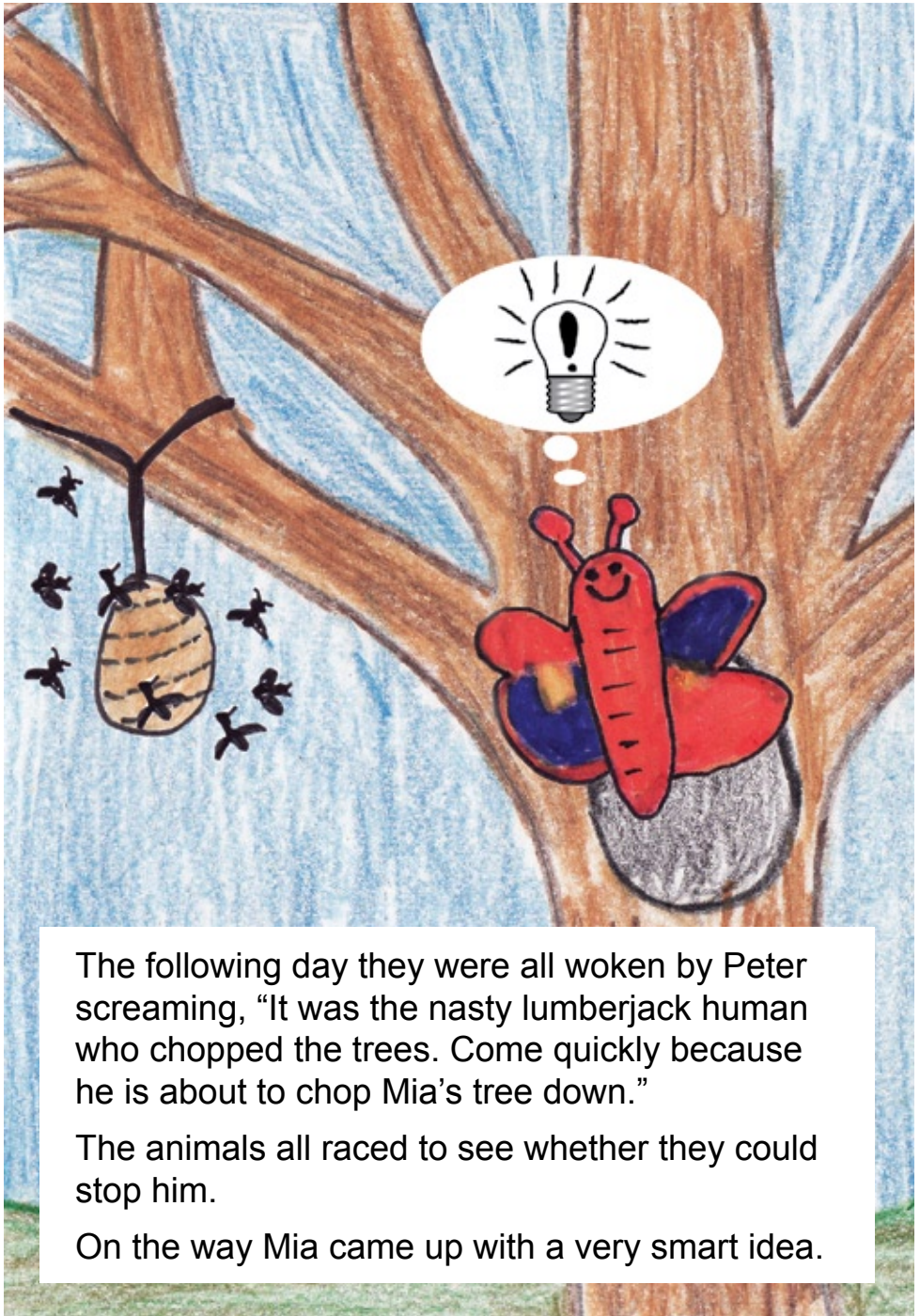
Peter went about his business trying to find the culprit who had cut the trees down.

He warned the animals that if they had a red mark on their tree then they would have to move out of their homes. He didn't want any more animals to be injured.





Mia was very upset that she would have to leave her home as well. She cried as she packed up all her things and moved to an overcrowded tree that did not have a big red X.



The following day they were all woken by Peter screaming, “It was the nasty lumberjack human who chopped the trees. Come quickly because he is about to chop Mia’s tree down.”

The animals all raced to see whether they could stop him.

On the way Mia came up with a very smart idea.



Mia, with Rhianna's help, swooped down and picked a wasp nest out of a tree. They flew to Mia's tree and dropped it straight on top of the lumberjack. The wasps went crazy and stung him all over.

The lumberjack ran to try and get away from the stinging wasps. He slipped and fell, rolling down the hill. He never returned.

The animals all celebrated and wiped the red X's off their remaining trees. They lived happily ever after.

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