



Kingston's Journey

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Wakool-Burraboi Public School





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



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

Kingston's Journey

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“Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program

In 2012, the Creative Catchment Kids program delivered the “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School. It was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Teys Australia, Wagga. Additional support came from the Wirraminna and Riverina Environmental Education Centres.



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One dark morning Kingston the Azure Kingfisher heard a strange noise. It was a noise he had never heard before.



He peered out of his nest.
Kingston saw murky brown water
quickly gushing towards his home.
Kingston fell out of his nest. SPLASH!



Kingston flapped furiously,
trying to avoid drowning.



As Kingston thought it
would be his last breath he
felt a bump from behind...

It was Callum the cod coming to the rescue.
Callum had seen the splashing in the water.

He said, "Need a ride mate?"

Kingston spat out a mouthful of water and gasped,
"Yes please."



Kingston clutched onto Callum's back.

Callum swam gently toward the bank; he floated closely in the shallows for Kingston to make his escape.



Kingston flopped on the bank in relief and went to higher ground.

With his last spurt of energy, Kingston called out to Callum and said, “Thanks for saving my life.”



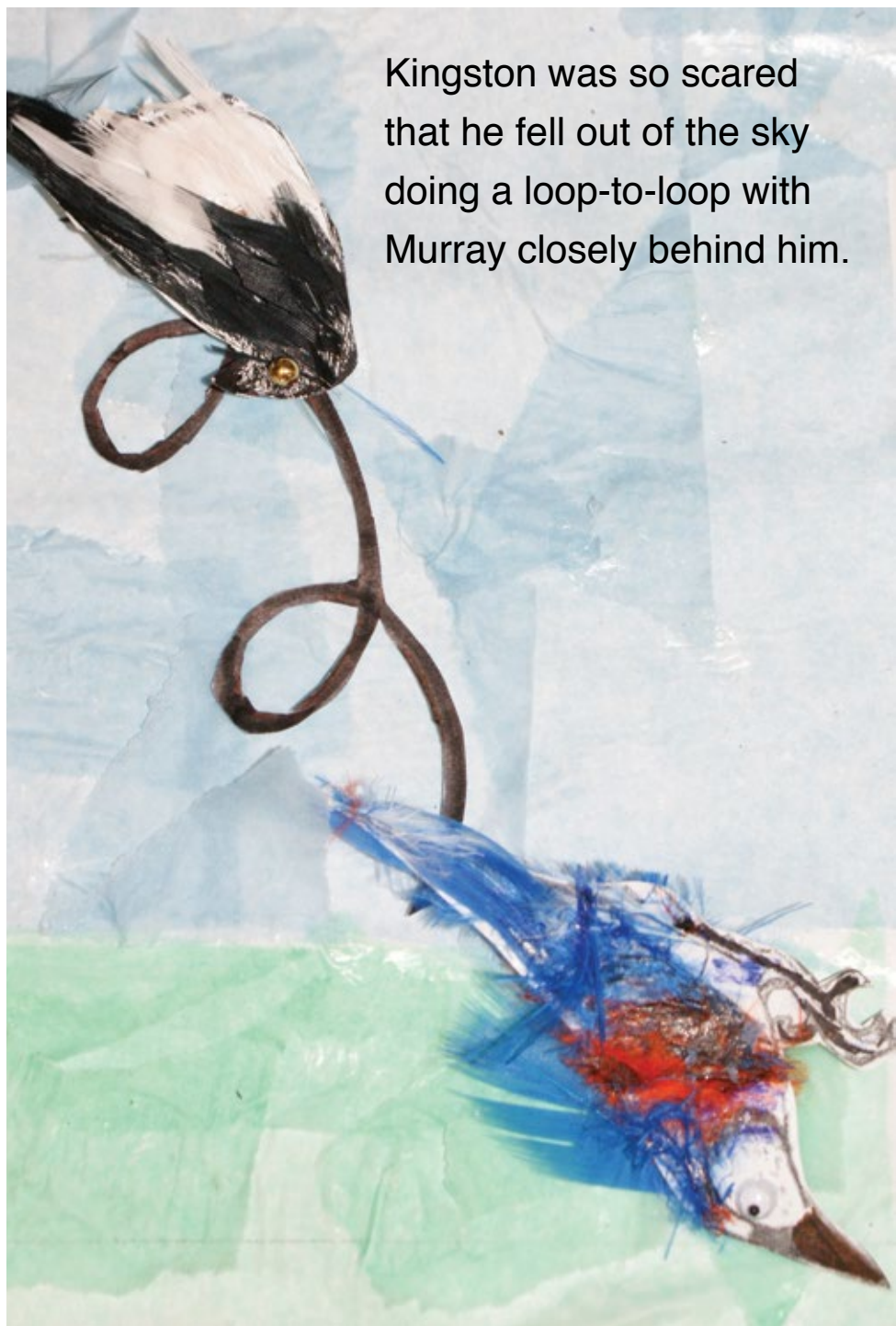
Kingston flew to the Wakool River to find a new home.



Kingston saw something darting
quicker than lightning at him.

“Get out of my territory,” squawked the
golden, beady eyed Murray Magpie.

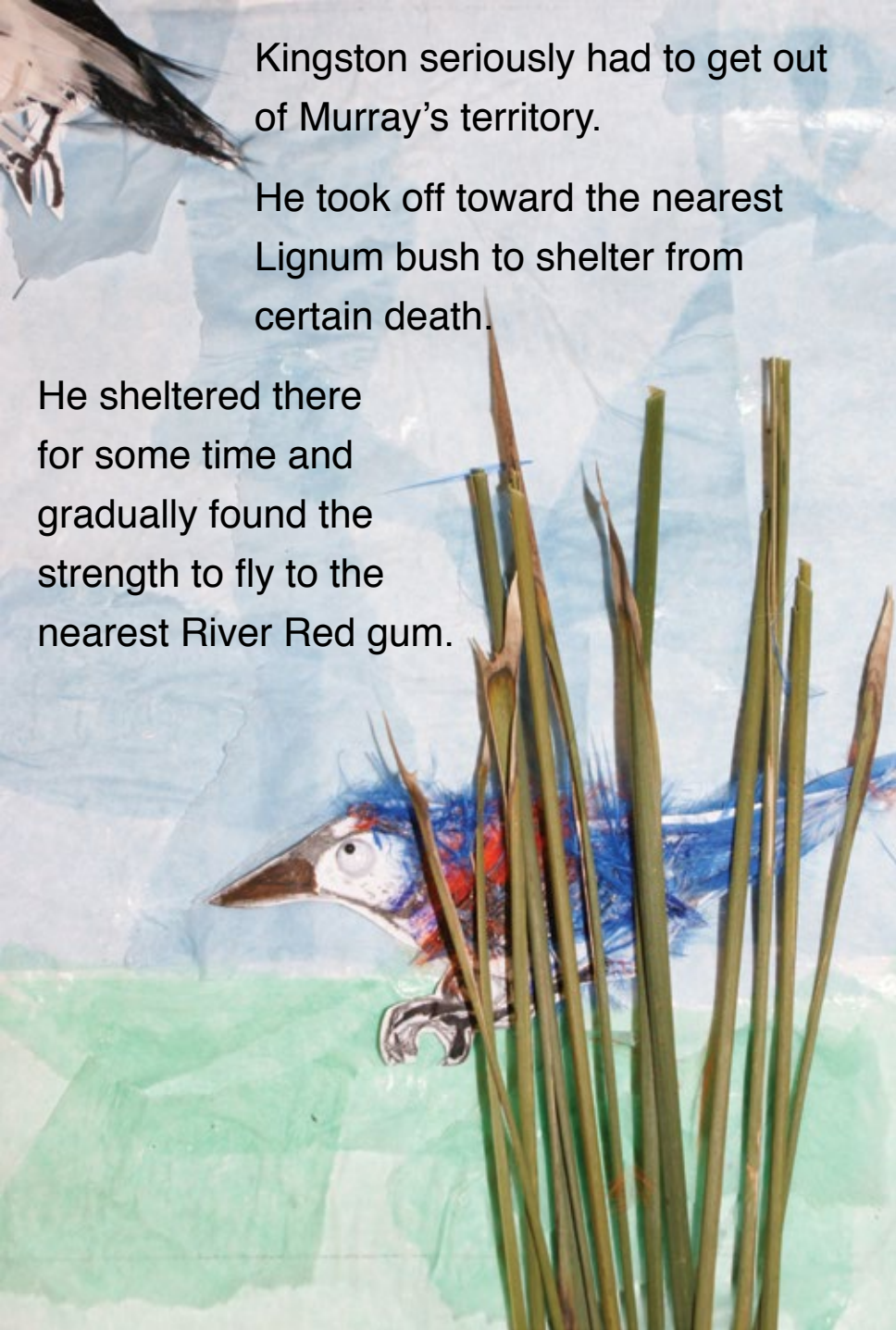
Kingston was so scared
that he fell out of the sky
doing a loop-to-loop with
Murray closely behind him.



Kingston hit the ground with a huge thud.

Murray put his foot on Kingston's chest and furiously squawked at poor Kingston.





Kingston seriously had to get out
of Murray's territory.

He took off toward the nearest
Lignum bush to shelter from
certain death.

He sheltered there
for some time and
gradually found the
strength to fly to the
nearest River Red gum.



After a short rest in the tree, Kingston scanned the bush for a friendly face. He saw a long legged bird in the distance and he decided to flutter across to take a closer look.

Edward the Emu was busy guarding an area close to his chicks. Kingston said, “Any chance I can hang out with you and your babies?”

Edward looked up and said, “No you are intruding, go away.” Kingston turned away with sorrow. Was he ever going to find a friendly face in this forest?



Kingston flew away from Edward's nest hoping to find a new home.

He was feeling extremely hungry and swooped down to the river's surface to see if he could grab a bite to eat. He managed to gobble a couple of water bugs and continued on his way.





As Kingston rested, he saw a big fluffy tail going into a tree hollow. He decided to take the risk and have a closer look.

He saw a pink nose, two big eyes and a furry face staring at him.



Kingston feared it may be a feral cat.

If he was correct, he would be a goner!

He heard a rough, but friendly voice coming from the tree that said, “Hi mate, where did you come from? We don’t see your kind around here very often!”



Percy the Golden Brush-tailed possum had lived in the area for many years.

Kingston was relieved that he was out of danger.

Percy had not seen an Azure Kingfisher around these parts for a long time. This meant one thing - they must be an endangered species!

After a long yarn about Kingston's journey to the Wakool River, Percy decided that the safest place for Kingston was with him.

The new friends decided that Kingston would need to find a mate.

This adventure would ensure that the Azure Kingfisher species would exist for many years to come in the Murray Catchment area.







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