



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.

## Urana Floods

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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.











Catchment Management Authority Murray









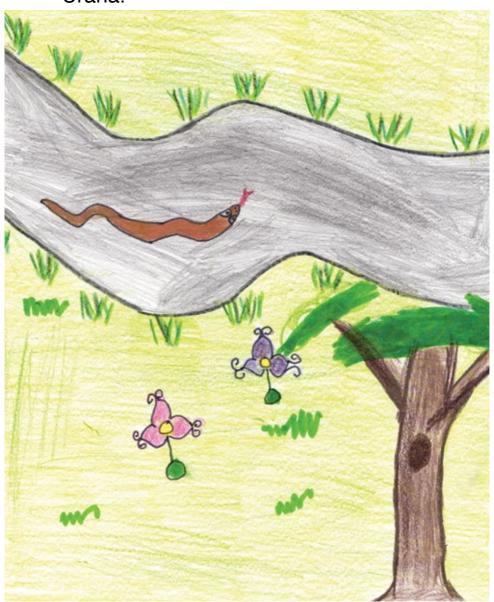
Catchment Management Authority Murrumbidgee







One day, about six months ago, a King brown snake named Mark was happily sunbaking on Coonong Road near Urana.



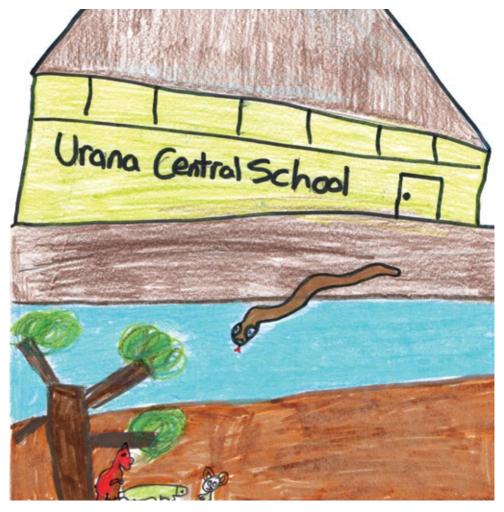


All of a sudden, a big gush of water struck him from behind. The Urana creek was flooded and had broken its banks. The water picked Mark up and tossed him towards a nearby fence.

The flood pushed Mark along and the next minute he found himself floating down the main street of Urana. At the time, he was thinking that he was not going to survive.



Mark floated down William Street, desperately wondering how he could get out of the water. Suddenly, his sadness turned into excitement when he noticed some animals sheltering behind a bush near the Urana Central School.



Mark battled through the rushing water towards the other animals. They all worked together to make a chain to try and grab him.



Exhausted, Mark said to the other animals, "Thank you for saving me, I thought I might drown. Did you animals get washed out too?"

They replied, "Yes we did! But we managed to help each other out of the water."

Mark then asked, "Where did you guys come from?"

"We were washed away from our homes on Coonong Station," they all told Mark.

The animals then started to introduce themselves.

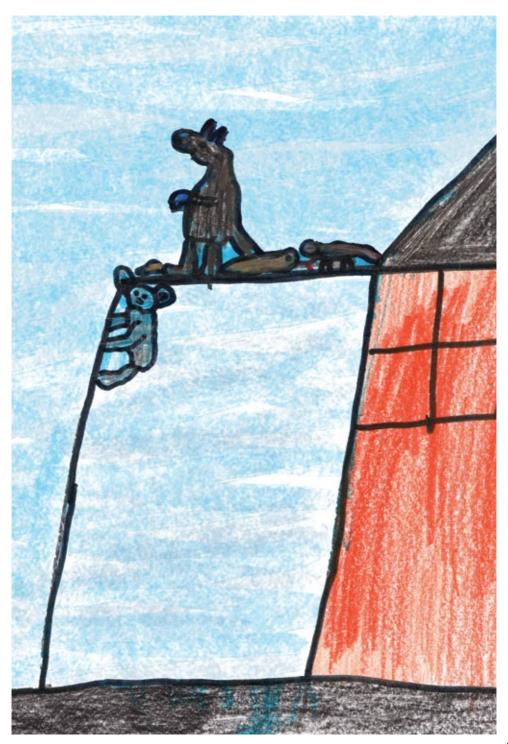
"Hi my name is Leaping Lizard."

"My name is Skippy the Red Kangaroo."

"I'm Kooky Koala, nice to meet you!"

Mark replied by saying, "Nice to meet you all! Thank you again for saving me, I was in real trouble if you hadn't been there." The flood waters were continuing to rise so Kooky asked, "Do you want to find a roof to sit on until the water goes down?"

"Yeah okay," Mark replied. So all the animals set off to find a suitable roof to climb on and wait until the flood water went down.





From the roof the animals watched the water level rise. They were all perched on the roof wondering if it was going to be high enough. If the water reached them here there was nowhere else to go and they were in real danger.

The flood waters rose and rose but stopped just short of the roof where the animals were. Just as fast as it rose the flood started to drop and drain away. By the following day it had dropped to a level they could walk through.

The animals invited Mark to come home with them. They all set off for the long trip back to Coonong Station. They were happy to be back safe in their home.

Mark happily settled in with his new friends but they would always remember and tell stories about the huge flood that swept them away.





Bryce Kenny and Bree Pike 2012 Year 3-6, Urana Public School











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