

Kevin the Baby Koala



Alice Dunn
St. Laurence's Primary School

Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was 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 2013, the “Save Our Species” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about threatened species. This program was sponsored by the Central West and Lachlan Catchment Management Authorities.

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Lachlan Catchment Management Authority

At the Lachlan CMA we work to achieve balance between productive and natural landscapes. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales and in the heart of Wiradjuri Country.

www.lachlan.cma.nsw.gov.au

Kevin the Baby Koala

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School: St. Laurence's Primary School, Forbes

This "Save Our Species" Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- The Purple Copper Butterfly
- The Dying Forest
- Jimmy the Jacky Dragon
- Brushy the Squirrel Glider
- Save Our Friends

Sponsored by Lachlan CMA

- Bobby and Alex's new place to call home
- The Survival of Bob the Frog
- Kevin the Baby Koala
- The Adventures of Squirt the Malleefowl
- Mia the Malleefowl's Rescue

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It was a wet, winter day and the cold breeze whispered through the leaves of the eucalyptus tree.

Sally Smith arrived at her Grandma's house on a farm just out of the town of Forbes on Bogoin Lane.

Sally hurried down the muddy driveway to Grandma's house. She opened the door and the warmth from the fireplace touched her face.

Sally hoped the weather would get better so she could go out and explore the forest.





The following morning, the sun shone through the window into Sally's eyes and she immediately woke up.

Sally got out of bed and looked through the glass window and found a beautiful day awaiting her.

She got dressed, had her breakfast and grabbed her hat and basket. Sally told Grandma Smith that she was going to pick flowers from the nearby forest.

Sally opened the wooden door and walked to the beautiful forest to pick some flowers.

She reached the forest and knew that something was different, that something was wrong. She soon realised that the beautiful day was becoming a sad day.





Sally found that somebody had cut a large number of the trees down. She was shocked and horrified and ran through the forest crying.

Suddenly, she noticed something moving in the grass. She walked over quietly and softly to inspect it and noticed a baby Koala left by itself alone without its mother.

Sally put down the basket and checked if the baby koala was okay. She decided to put it in the basket and take the koala home.

Sally walked to Grandma Smith's house carefully carrying the basket filled with her flowers and the grey, baby koala.

Grandma Smith sat on her comfy lounge knitting a purple scarf. Sally told her about the trees being cut down and then showed her the baby koala.

Sally explained that while she was picking flowers, she discovered that somebody had cut trees down in the forest.

She told her grandma that she had found the baby koala alone on the grass without its mother.

Grandma Smith was furious. "How dare they cut the trees down!" she exclaimed.





Luckily, Grandma Smith knew exactly what to do with the baby koala. She was a member of the Lachlan Wildlife Carers.

They fed the baby koala some eucalyptus leaves from a tree in the backyard. Grandma Smith also had a special milk formula made for Australian native baby animals.

After a day spent taking care of the koala, they went to bed to get a good nights sleep.

Sally and Grandma woke up bright and early to feed the baby koala. While they were having their breakfast they discussed what they could do.

“We have to give the baby koala a name,” said Sally.
“It has to have a name Gran.”

“How about Bob?” asked Grandma.

“No it sounds too serious,” Sally said while brainstorming other names.

“What about Billy or Mike or James or Frank or Joe or Peter or Kevin?” Grandma suggested.

“Kevin! I think that’s a great name. Kevin the Koala,” said Sally proudly with a big smile on her face.





“Sally, we need start to be serious now and think about what we can do about the forest,” said Grandma with a very concerned expression.

“We could tell the council. Maybe they could make the forest a protected area,” Sally wondered.

“That’s a magnificent idea! Lets get on to it right now!” said Grandma getting ready by putting on her jacket.

Sally and Grandma Smith went to the council and met Councillor Bernie. They discussed the cutting down of trees in the forest.

They wanted to hold a special day for Kevin the Koala and other animals that live in the forest. They asked Mr. Bernie if they could plant some trees to replace the homes that have been destroyed.

“Yes, I think that is a splendid idea!” said Mr. Bernie excitedly. “I will stop them cutting down anymore trees and if lots of people show up to your special day we will make the forest a protected area.”

Sally and Grandma shook Mr. Bernie’s hand, went back home and started making posters for their special day to try and save the forest and the animals.



Grandma Smith and Sally put the posters up all over the town of Forbes to advertise the special day. They gave them to people walking by, schools and the local shop owners.

After a long day promoting their Saturday event, Grandma and Sally returned home. They fed Kevin the koala before making sweets for the special day.

They wanted the people of Forbes to have fun, enjoy the day and help their new friends, Kevin and the other animals of the forest.



On their special day, they woke up and got dressed quickly. Grandma and Sally had butterflies in their tummies they were so excited.

They went outside and thought about what they could name the forest.

“Eucalyptus Forest, no...um...Gum Forest...no.... Tree Forest...no, that doesn’t sound right,” said Grandma thinking of lots of names but they never suited.

“Why don’t we name it after the real reason this all started. Kevin! We could name it the Kevin Smith Forest,” said Sally thoughtfully.

“I love it Sally, we can announce it when all the people get here. But first we have to put out some chairs,” said Gran.

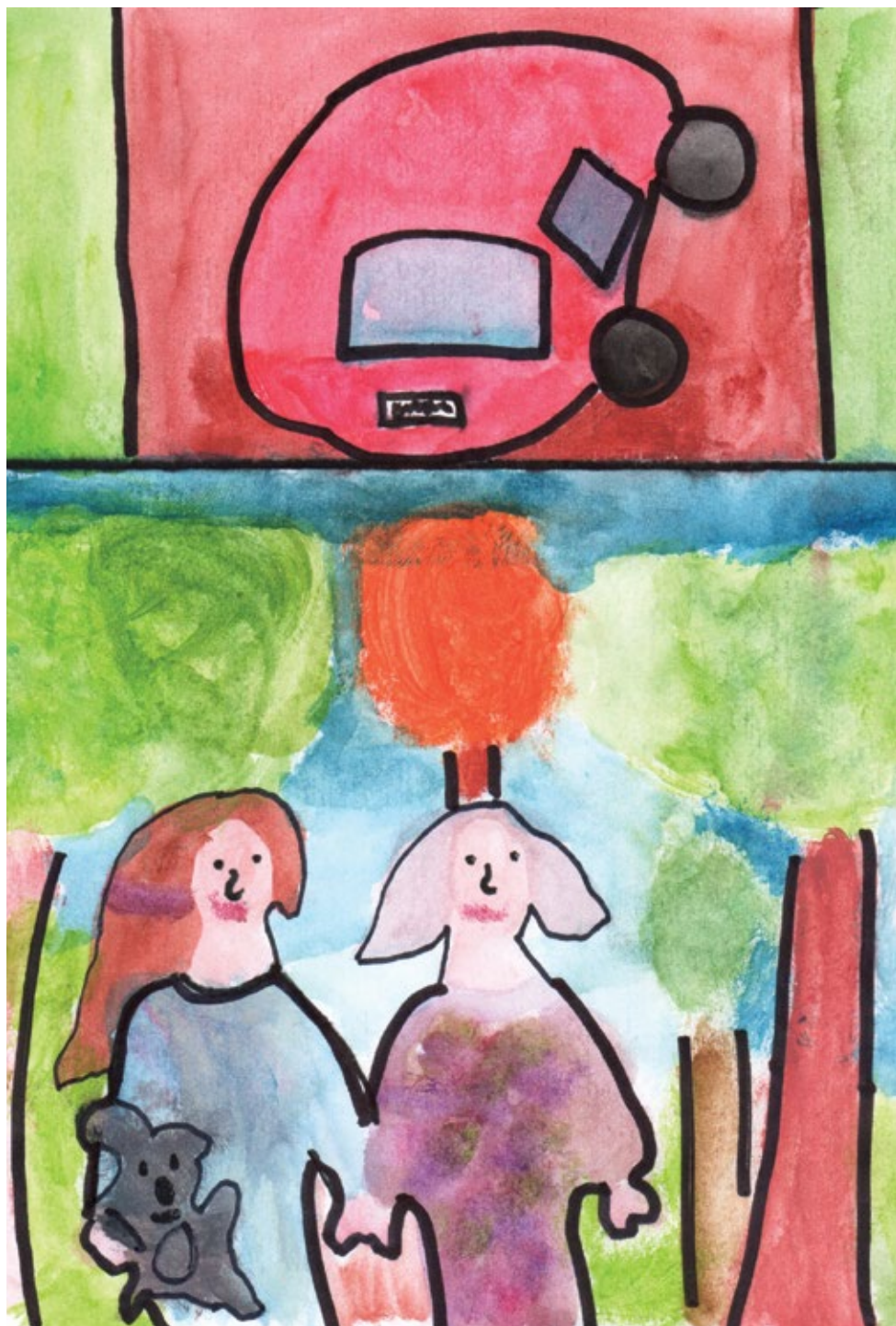
They started putting the chairs, tables and sweets outside. It looked amazing. They were really proud of how it all had come together.



The cars started arriving down the road. Gran and Sally were shaking, so excited they felt like they would burst. People had come from everywhere to help protect the forest. The crowd took their positions sitting on the seats and Sally started to talk.

“The real reason why we are here today is because somebody was cutting down the trees in the forest. Many of the animals that lived in the forest have lost their homes. We found this baby koala and we named him Kevin. He has lost his Mum in this tragedy so we had to take care of him and help him grow,” said Sally.

“Through the time we have spent with Kevin, Sally and I have truly made a friend. Today we will be planting trees to replace the animal’s homes that have been destroyed and let Kevin back into his true home,” said Gran.



Councilor Bernie announced, “The people of Forbes have turned up in large numbers to show their support for Kevin and the other animals, so we are making the forest a protected area.”

“Hooray!” yelled Sally and Grandma. “We have decided to name this forest: The Kevin Smith Forest,” they announced together.

Everybody grabbed shovels and they planted all the trees. The animals and the forest were saved. Sally released Kevin back in his home and everybody enjoyed the rest of the day, admiring what they had achieved.



Every year since that day the town plant trees to help the forest. Grandma Smith and Sally still often wander through the forest to visit their really good friend, Kevin the koala.



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Grade 6 2013



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Authority
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