

Nest Protectors



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is a literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeekKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

Hunter Local Land Services

Hunter Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes. We help people make better decisions about the land they manage and assist communities and agricultural industries to be productive and sustainable into the future.

The Hunter Local Land Services region covers an area of approximately 33,000 square kilometres, extending from Mid Coast Council in the north to Lake Macquarie City Council in the south and Upper Hunter Shire Council in the west.

The landscape ranges from estuarine wetlands and mangroves, rainforests and freshwater wetlands to open grasslands, woodlands, eucalypt forests, lakes and foreshores.

The region has good soils, a subtropical climate and abundant rainfall which support a wide range of industries, including farming, forestry, fishing, oyster farming, tourism and nature-based recreation.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter

Nest Protectors

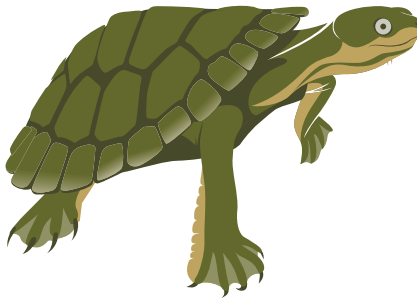
Author: K-6 Special Education Class

Jakarl Simon, David Vale, Kane Ylias, Luka Nind, Megan Baxter,
Brendon Donovan-Mcleod, Liam Ramsay and Bear, the class dog

Teacher: Alison Trudgeon

School: Manning Gardens Public School

Special thanks to Michelle Cole (School Learning Support Officer)
and Karen Croaker (illustrations)



This book has been published as part of the Managing Our Mid-Coast Marvels Enviro-Stories program and involves schools learning about some of the precious animals, communities and habitats of the Mid-Coast region of NSW.

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Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au.

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One day in spring Jenna and Jeff, the Manning River Turtles, met under a large log. They spent time together swimming around looking for food on rocks and logs in the river.

Jeff asked Jenna if she would like to visit his little cave under a rock as there was plenty to eat. Jeff had set up his home near a fruiting tree that leaned over the river. They had plenty to eat and enjoyed spending time together.



Jenna and Jeff decided they wanted to have a family together, but they could not decide where the best place would be to set up a nest and lay their eggs.

They were very nervous about the foxes that come down to the river at night and look for turtles and their nests. Foxes are very dangerous creatures that would kill and eat a turtle if they found one.



Jenna and Jeff are able to stay in the water forever, but they need to have a nest out of the water in the nice warm sand to incubate and protect their eggs.

This is a problem as the pesky foxes can find the nests and kill the mother and her eggs.

Finally, the perfect sandy beach was found! Jenna made a nest where she could lay her eggs.

The nest was close to the water and just around a small river bend. There were plenty of grasses, bushes and trees around to try and provide some protection from the foxes.





As Jenna was tending to her nest of eggs, she heard someone approaching. Walking along the river came a small group of children, two teachers and a dog.

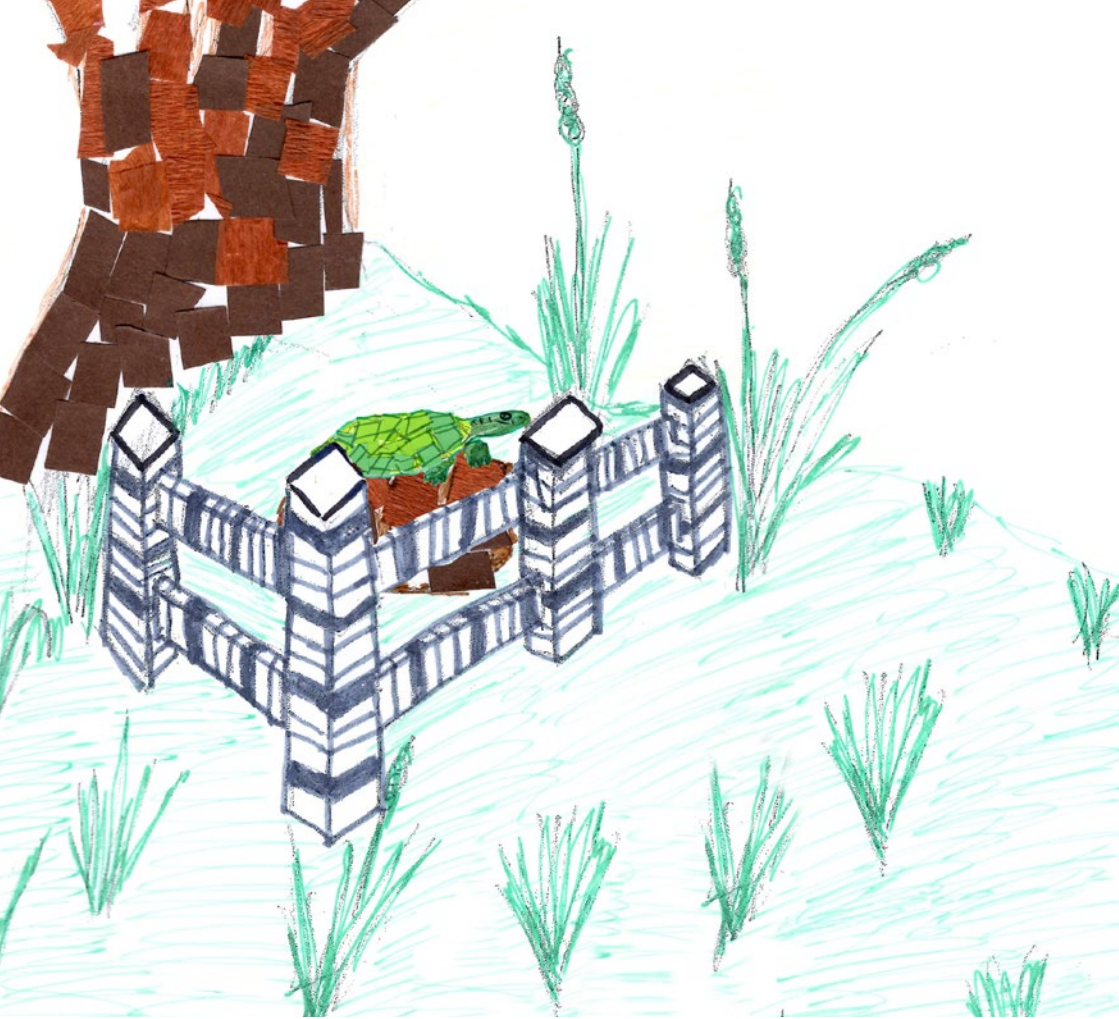
A girl called Megan spotted Jenna and her nest. The children were all very excited by the Manning River Turtle nest, so they made a plan to observe and help take care of it. They decided to come and check on the nest every day.

One day when checking on the turtle nest, one of the children, David, spotted a fox sneaking towards the river. He whistled and called the class dog, Bear, who started barking at the fox and chasing it away.

David told his class what had happened, and they discussed what they could do to protect the turtle nest. Jakarl came up with the idea to teach Bear to guard the nest.

So Jakarl, Brendon and Liam started to teach Bear how to protect the nest from foxes. Bear could smell the foxes approaching the nest with her powerful nose and she could bark and growl at them to keep them away. Bear seemed to enjoy her job of protecting the turtle nest.





David, Kane and Luka came up with another idea to protect the nest. One of their favourite things to do was play a game called Minecraft which involves building different structures.

They used their Minecraft skills to build a fence around the nest that a turtle could get through, but a fox couldn't. They continued to use their Minecraft skills to build a shelter to protect the nest.

Jenna and Jeff felt very happy as they knew that the children and the dog were doing a great job protecting them from the foxes. The children continued to visit every day and Bear stayed near the nest most of the time.

The dog, fence and shelter made Jenna feel her eggs were very safe and cared for.





One day when the children were visiting, they noticed the eggs starting to hatch and the baby turtles leaving the nest.

The hatchlings slid along the sand covering the short distance to the water. When they reached the river, they bobbed along on top before finally diving below the water's surface.



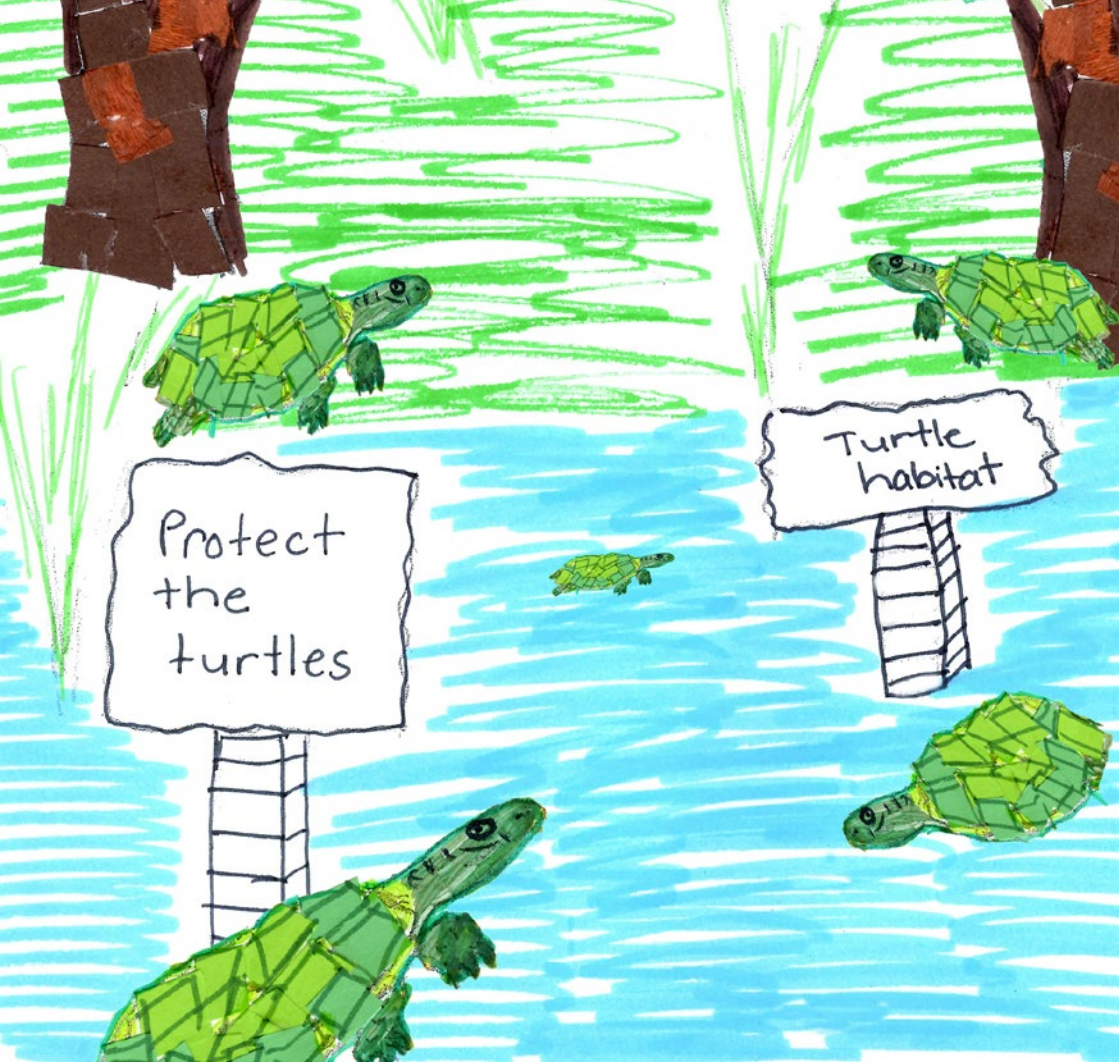
The hatchlings made the children and the teachers smile. They were very cute and totally defenceless.

This made the children think about creating some good hiding spots for the baby turtles.

The children decided they needed to make some little hiding places in the river.

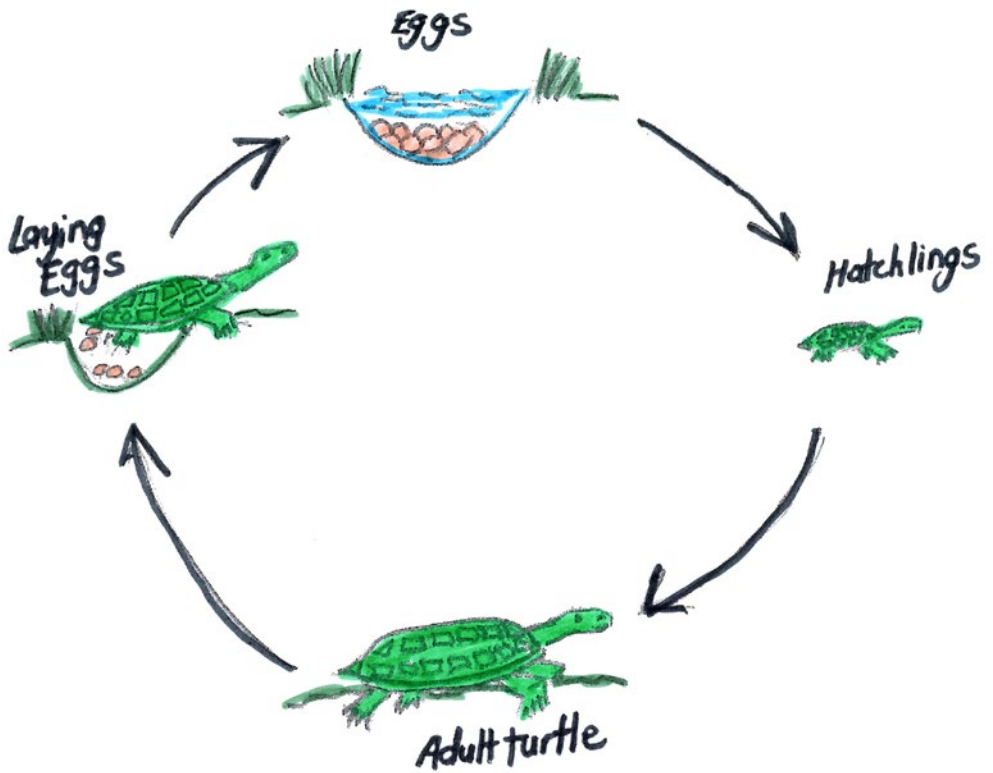
The boys again used their Minecraft skills to make some small log homes. They placed these small logs in the water.





Even though the children planned and made lots of things to protect the turtles, they still felt like they had not done enough.

They decided that they needed to teach others about these very beautiful turtles. So, the children started to put up signs around the turtle nest explaining who the nest and hatchlings belong to.



The signs also helped to teach others about the Manning River Turtles' life-cycle. This was very helpful for tourists and locals that had no idea these turtles existed.

The signs were good, but they felt more information was needed.

The children asked others about options for educating people about the Manning River Turtle. Brendon suggested a visitor's centre with plenty of information about the turtle.



Eventually the visitor centre was built. People from all over were taught about the Manning River Turtle, and most importantly they learnt how to protect this ancient species.

The students were proud that they had helped to create a very protective environment for the turtles.

Jenna and Jeff had many hatchlings in the river and continue to live close by.



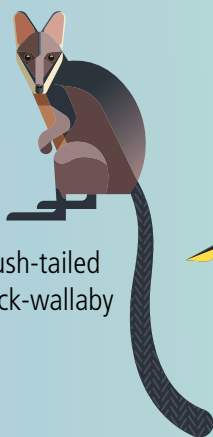
Managing Our *Mid-Coast* Marvels

The Mid-Coast region has a large mix of environments, from the coast to the mountains, and is home to many unique animals.

We can all do our part to look after our **Mid-Coast Marvels**.



Koala



Brush-tailed
Rock-wallaby



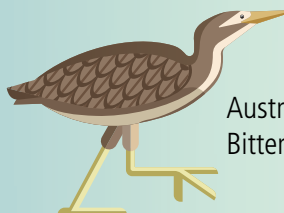
Regent
Honeyeater



Swift Parrot



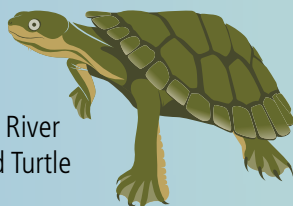
Spotted-tailed Quoll



Australasian
Bittern



Little Tern



Manning River
Helmeted Turtle



Eastern Curlew

ENVIRO stories



Manning Gardens
Public School
K-6 Special
Education Class
2020