



Escaping the Flames

Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is a literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, 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.

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.

lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter

Escaping the Flames

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School: Coolongolook Public School

This book has been published as part of the Farm Force Enviro-Stories program and involves schools learning about the importance of good preparation to try and help make their farm more resilient and reduce the impacts of bushfire, pests, drought and flood.

This program has been supported by Hunter Local Land Services.

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

Coolongolook Public School. 2023. *Escaping the Flames*. Local Land Services, NSW.





On a serene and idyllic farm, nestled amidst rolling hills and golden fields, resided the Donnelly family.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly were devoted parents to their two children, Brock and Lily, whose laughter echoed through the countryside.



Their faithful companion, Buffy the border collie, and Cracka the cockatoo completed their charming household.

Life on the farm flowed harmoniously until a dark and ominous night descended upon them.

While gathered around the dinner table, a scent of smoke wafted into the house, accompanied by an eerie orange glow flickering on the distant horizon.





“A bushfire!” Mr. Donnelly exclaimed, his voice tinged with urgency. “We must leave immediately to keep our family safe.”

With hearts pounding, mum swiftly rose from her seat, her face etched with concern. “Children, grab your backpacks. We need to pack our most vital belongings.”

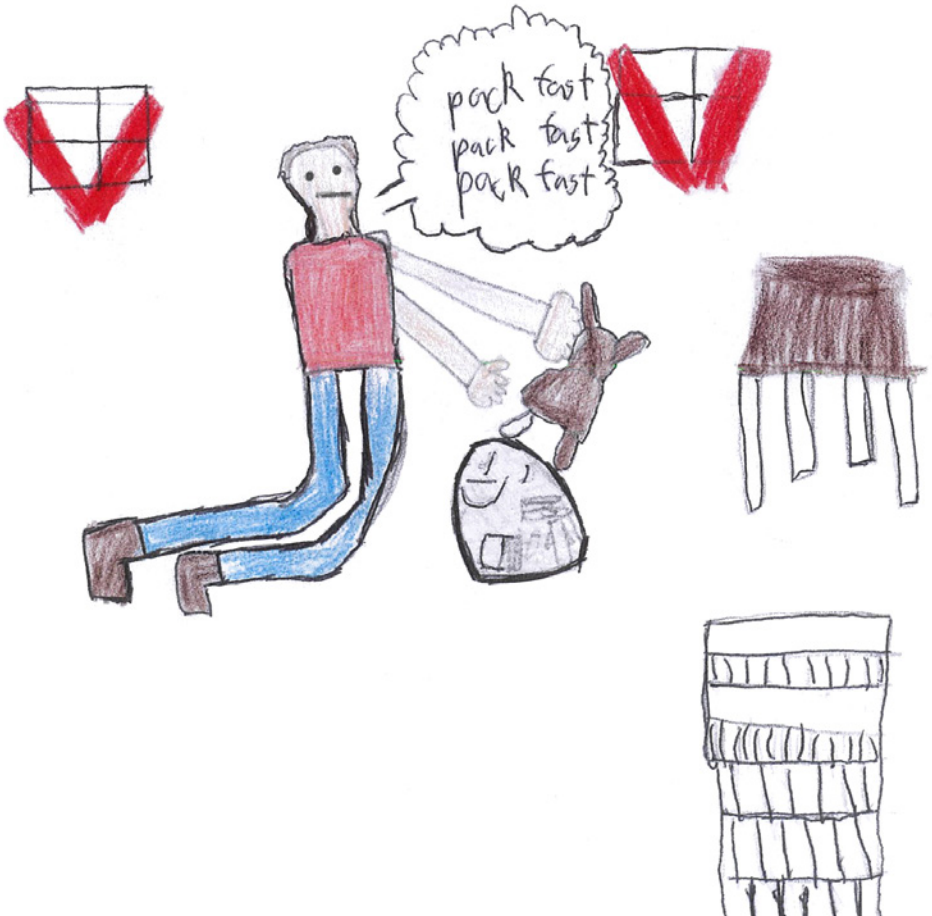


Understanding the gravity of the situation, Brock and Lily dashed to their respective rooms, Buffy wagging his tail in anxious unison.

Their little hands rummaged through their closets and drawers, selecting items with careful consideration. They knew they could only take what was essential.

Brock carefully selected a set of sturdy clothing, ensuring he packed enough underwear and socks to last. He also grabbed a warm jacket, anticipating the uncertain weather ahead.

Among the chaos, he made room for his treasured drawing book, a source of solace and creativity. A box of coloured pencils joined the company, enabling him to express his emotions during their tumultuous journey.





In the neighbouring room, Lily diligently sorted through her cherished possessions. She packed a few changes of clothes, including her most comfortable outfits.

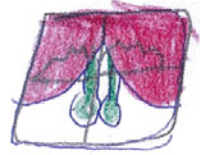
In her backpack, she placed her beloved soft toy bunny, Flopsy, seeking solace and familiarity in times of distress. Her collection of delicate figurines, passed down from her grandmother, was added to the backpack as a poignant reminder of the unbreakable bonds of family.





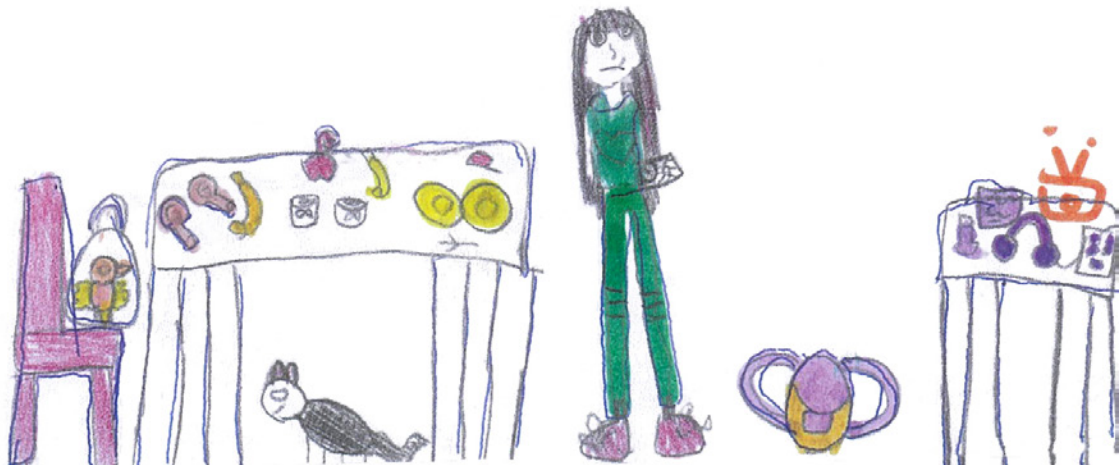
Meanwhile, in the kitchen, the parents orchestrated their own packing mission. Mrs. Donnelly swiftly assembled a first aid kit, aware of the potential dangers that lay ahead.

She meticulously folded extra clothes, taking into account the varying weather conditions they might encounter.



Simultaneously, Mr. Donnelly gathered practical items to aid their journey. A sturdy flashlight, its beam a beacon of hope in the darkness, found its place among the provisions.

A portable radio, their connection to the outside world, was packed alongside spare batteries. Non-perishable food items, enough to sustain them during their uncertain travels, were gathered, emphasising preparedness for unforeseen challenges.





As the family converged in the living room, backpacks snugly secured, a mix of fear and determination filled the air.

Their, collective spirit was unyielding, their love for one another a guiding light amidst the encroaching darkness.

“Daddy, will we be safe?” Brock asked, his voice trembling with concern.

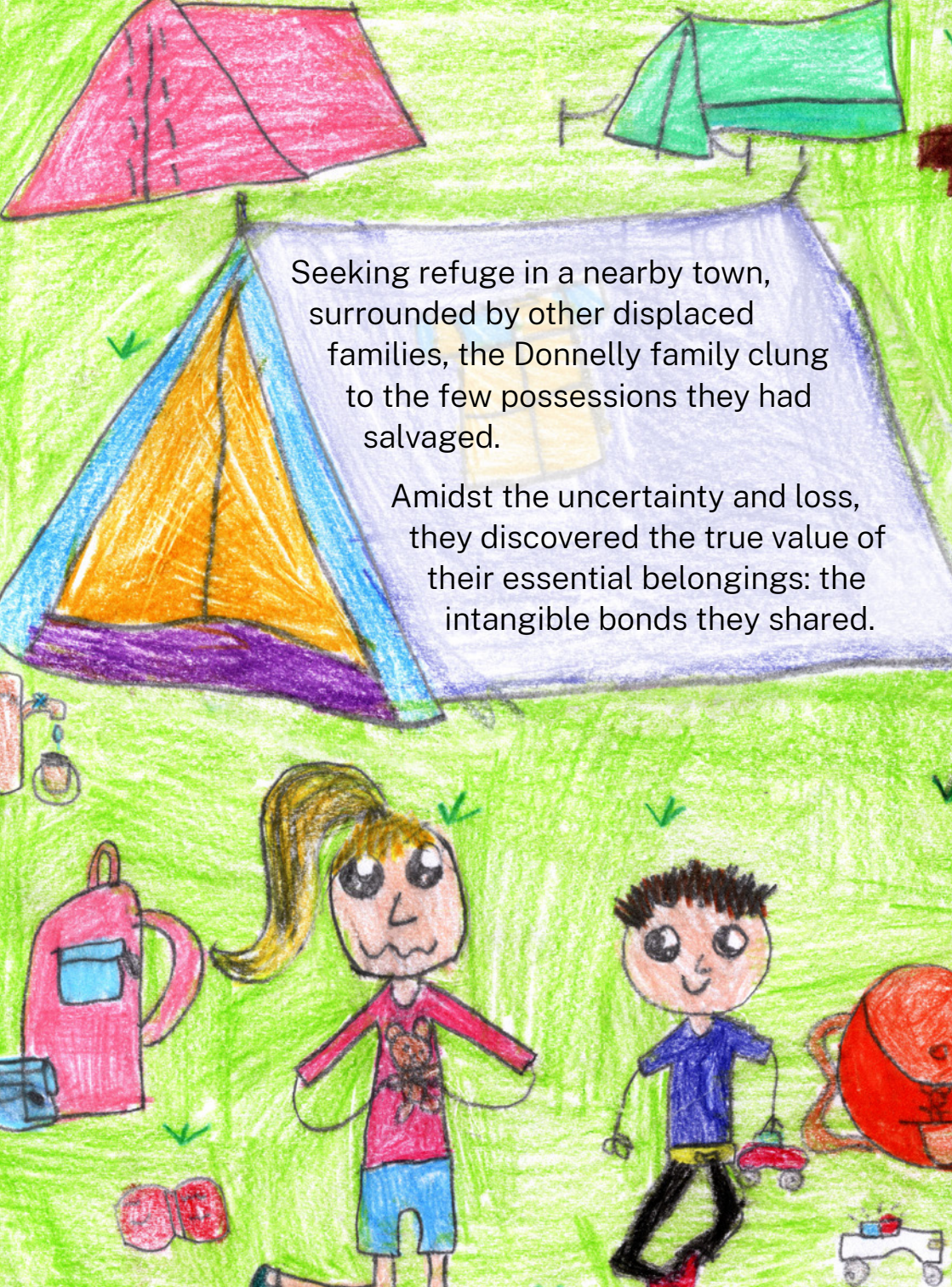


Mr. Donnelly enveloped his son in a reassuring embrace, his words carrying unwavering strength. “We shall remain together, my son, protecting and supporting one another. We possess the resilience and essentials needed to endure any hardship.”

With Buffy and Cracka eagerly awaiting their departure, the family embarked on their journey, leaving behind the sanctuary of their farmhouse.

The once-vibrant landscape was now engulfed in the merciless flames of the bushfire.





Seeking refuge in a nearby town, surrounded by other displaced families, the Donnelly family clung to the few possessions they had salvaged.

Amidst the uncertainty and loss, they discovered the true value of their essential belongings: the intangible bonds they shared.

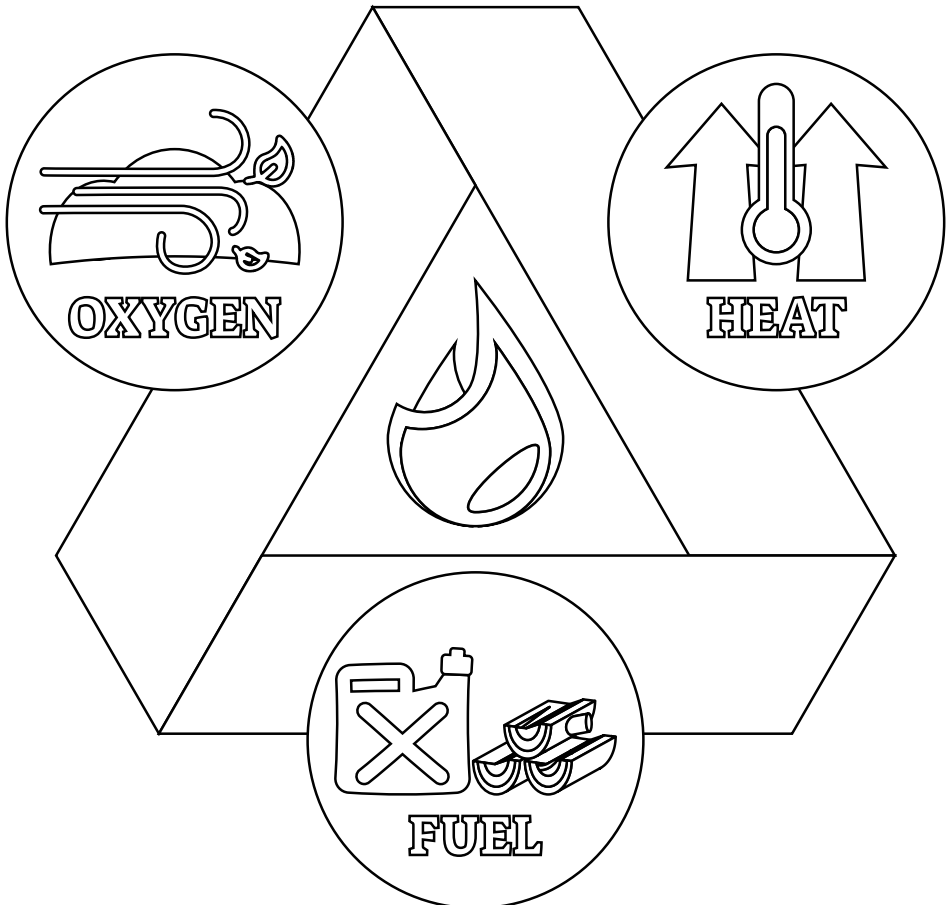


What makes up fire?

Fire needs three things to burn: oxygen, heat and fuel.

These three elements make up the “fire triangle”.

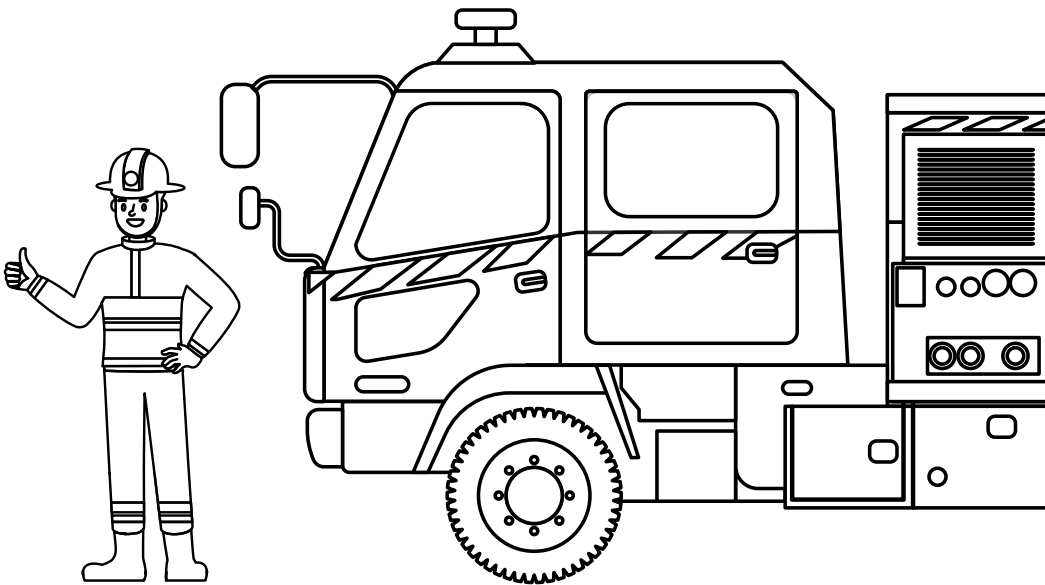
Removing any one of these three elements will put a fire out.



Who helps battle bushfires?

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the lead combat agency for bush fires in NSW. For over 100 years we have been a significant part of the history and landscape of NSW.

The NSW RFS is the largest volunteer fire service in the world.



COLOUR ME IN

BUSHFIRE BATTLERS

standing guard against bushfire





Be prepared for an emergency!

Being prepared means being ready for something. So if we are prepared we can stay safe and stay clam.

The **Red Cross Pillowcase Program** involves running workshops to help children prepare for, cope with and respond to an emergency.

redcross.org.au/emergencies/pillowcase-program/



Children may be vulnerable in an emergency, but they also have unique strength and capacity to prepare, cope and help their families.

Through engaging discussions and interactive activities the Red Cross Pillowcase Program helps students:

- Understand and discuss the importance of being prepared
- Prepare their mind for the thoughts and feelings that may arise before, during and after an emergency
- Know what to pack in an emergency kit

Children who participate in disaster resilience building activities have been shown to be better equipped to deal with an emergency.

What to pack in case of an emergency

- Mobile phone/other devices and charger
- Torch with spare batteries
- Medications and prescriptions
- Radio
- First aid kit
- Food -non perishable
- Water
- Pet essentials – food, water, leads etc.
- Toiletries, including sunscreen
- Warm clothes
- Raincoat
- Spare pair of shoes
- Activities for children



Back row: Brock, Ayva, Liliana
Front row: Kaylee, Eden, Charlette
Coolonglook Public School, Year 3-6 2023

