

Mike the Magpie's Mission



St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey
4T, 2025





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.

envirostories.com.au

Kempsey Shire Council

Kempsey Shire Council's corporate vision is to lead and work with our community to build and inspired, connected Macleay Valley. Our community is at the heart of our decision making and plays an essential role in setting our strategic direction.

The Kempsey Shire Council Local Government Area is located within the NSW Mid North Coast and covers an area of 3,380 square kilometres with a population of approximately 30,000 residents.

The principal town in the Shire is Kempsey, located approximately halfway between the state capitals of Sydney and Brisbane, and between the regional centres of Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

kempsey.nsw.gov.au

St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Kempsey is located in the beautiful Macleay Valley, on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

St. Joseph's plays a vital role in laying the foundation for your child's lifelong learning, ensuring that each student develops into a happy, resilient and successful person, with realistic and achievable goals, and strong morals and values.

kmpplism.catholic.edu.au

Mike the Magpie's Mission

School: St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey

Authors/Artists: Year 4T – Mariano, Hugh, Flint, Ayva, Chelsea, Ryan, Cohen, Charlotte E, Pippa, Magnus, Lexie, Karstan, Ashlyn, Peyton, Brax, Kara, Eden, Marli, Mayukh, Tyler, Charlotte S, Chloe, Francesca, Frankie, Carter and Wyatt.

Teacher: Mrs Michelle Tarrant

Special thanks to: Jessica Marsh and Chase Nolan-Eather from Kempsey Shire Council.

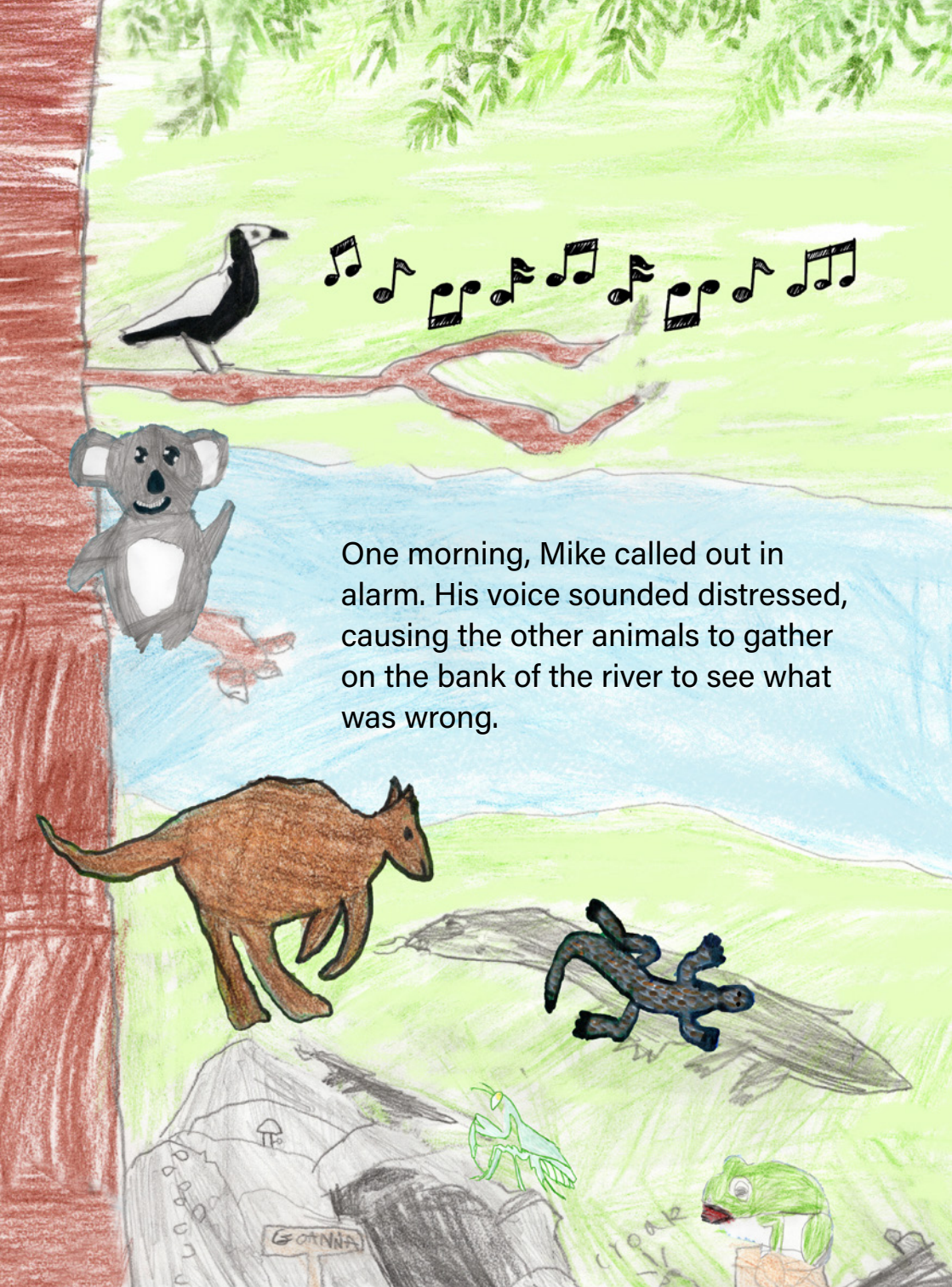
This book has been published as part of the Macleay EcoExplorers Enviro-Stories program.



Once upon a time, a magpie named Mike was nestled beside the Macleay River in Kempsey. Mike loved his home!

He cherished the tall eucalyptus trees that lined the riverbank, the juicy grubs he found in the rich soil, and the cool shade that protected him from the scorching summer sun.





One morning, Mike called out in alarm. His voice sounded distressed, causing the other animals to gather on the bank of the river to see what was wrong.



Mike the magpie's sad, mournful song was about how much he had noticed things had been changing.

The river, once brimming with fish, was now muddy and low. The eucalyptus trees, usually vibrant green, were turning brown and brittle. Weeds grew out of control and smothered native plants. Even the grubs seemed harder to find.

Old Penny, the wise praying mantis who had lived by the river for many years, explained it to Mike.

“The world is getting warmer, Mike,” she sighed.
“The sun is too strong, and the rain is not falling as it used too. Humans call it climate change, and it’s making our home sick.”



Mike was worried. He loved his home and didn't want to see it disappear. "What can we do to help, Penny?" he asked.

The other animals began to all talk at once.

Penny let out a loud screech to quiet the crowd. "One at a time," she shrieked, "one at a time!"





Kibble, the clever kangaroo, hopped out of the crusty, dusty bushes, jumping toward the riverbank to announce his suggestion.

"Hello, everybody! I have an idea... We must convince the humans to reduce their electricity use. We can get them to turn off lights and power points when they aren't using them. They could also be encouraged to install solar panels on their houses to generate electricity free from the sun."

The crowd applauded and cheered Kibble's suggestion.

Danny the dingo, in excitement, ran to the other animals.

He said, "We should convince the humans that driving a car produces harmful gases. Carpooling with friends, taking the bus, or riding their bikes to work or school is far better for the environment. If humans can do some of these things, it will help combat climate change."





K-man, the koala, climbed down the eucalyptus tree and said, "People are driving way too far to get to the shops, and the food at those supermarkets often travels hundreds or thousands of kilometres to get there. If we can convince people to shop locally then less pollution is caused, the food is fresher, and they would be supporting their local community."

K-man continued, "And when I look in their bins, I see too much wasted food, like whole fruits and vegetables, bread, and milk. These humans can try harder not to be so wasteful; I know they can."

The other animals all applauded K-man for his great idea.



Gus, the goanna, stomped his front legs angrily to get the animals' attention.

"We need to convince the humans to plant seeds of native plants and trees. We need to help them stop wasting water by making sure they are collecting it in a tank, and cleaning their drains and gutters to prepare their properties before floods."

The other animals cheered at Gus's suggestion.

Frisky, the kookaburra, flew down onto a low branch to address the group.

“We all need to help. If you see rubbish, put it in the right bin, try not to litter, and reuse your containers as much as possible. You can start by getting your own coffee cups and drink bottles, so you can refill them and prevent wastage.”

All the other animals agreed and promised to give it a try.



Bouncy Bob, the frog, hopped out of the water to address the crowd.

“These are all great suggestions, but I think humans need to do more planning for these changing weather conditions. They need to build more levees around their towns, maintain their drainage systems, and store more water; they would be better equipped in emergencies.”





Penny smiled. "Even small creatures can make a difference."

Mike took Penny's words to heart. He diligently shared water with his fellow animals, reminding them not to waste a single drop. He flew to the windows of the homes in Kempsey, tapping gently until someone switched off an unnecessary light. And he chirped encouragement to the school children who were planting native trees along the riverbank.

The animals spread the words that were shared and slowly, things began to improve.

The river started to flow a little stronger, the trees looked a little greener, and Mike even spotted a particularly plump grub. The children, inspired by Mike's dedication, started recycling and using less plastic.





One day, as Mike sat on a healthy eucalyptus branch watching a group of children plant new trees, he understood. Even small actions, when done together, could make a big difference.

The future of their home and the future of Kempsey is dependent on everyone doing their part today to protect the environment.



Moral of the story...

Just like Mike the magpie, even the smallest efforts, when combined, can help protect our environment for the future.

Every drop saved, every tree planted, and every light switched off contributes to a healthier planet for all.

And remember, we are all connected, just like the creatures of Kempsey, so let's work together to protect the one home we share.

Climate change in the Macleay region

Even in the Macleay region, climate change is a big challenge. By learning, preparing and working together to take action, we can build a safer, cleaner and more sustainable future for everyone.

How climate change affects us

- Hotter temperatures and heatwaves.
- Heavier rainfall, floods, and droughts.
- More intense storms, including hail and strong winds.
- Sea level rise, which can damage coastal areas.
- More bushfires and days with high fire danger.
- Impacts on plants and animals, including where they live and how they survive.
- Changes to our health, water supply, and food production.

What can you do to help?

- Save energy by turning off lights and using less electricity.
- Use clean energy like solar power, if possible.
- Walk or ride your bike instead of using a car.
- Eat local food and don't waste it.
- Recycle and compost to reduce rubbish.
- Plant trees and look after your garden.
- Get ready for extreme weather by learning what to do in a fire, flood, or heatwave.

**Small actions, when done by many people,
can make a big difference!**

ENVIRO

stories



Year 4T, 2025

St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey

