

# Benny and the Big Nest

Ellie Richardson  
and Layne Woolley

Albury North Public School





Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.



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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.

# Benny and the Big Nest

Authors: Ellie Richardson and Layne Woolley

Teacher: Elizabeth Dick

School: Albury North Public School

## “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  
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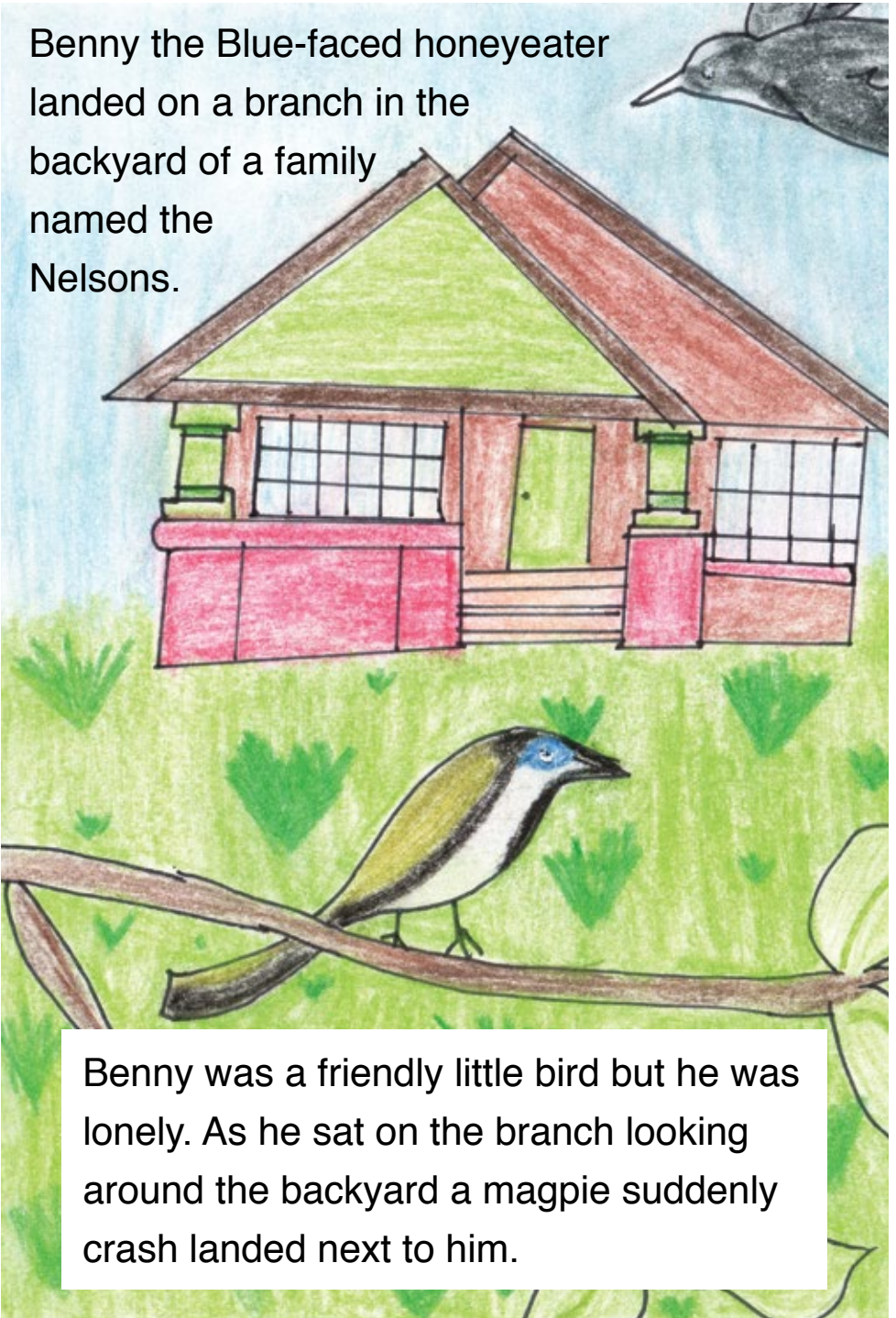
Catchment Management  
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Benny the Blue-faced honeyeater landed on a branch in the backyard of a family named the Nelsons.



Benny was a friendly little bird but he was lonely. As he sat on the branch looking around the backyard a magpie suddenly crash landed next to him.



Her name was Maggie the magpie;  
she was a beautiful magpie and Benny  
was very attracted to her. They became  
inseparable and lived in the tree together.  
Benny wasn't lonely anymore. One day  
Maggie laid an egg and told Benny he  
was going to be a dad.



Benny was so excited about becoming a dad, he decided he wanted to give his chick a better home. Maggie was busy sitting on their egg so she couldn't help. Benny didn't think he could do it by himself. He needed help!



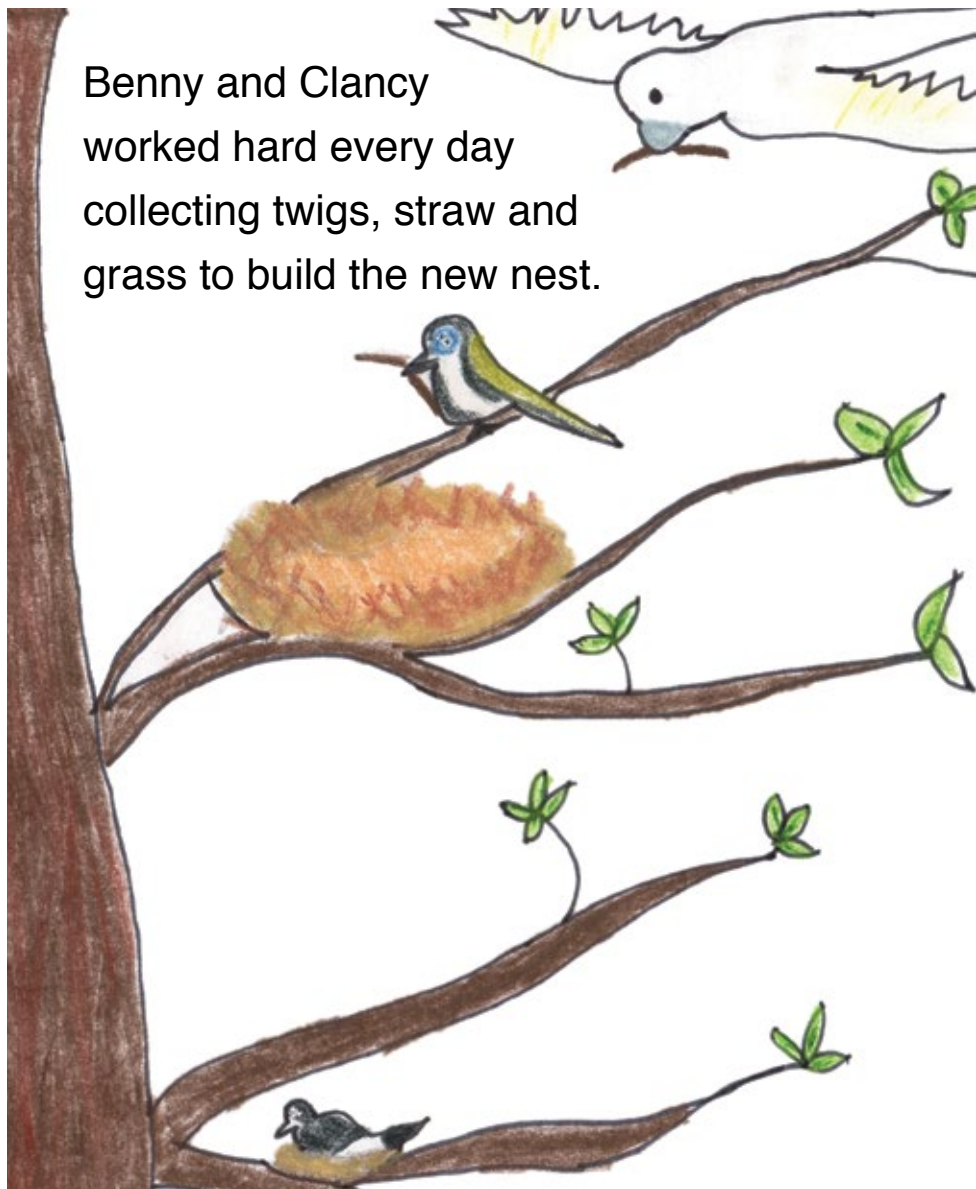
Benny had made a few new friends since moving into the Nelson’s yard, so he decided to ask Clancy the cockatoo to help him.

“Clancy,” he squawked, “Can you help me build a big new nest so when chick arrives we will have more room?”



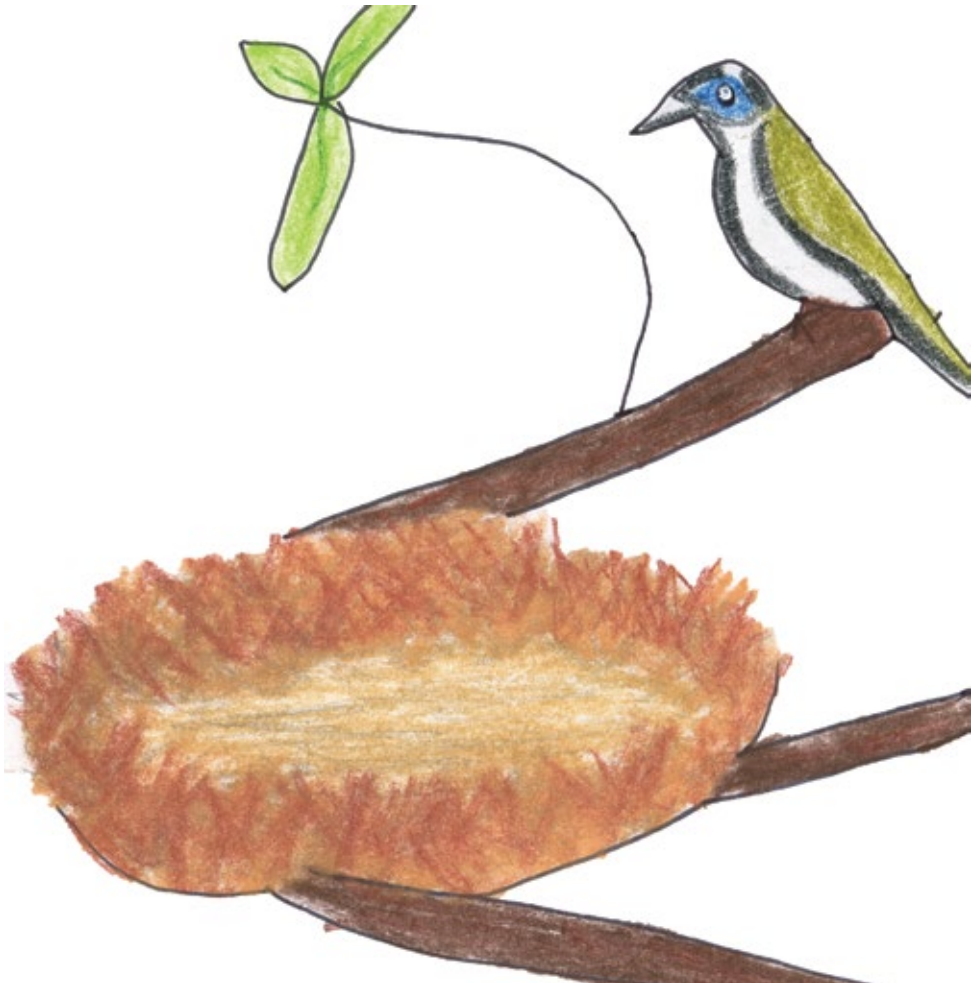
“No problem mate,” said Clancy and they started straight away.

Benny and Clancy  
worked hard every day  
collecting twigs, straw and  
grass to build the new nest.



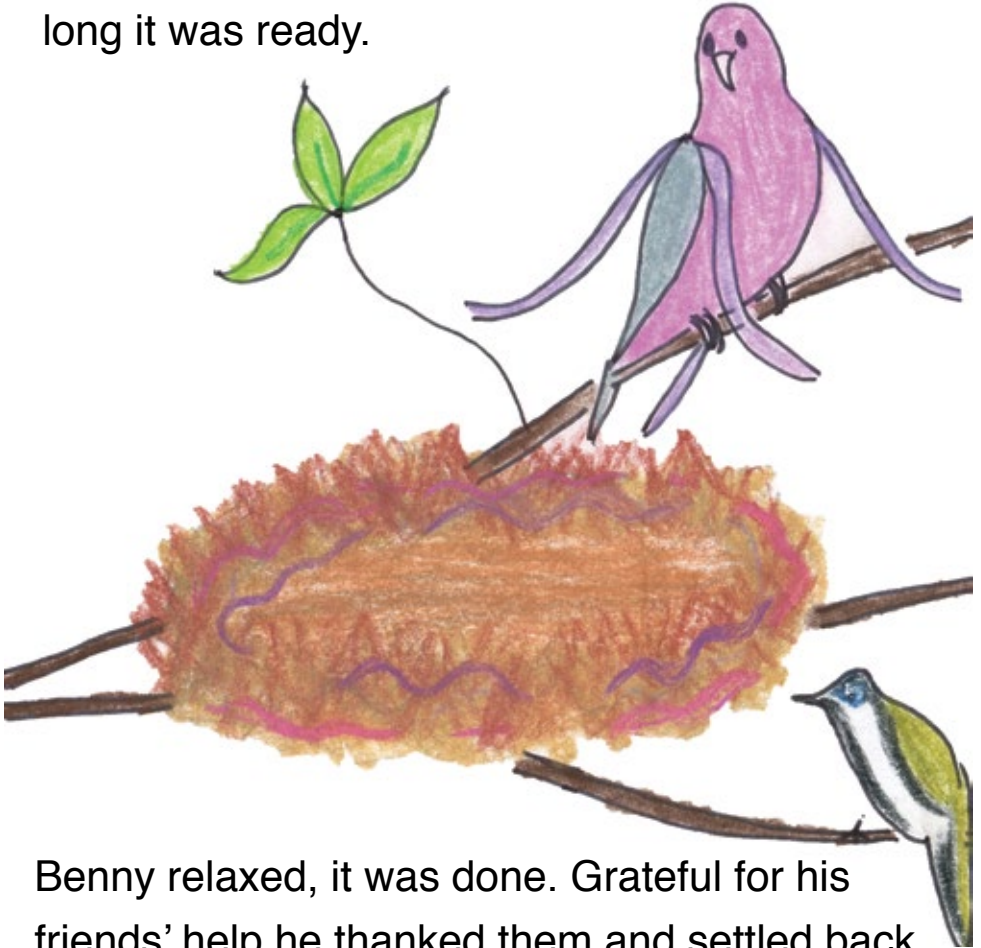
Maggie sat on the egg to keep it warm. Any day now it would hatch and the chick would be there. Benny was worried they wouldn't finish in time.





After working hard for days on the new nest, Benny wasn't sure the nest was special enough for his new chick. It was missing something. Maggie was busy but maybe Grace the Galah could help, she always looked pretty and the nest needed to be pretty.

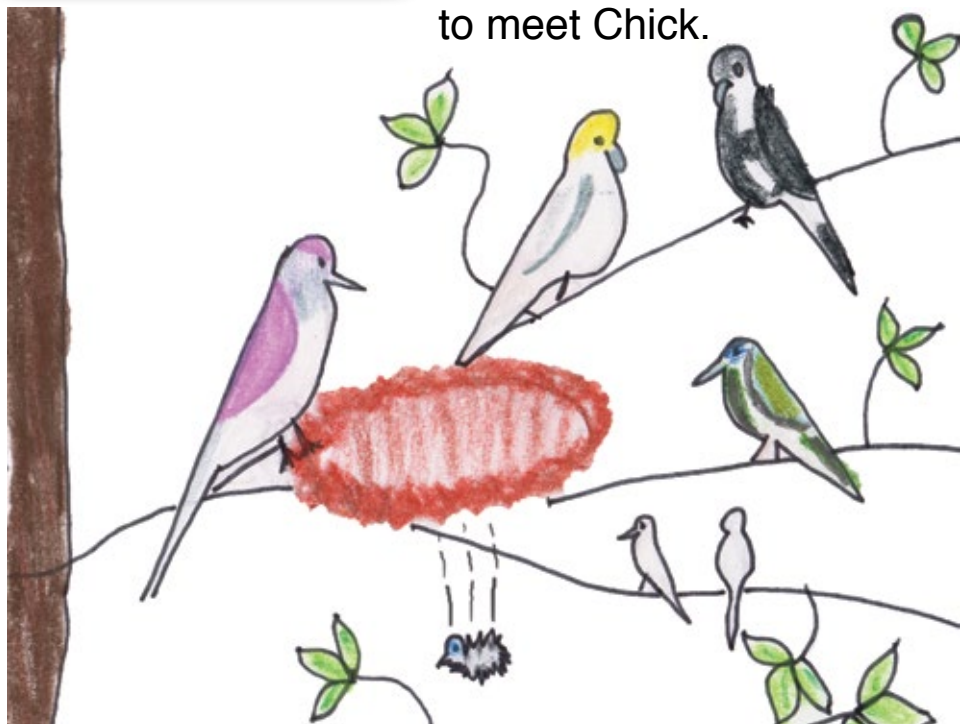
The next morning Benny asked Grace for help. Today she had beautiful ribbons draped over her wings. Benny couldn't help but stare. Grace agreed to help Benny make the nest pretty for his chick. Grace wove coloured strings and ribbons into the nest and before long it was ready.



Benny relaxed, it was done. Grateful for his friends' help he thanked them and settled back to wait their chick's arrival.

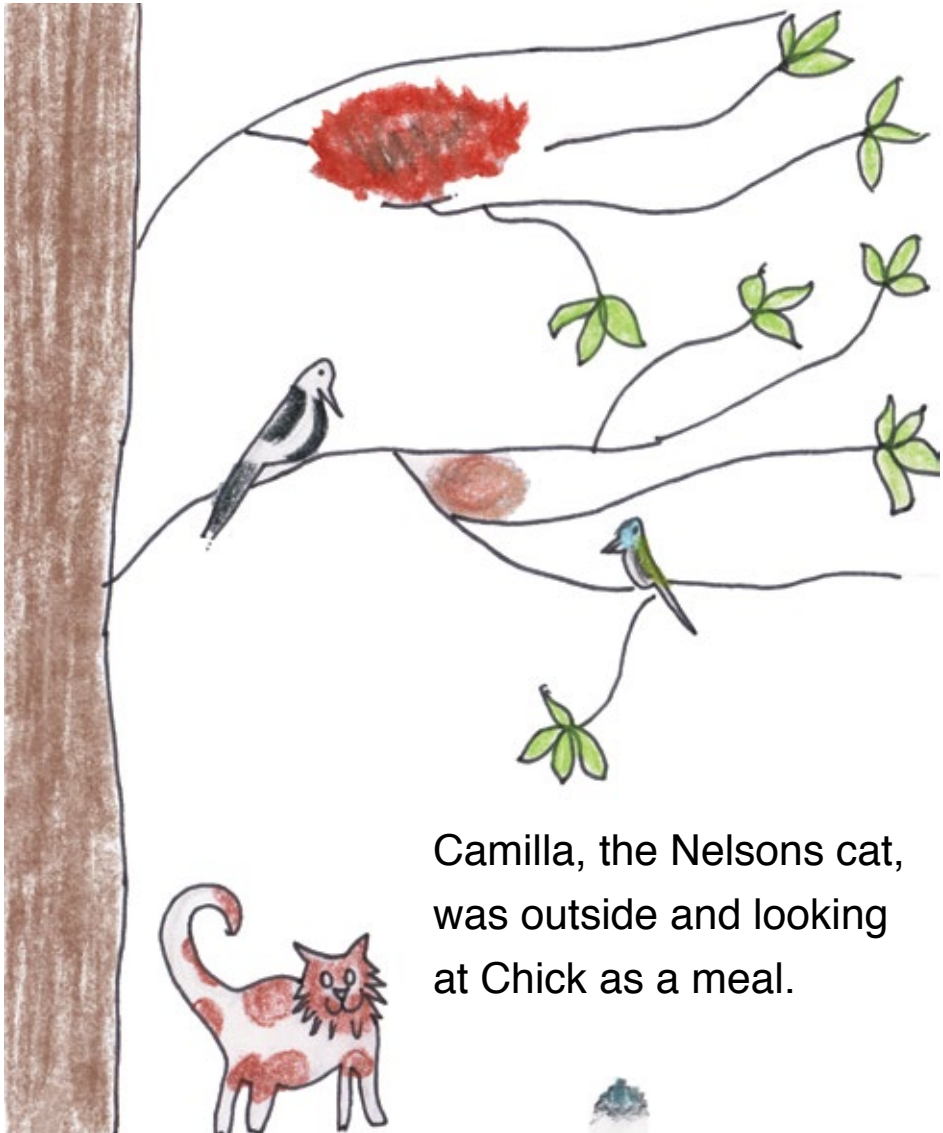


The next morning the egg started to move and crack. Benny and Maggie were excited and eager to meet their baby and move into their new nest. Maggie and Benny had many visitors that day. Everyone wanted to meet Chick.



All the visitors were very excited for them and the chatter was a little distracting. While talking to their friends, Chick accidentally fell out of the nest.

How could this have happened? The nest was big, but not big enough for all their friends to visit. Poor Chick was stunned by her fall but the problem now was, she couldn't fly, so she couldn't get back to her nest.



Camilla, the Nelsons cat, was outside and looking at Chick as a meal.

Benny flew into action. He tried to distract Camilla by flapping his wings at her. All the noise made Darcy, the Nelson's daughter come outside to see what was going on. Seeing the problem she put Camilla inside the house and then put Chick back in her nest.





Benny and Maggie were very grateful but decided the backyard was not safe enough. A few weeks later Chick was able to fly, so Benny, Maggie and Chick said goodbye to their friends and moved to the Murray River. Benny had built a new nest. This one was bigger, better and had higher sides than the last one.







Ellie Richardson and Layne Woolley  
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