

Mia the Mean Myna



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative 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

Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Greater Sydney 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 Greater Sydney region accounts for 5 percent of the state's agricultural production, even though we only cover 1.5 percent of NSW land area. Greater Sydney Local Land Services works with landholders across the region to control the threat of pests and disease through coordinated campaigns and compliance activities. These are essential to protect both our agricultural industries and natural environment. We focus on sustainable land management that enhances productivity while reducing impacts on soil and water resources.

www.greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au

Mia the Mean Myna

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This book has been published as part of the City Livin' Ferals Enviro-Stories program which was supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

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Citation: Rosemeadow Public School. 2017. *Mia the Mean Myna*. Peekdesigns, Vic.





Lenny Benny and his children, Yen and Riley, lived in a beautiful house. They had a large backyard full of exotic plants and lots of fruit and vegetables.



Yen and Riley loved to watch the native birds nest in their trees, especially the Rainbow Lorikeets. Sometimes they would go outside and leave them some of their left over food scraps to eat.



Mia was a mean and destructive Indian Myna. She always forced native birds out of their homes and built her nest in people's roofs.



Mia noticed that Lenny Benny's home had a fabulous garden and a shady roof. She snuck her way into Lenny Benny's roof and made herself a nest using leaves, feathers and rubbish items.



Mia laid six eggs during the breeding season. The mini Myna's started to make a lot of noise. They also made a huge mess and left their droppings absolutely everywhere!



One morning Yen and Riley went outside to feed the birds their food scraps, like they usually do. Mia saw that there was plenty of food so she swooped down for the feast.



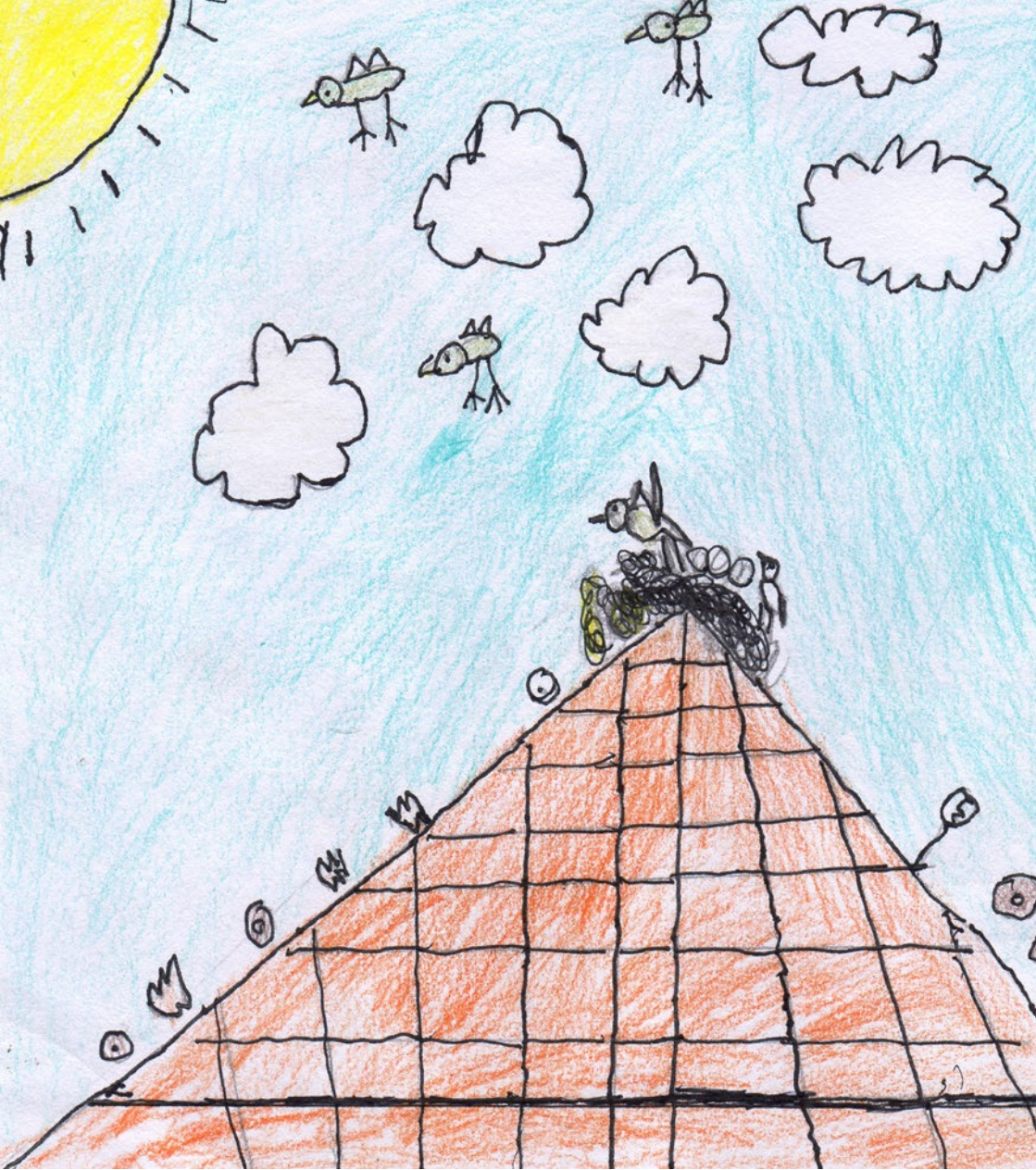
Soon enough Mia and her whole family, as well as some of their friends, began waiting around for food. Every day more and more Indian Mynas came.



Yen and Riley saw the Indian Mynas fighting the native birds that were in their backyard. They were scaring them away and forcing them out of their nests!



Lenny Benny and his children even started to get quite sick. Yen's asthma began to get worse and Riley got dermatitis, which made his skin very itchy.



Lenny Benny saw there was a huge amount of droppings in his roof and it smelled foul! He was fed up and decided to contact the Campbelltown City Council's Indian Myna Action Program.



They all attended a one-hour workshop where they learned about Indian Mynas. Lenny Benny was taught how to trap and euthanise them, while Yen and Riley learned what they can do at home to help.



Lenny Benny built a cage to catch Mia and the Indian Mynas without hurting them. He placed it in his backyard and the mynas all tried to get the food that was inside... but they ended up trapped!



Once Lenny Benny caught Mia and the other birds he euthanised them humanely to help reduce the Indian Myna population.



Yen and Riley planted native plants in their garden and patched up holes near their roof to prevent the mynas getting back in. They also stopped giving food scraps to the native birds, as this attracted the Indian Mynas.



After Lenny Benny cleaned the roof and removed the nests, the house was peaceful once again. The native plants continued to grow and attracted the beautiful native birds back to the garden where Yen and Riley enjoyed watching them nest.





Rosemeadow Public School, Year 3/4 2017


Who's living in your backyard?