



‘A Postcard from the Hollow: The Secret Life of Mikey the Powerful Owl’

‘A Postcard from the Hollow: The Secret Life of Mikey the Powerful Owl’ book launched at Macquarie University on Wednesday 22 October 2025.

It is the third book in the trilogy from writer Georgia Cameron with photographer and musician Michael Bianchino following their popular ‘Mikey the Powerful Owlet: Saving Byles Creek Valley’ and ‘Mikey the Powerful Owlet & Friends: Saving Byles Creek Valley & Beyond’ books in 2016 and 2017.

In the first book, Mikey was just a cute little fluffy chick. In the second book he’d developed into a juvenile (or teenager) with some dark chevrons on his chest.

Now, Mikey’s all grown up and is raising his own family. But, life is challenging – there’s a housing (or hollow) crisis in the Valley due to habitat loss and there’s also a cost-of-living crisis (with ringtail in short supply), so he’s working two jobs.

And in addition, he’s struggling to protect his family from human induced threats – climate change, hazard reduction burns, roadkill, rodenticide poisoning, electrocution on powerlines ... the list goes on.

And his mates in the Valley like Maggie the Magpie, Red the Blue Tongue Lizard and Sammy the Swamp Wallaby are also challenged with fake grass, roaming cats & dogs, light & water pollution as well as introduced species.

The latest book is a community collaboration based on Georgia’s highly commended 2024 Australian Wildlife Society wildlife fiction short story competition entry and Michael Bianchino’s impressive body of photographic work compiled over a decade of monitoring Powerful Owls. The illustrations were created by Macquarie University Junior Science Academy students guided by local artists Melony Smirniotis of Gallery 11:11 and Jo Goodchild. It includes an inspirational foreword by acclaimed horticulturist and media personality Graham Ross AM VMM FAIH and motivational afterword by the founder of Higher Ground Raptors Peggy McDonald OAM CF.

The booked-out launch at the Lakeside Conference Centre on the Macquarie University campus included a welcome by Amy McLuckie (Macquarie University Junior Science Academy Manager Programs) and student Bella who participated in the book illustrators class in April; passionate address by Trish Brown and Robyn Smith (President and Secretary Byles Creek Valley Union Inc); Jenny Zvolanek (on behalf of BirdLife Australia’s Powerful Owl Project) and Dr Ana Rubio (on behalf of Sydney Wildlife Rescue). To the delight of their parents, each student received an autographed book presented by Amy, Georgia and Graham thanks to Macquarie University.

The night included live music by Michael and Byles Creek Valley songbird Liz Pash; customised Powerful Owl cupcakes by Macquarie University honours student Claire-Louise McCabe; and a raffle of three art prints by Melony, Jo and Michael drawn by Pete Boyle (CEO Macquarie University Campus Life).

Through storytelling, music and art at a grassroots level, Georgia and Michael have educated, entertained and engaged both adults and children raising the next generation of citizen scientists, wildlife warriors and community activists.

This project takes their fundraising for Sydney Wildlife Rescue, BirdLife Australia's Powerful Owl Project and other wildlife charities to \$19,952 including 42 'Secret Life of Powerful Owls' shows to over 3,000 people plus large-scale events for National Science Week, busking and markets.

All profits (\$10 from each book sold and proudly printed in Australia) are fundraised for Sydney Wildlife Rescue and BirdLife Australia's Powerful Owl Project.

Books are available online at www.mikeythepowerfulowlet.com or while stocks last at:

Beecroft Post Office - Beecroft Village, Shop 19/8 Hannah Street Beecroft NSW 2119

Gallery 11:11 - 227 Malton Road (cnr Malton & Norfolk Road - Norfolk Road entry), North Epping NSW 2121

****refer websites for opening hours****

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