

Environmental Newsletter

The Importance of Trees:

Trees are especially important for our environment because they produce oxygen for all living things. We breathe in and they breathe out oxygen. They breathe in and we breathe out carbon dioxide. A

perfect harmony, working together for life!

We **must** look after the trees we have and plant more! Do not let them be cut down for **selfish** uses. With no trees, there is no harmony, and everything will suffer. We are at a stage where earth could be destroyed, please help to save it!

By: Carys .C, 5M

Littering:

It is important not to litter, as it will have millions of adverse consequences. Everyone knows that littering is bad! Once you litter, the rubbish will get into the waterways, ending up in the ocean. The water will be filled with plastic. It will be undrinkable; if you want to drink plastic, then go ahead and litter. I know that we can stop littering and SAVE THE PLANET!

By: Luca .VG & Daniel. R, 5M



The environment is all around us. It is our world, our only world. It is older than anyone could know, it is one of a kind! That is why we need to look after it. Thousands of trees get cut down every minute! Millions of animal's homes lost, and creatures gone. The world will not be a wonderful place to live in. Sea levels are rising, ice is melting, the world is being polluted, animals are dying, things are getting hotter.

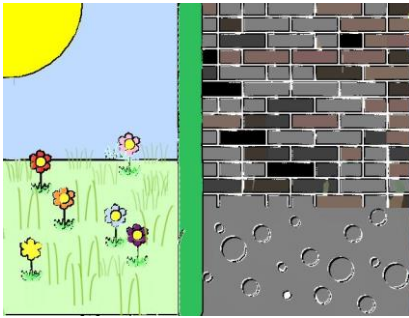
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!!

By: Tegan. L, 5M

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Darebin Parklands:

Darebin Parklands, once a dump, now a beautiful place. Where many people can go for walks, rides, and to have a picnic and play with their dogs. There are places where you can stand in the water, splashing around when you feel energetic, and hills for those wanting a hike. There are so many rocks to hop across, and rivers to wade in.



However, some people are making it not so pretty and fun. There can be large groups of teenagers, being loud and not binning their rubbish. Young children going mad and screaming. Adults having calls on speakerphone, so you hear everything they say, and people going too fast on their bikes.

On top of this, people are feeding the ducks, even though there are signs everywhere saying not to. Plus, people throw rocks off high hills, and take selfies wherever they go. Another problem is that people leave stuff on benches to be eaten by ducks, causing the ducks to get sick. People need to think about how they use the council's land, and ensure that they are not make people, animals, and the environment sick.

It is important to encourage everyone to treat this amazing space well. The duck ponds, high hills where you can see the top of the city, benches to sit on to watch the river, and places to have a party. Everyone loves going to Darebin Parklands, but please treat the land you have been allowed on, well. Make it a place we can all enjoy.

By: Olivia. W, 5T

Deforestation:

Forests have been on the planet for longer than humans have. So, why are billions of trees being cut down every year? Deforestation has an impact that many cannot think of.

Trees go through a process called photosynthesis, which produces oxygen for humans to breathe every day. Therefore, forests are also known as the lungs of the earth. So then why destroy one of the main suppliers of oxygen on Planet Earth?

The poor country Haiti has suffered from the effects of deforestation. They have no trees. If other countries go down that road, everybody will be damaged environmentally and economically.

Trees also have many benefits; they filter rainfall to improve water quality. Trees reduce noise and air pollution. Furthermore, they can soak up substantial amounts of water, stopping floods.

Trees are home to many animals as well. When we chop trees down, their homes are lost. Would you like to go home, to find that your house has been destroyed? There are millions of animals that live in trees every day and about as many come home to find their house in pieces.

It is clear, without trees, life on Earth would not be possible for both animals and humans. However, 50% of trees have already been lost and many more are lost each second.

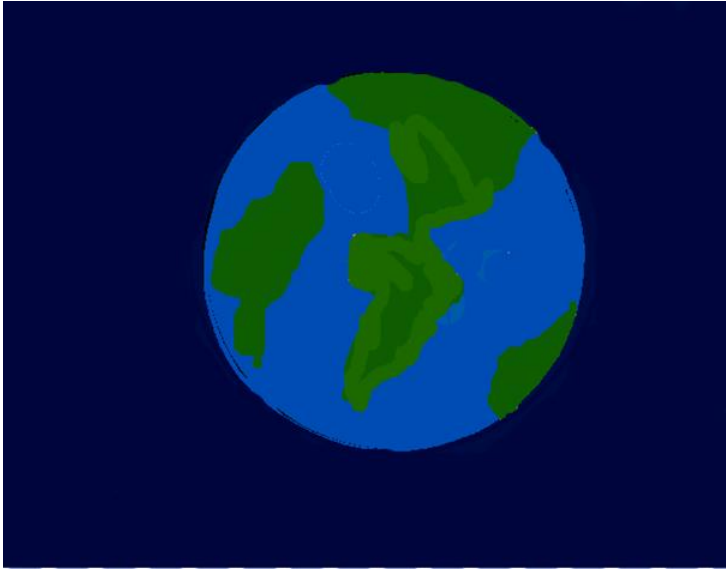
By: Alister. H, 5M

Wildlife in Danger:

Pollution is horrendous! When we drop or leave rubbish behind, they end up hurting wildlife! Since animals can't tell the difference between rubbish and food, this leads to terrible consequences. Now many people think, "Oh that's not my rubbish, must be someone else's," because of this people don't take responsibility and the litter stays there. The effects of this will endanger millions of wildlife, for example: drifting balloons that pop drop to the ground and be mistaken for food, kill the animal that tries to eat it. Poor turtles often make the mistake of eating floating plastic bags for food, this can also be fatal. Oil spills and polluted water can have a huge effect all animals, for example restricting breathing, poisoning, and creating birth defects.

We all live in this wonderful world and we must respect it, like the Aboriginals did. There are so many ways to help, if we recycle, reuse and rethink our rubbish that is a huge start. When focus on the present, we can all make a better future.

By: Natasha S., 5M



Home-made Foods:

A way that we can reduce the amount of rubbish, is to make the food at home. You won't have to buy a can or wrapping, that is reducing the amount of rubbish in our bins. Instead of buying everything from the supermarket, make it yourself. When you make the food at home, not only is the food fresher and healthier, it's also cheaper! Making the food from home is quicker than one would think. If you make your food and put the scraps of the foods that you make from home, in the compost, then you won't have **any** rubbish. Here are some foods you can make at home or grow: Spaghetti, noodles, vegetables, soup, tomato sauce, pickles and many more!!

Pasta Recipe:

Ingredients: **Serves:** 2 (Double the recipe to serve 4)

2 Eggs

200grams of 00 flour or White Wings flour

Method:

- 1) Measure out the flour into a bowl and make a well in the middle of it.
- 2) Crack the eggs into the well and mix the eggs and flour together.
- 3) Leave the dough in the fridge for 1 hour.
- 4) After waiting an hour knead the dough and roll it out with a rolling pin, so that the dough is as thick or thin as you would like.
- 5) Cut the dough thick or thin depending on the type of pasta you want.
- 6) Bring to the boil a large pot of water.
- 7) Drop your pasta in and cook for 3 minutes. If not cooked, cook for a further 15 seconds. Fresh pasta is quick to cook!
- 8) Wait for the pasta to cool and then serve with whatever topping you please.

DONE!

By Carys. C, 5M

Quick Tips to a More Environmentally Friendly Christmas!

If you celebrate Christmas, then you will know that it is a fun time to be in with your family and friends. However, it should also be a fun time for our eco system too! Here are a few tips and tricks to an eco-friendlier Christmas.

1. Christmas crackers are always fun, but they are filled with cheap plastic toys that usually ends up getting lost or thrown away. So why don't we just make our own? It's easy! You can make felt Christmas tree ornaments, make mini soaps, write your own jokes and even chuck in a couple of puzzle erasers and coins! If you get a bit stuck, you can find lots of videos and websites on the internet such as:

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/features/homemade-christmas-crackers/>

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/decorate/a23461893/make-your-own-christmas-crackers/>

2. Christmas tree decorations are pretty, right? Although they are also usually made from cheap plastic that breaks a lot and must be chucked out. But just in time homemade Christmas decorations come to the rescue! They are simple to make and the whole family can do it! Just draw something small on a piece of recycled paper, cut it out, punch a hole into it, tie on some string (or put a pipe cleaner through) and bam! Your Christmas tree will be looking amazing in no time!
3. This last trick is the easiest of all! All you need is some old newspapers or maps that you can give another life! All you need to do is wrap it around a gift you are going to give because you have recycled wrapping paper! Long gone the days will be of hunting down more wrap.
Eco-Friendly is the new Christmas people!

By Tegan. L, 5M

Environmental Interview of Fiona Millar –Environmentalist

1. What do you think is the world's biggest environmental problem?

Global warming.



2. Why do you think Global warming is the world's biggest environmental problem?

Global warming is having a significant impact on all areas of the environment. Our climate for example, the fact the word "unprecedented" was used repeatedly to describe last summer's heat wave, is a prime example. This change in climate means that habits are changing too, and unfortunately lots of animals are struggling to survive due to this. Even those animals that are adapted to a harsher environment did not go unscathed in the bushfires of last summer. Unfortunately, these changes are happening across the world, not just in Australia. That is why I believe Global warming is currently have the largest negative impact on our environment.



The great news is, there are so many ways that we can have a positive effect on Global warming and our school community are doing so much to reduce our reliance on petrol and the burning fossil fuels. We are making environmental minded choices, including coming actively to school, open windows to create air

movement rather than turning on the air-conditioner, turn off any lights or interactive whiteboards when they are not needed. We are also making structural changes to the school by placing blinds on windows that face the sun, we invested in computer charges, that turn off once the computers are fully charged; and in the future we are hoping to increase the number of solar panels we have within the school. We are minimizing our use of materials, and therefore reducing greenhouse gases, by bringing Nude Food to school and recycling any materials that can be if they enter our school. Global warming, for me really is a huge issue, but I am SO grateful to be surrounded by people who are also motivated to make positive changes. I am so lucky to be the Sustainability Co-Ordinator at this school, with amazing students who are willing to go the extra mile, their wonderfully supportive parents, the greater Ivanhoe community and of course my wonderful teaching colleagues and leadership.

3. Why should we help the environment?

The environment is our future, our health, our livelihood, our recreation, our happiness, our lives. With a little gratitude, effort and awareness, we can create a much health world.

4. What's one object/thing you think would help the environment if removed and why?

If I had a magic wand, I would love to create a material like plastic that biodegrades and is cheap. I recognize the plastic makes our lives so much easier, however we are humans and if something is not treasured, we tend not to value it and discard it without a thought. I am constantly saddened by images of plastic within the environment and the negative effects it can have on animals. Plastic is now pretty much everywhere; I must admit I'm really concerned about the effect this will have across time.

5. Why are you so enthusiastic about the environment?

Nature fascinates me all of it! I feel so grateful to live in a world where we have the scientific understanding we do about our surroundings. Nature is amazing and there is still so much to learn, destroying it breaks my heart. We will lose so much if we don't value and recognize the world around us. I would hate for future generations to not be able to see or experience the joy of watching a platypus, wombat, koala or any other animal doing what it is meant to do. I hate the idea of future children not being able to look closely at the flower of a River Red Gum or the stunning patterns within its bark or leaves.

6. What animals suffer because of human choices?

It depends what human choices were talking about. If we do not continue to improve our choices, a lot of animals will be negatively affected.

The positive is we come from an amazing country with a wonderful heritage of caring for country. If we can learn from our indigenous peoples, endangered indigenous animals may be able re-establish themselves in their natural environment, which is my hope!

Recycle!!!



Even the Among us people want us to recycle!

Recycling is an excellent way to reduce the rubbish in our world. If we recycle, we are saving lives! To recycle means to re-use something, for example if we have copies of something we don't need, use the other side for blank paper. There are many ways to recycle and when you do, you reduce the risk of an animal dying. There are plenty of animals that die because of the amounts of rubbish we throw out, if we can re-use some things and reduce the amount of rubbish, we can save a life. So, recycle today to save an innocent animal!

By: Carys. C, 5M