

The Big Drought



Jolie McNamara
Crescent Lagoon State School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, 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

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The Big Drought

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Aww seriously! It is so hot! I can't remember the last time the grass looked lush and green.



Oh hi there! My name is Amanda and I live in outback Australia. It hasn't rained here for over a year. It's been really sweltering - so hot and dry. There's just nowhere to cool down.



The dam's dried up and there are cracks everywhere. Some cracks are so big that I can even fit my leg into them. The ground is begging for water. It is so parched and desperately thirsty.



Our water supplies are very low, but luckily we are prepared because droughts are very likely to happen out here. We have a number of huge tanks that conserve the rainwater on our farm.

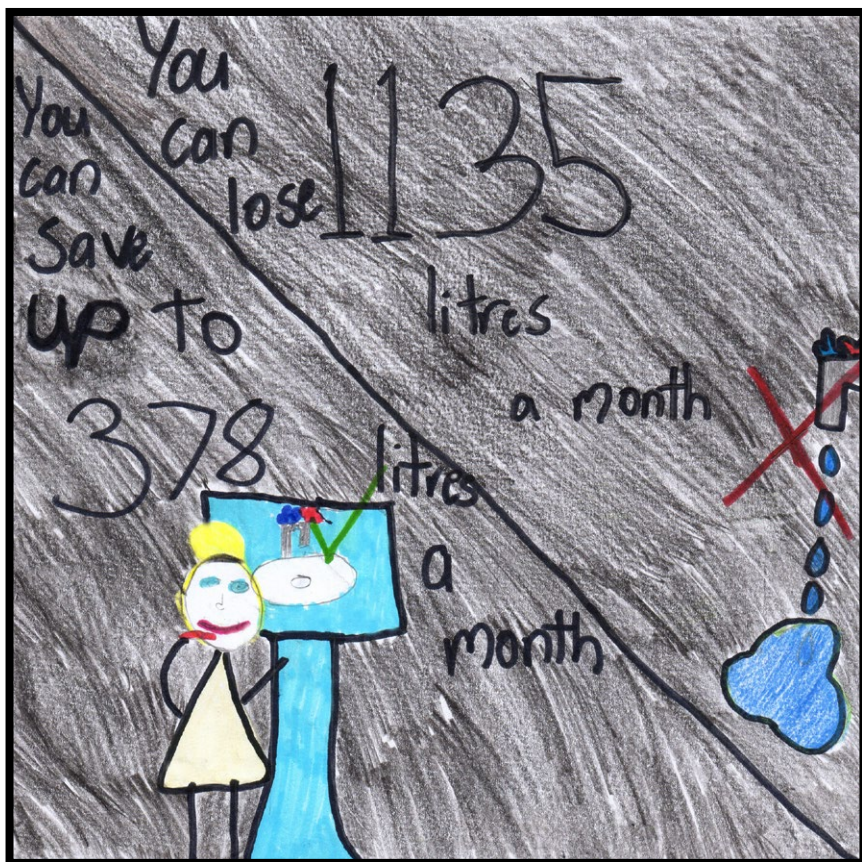


My neighbours are struggling to get by. They have to make trips into town to fetch drinking water for their families and stock.

It is really tough country out here. If you are not careful and wastewater, or don't save and store enough water in good times, then you can be in big trouble during droughts.

*Did you know if your tap leaks, even just a drip,
you can lose over 1135 litres of water a month?*

*Did you also know, if you turn off the tap
while cleaning your teeth you will save
378 litres of water a month?*



I think you will agree that is a lot of water to be wasting for two things that are easy to fix.



Food for stock is one of the biggest worries around here. There just isn't any grass in the paddocks and there is almost no hay left in the entire region so it's become extremely expensive.



Every morning when I wake up and look out my window, all I can see is dried cow skulls and bones of animals that have died because we can't afford food for them. We can barely afford food for ourselves!



But there is some hope as we have a good Samaritan.
We are grateful for the assistance we are given by the
'Burrumbuttock Hay Runners'.

*Did you know the 'Burrumbuttock Hay Runners'
have done eleven successful hay runs to areas
in need since 2014?*





Source: Queensland Country Life, 'Record-breaking hay run welcomed with open arms in western Queensland', 6 January 2016

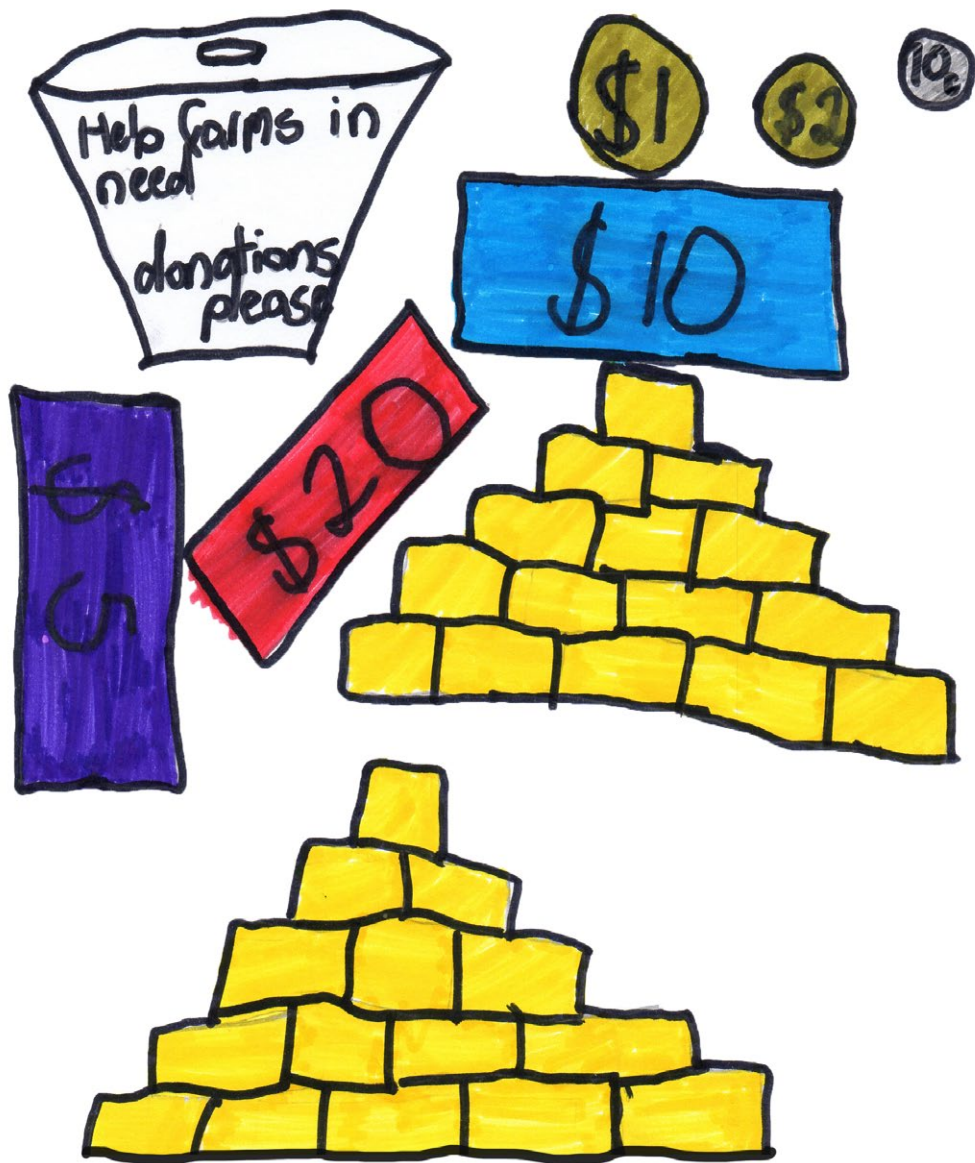


Source: The Courier, 'Paying tribute to those who pay tribute to Ballarat', 13 May 2016

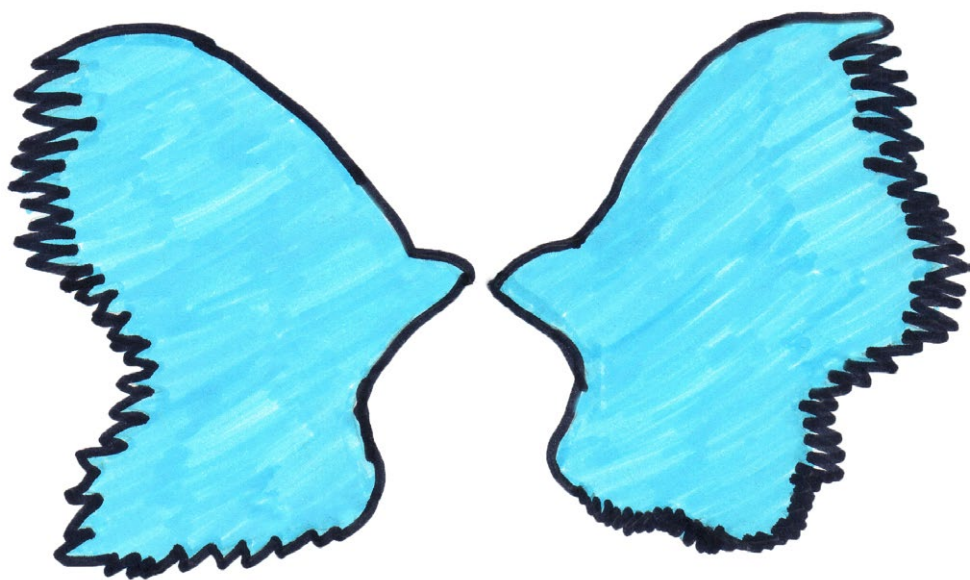
Their purpose is to help farmers who are struggling during severe droughts. They collect donations, which they then use to buy lots of hay. The hay is loaded onto their trucks and taken to farms in need on a long line of road trains.

It is a great sight to see and hear the happy, relieved families cheering.





So if you want to contribute to a good cause and help some farms in need, then donate money to the Burrumbuttock Hay Runners.



Drought Angels

Supporting our Aussie Farmers

Another generous charity that we have received help from out here in the outback during the droughts are called the 'Drought Angels'.

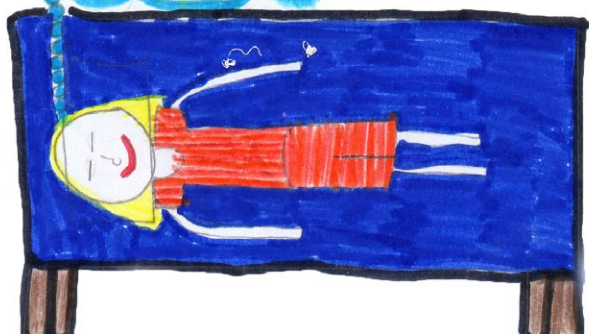
They collect donations and gather supplies to create hampers, which they give to families that are running out of food and other supplies. They sometimes also do hay runs to help our animals as well.



They are truly angels. I sometimes even imagine them with halos and wings.

The land is suffering from an extreme drought. It is just bare earth. The ground is peeling away like dead skin. It feels dry as bones. I hope it rains soon.

Rain would be a
dream come true!





Jolie McNamara
Crescent Lagoon State School, Year 5 2016



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