

Wendy's Climate Quest



Frederickton Public School
Year 3-5, 2025





Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is a 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.

envirostories.com.au

Kempsey Shire Council

Kempsey Shire Council's corporate vision is to lead and work with our community to build and inspired, connected Macleay Valley. Our community is at the heart of our decision making and plays an essential role in setting our strategic direction.

The Kempsey Shire Council Local Government Area is located within the NSW Mid North Coast and covers an area of 3,380 square kilometres with a population of approximately 30,000 residents.

The principal town in the Shire is Kempsey, located approximately halfway between the state capitals of Sydney and Brisbane, and between the regional centres of Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Frederickton Public School

Frederickton Public School is located 7 kilometres north of the heart of Kempsey in the Macleay Valley on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

Our vision is to provide effective evidenced based high quality teaching and learning in an inclusive environment. We are focused on developing our students as lifelong learners with exceptional literacy, numeracy, and technological skills. Every student in our school is known, valued and cared for.

frederick-p.schools.nsw.gov.au

Wendy's Climate Quest

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Enviro-Stories is a PeeKdesigns initiative, peekdesigns.com.au



Wendy the worker bee zipped through the Frederickton township, her wings buzzing softly. But something was wrong! The air felt thick and heavy, the sun burned hotter than before, and the flowers she usually visited were nowhere to be seen.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bees are highly sensitive to changes in temperature and weather patterns caused by climate change.

Back at the hive, Wendy's family was struggling. The honey stores were running low, and many bees were too weak to fly. Some were getting sick, and without enough nectar, they couldn't make the honey that kept them strong.



DID YOU KNOW?

Without access to nectar-producing flowers, bees can starve or become more vulnerable to disease.



Wendy set off to find out what was happening.

As she flew over the town, she noticed dry, cracked earth where wildflowers used to grow. The rivers and creeks had shrunk to mere trickles, and the air smelled of smoke from distant bushfires.

DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of droughts and bushfires in many parts of Australia.

As she searched, Wendy spotted a farm on the edge of town. The fields looked dry, and the plants wilted in the heat.

A farmer and their family stood near a struggling vegetable patch, looking worried. Thin and tired looking cows gathered under a tree to get shade.

"The crops we grow to feed them aren't surviving," the farmer said sadly.



DID YOU KNOW?

Heatwaves and drought can reduce the quality and yield of crops used for livestock feed.

Curious, Wendy flew closer and listened.

"There's no rain, the crops won't grow, and the weeds are taking over," the farmer sighed. "Our climate is changing, and it is making it hard to run our farm! Worst of all, I can't even find any honey in the shops!"

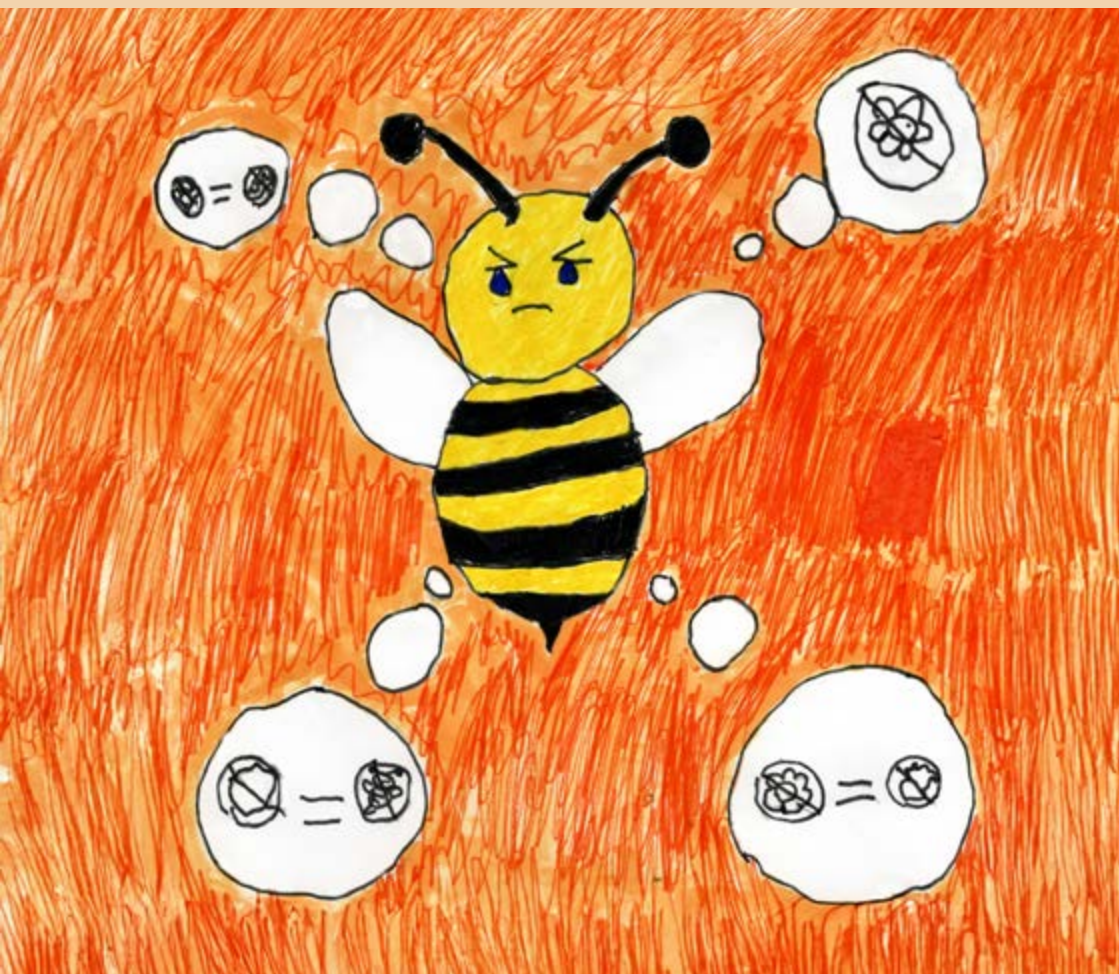


DID YOU KNOW?

In Australia, climate change is making farming more difficult due to erratic rainfall and extreme heat.

Wendy's tiny heart skipped a beat. No honey in the shops, a changing climate? That meant no pollination, no flowers, no food for the bees!

She had to help, but how?



DID YOU KNOW?

Bees play a key role in pollinating one-third of the food we eat, including grains, fruits, vegetables, and nuts.



Wendy bravely buzzed in front of the farmer's face. At first, the farmer waved her away, but then they noticed how tired she looked.

"Poor little bee, you're struggling too, aren't you?"

DID YOU KNOW?

Bees can become exhausted or die when they can't find enough nectar or water.

The farmer and their family started thinking.

"If our climate is changing, then we need to take action and make changes too!" they said.

"We can plant stronger crops that survive the heat, and we can improve our soil. We can collect rainwater when it does fall, and we can harness energy from the sun and wind for our power. And maybe... we can plant more flowers for the bees so they can help pollinate the crops!"



DID YOU KNOW?

Sustainable farming techniques like water harvesting and planting native species can protect both crops and pollinators.

The family got to work...

They dug holes for new trees that would provide shade and protect their crops from storms.

They rested paddocks to let them recover and used natural fertilisers like manure to improve their soil.

They installed solar panels and a wind turbine to generate electricity, and rainwater tanks and a new dam to collect water.

They even put out bowls of water for passing bees and birds, and they asked their neighbours to do the same.



DID YOU KNOW?

Trees can cool the environment and provide safe habitats for insects, birds, and other wildlife.

Wendy flew back to her hive, her mind racing. If the humans could make changes, maybe the bees could, too. She told the Queen about the farmer's plan, and soon, the whole hive was buzzing with hope.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bees live in highly social communities and work together to solve problems and keep the hive strong.



In the months that followed, the farm transformed. Wildflowers began to bloom between the crops. The trees gave shade to the soil, keeping it cool and moist. The crops started to flourish and so more bees visited, collecting nectar and spreading pollen.

DID YOU KNOW?

More flowers means more insects and birds, which means more pollination and better growth of fruits, vegetables and grains.



The farmer noticed the difference. "The vegetables are growing better, our cows have more food to eat, and we're even seeing more honeybees again!" they said happily. "Maybe if the whole town joins in, we can make an even bigger change."

News spread through Frederickton of the farmer's great success. The changes showed that if you make positive changes to take care of the land and the climate, then you will benefit by having a healthier farm.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pollinators like bee's help increase crop yields and farm productivity.



Soon the whole town became involved...

The school planted gardens, the town converted to renewable energy and set up water stations, and families started growing flowers in their yards. Slowly, the town fought back against climate change as it turned greener and healthier.

DID YOU KNOW?

Community gardens and green spaces help reduce urban heat and support local biodiversity.

Wendy and her family felt stronger and more prepared for the future. There was more food, cooler spaces to rest, and the hive was thriving once more. The changes were working!



DID YOU KNOW?

Supporting pollinators helps create a healthier and more climate-resilient environment for everyone.



One evening, Wendy rested on a sunflower near the farm with her new friend, a cheerful native bee named Nola. Together, they watched their bee friends dance from flower to flower, pollinating happily. The fields buzzed with life, laughter, and colour. The farm was truly buzzing with joy and delight.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia has over 1,700 species of native bees, many of which are important pollinators like honeybees.

Climate change in the Macleay region

Even in the Macleay region, climate change is a big challenge. By learning, preparing and working together to take action, we can build a safer, cleaner and more sustainable future for everyone.

How climate change affects us

- Hotter temperatures and heatwaves.
- Heavier rainfall, floods, and droughts.
- More intense storms, including hail and strong winds.
- Sea level rise, which can damage coastal areas.
- More bushfires and days with high fire danger.
- Impacts on plants and animals, including where they live and how they survive.
- Changes to our health, water supply, and food production.

What can you do to help?

- Save energy by turning off lights and using less electricity.
- Use clean energy like solar power, if possible.
- Walk or ride your bike instead of using a car.
- Eat local food and don't waste it.
- Recycle and compost to reduce rubbish.
- Plant trees and look after your garden.
- Get ready for extreme weather by learning what to do in a fire, flood, or heatwave.

**Small actions, when done by many people,
can make a big difference!**



Years 3–5
Frederickton Public School, 2025

