

From Litterbug to Legend



St Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey
Year 1, 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

St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Kempsey is located in the beautiful Macleay Valley, on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

St. Joseph's plays a vital role in laying the foundation for your child's lifelong learning, ensuring that each student develops into a happy, resilient and successful person, with realistic and achievable goals, and strong morals and values.

kmpplism.catholic.edu.au

From Litterbug to Legend

School: St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey

Authors/Artists: Year 1 – Christiano, Edie, Shiloh, Everly, Carter, Harper, Emilia, Bonnie, Oscar, Gabriel, Arla, Lily, Mieke, Hallie, Christy, Alby, Olivia, Parker, Kinsley, Zarli, Charlie, Evie, Alice, Leo B, Quinn, Amarlee, Lola and Halle

Teacher: Mrs Cameron and Miss Barrow

Special thanks to: Jessica Marsh and Chase Nolan-Eather from Kempsey Shire Council.

This book has been published as part of the Macleay EcoExplorers Enviro-Stories program.





Ivy the ibis loved going to St. Joseph's School at lunchtime.

She'd find all sorts of yummy food scraps in the full bins after the children ate.

But Ivy was greedy.

She wanted to gobble up all the food
she could, so she tipped a bin over
and scattered rubbish everywhere.

What a mess!



"That naughty monster is a thief!" the kids shouted.

They saw Ivy stealing orange peels and apple cores, and they knew all that mess was bad for the environment.



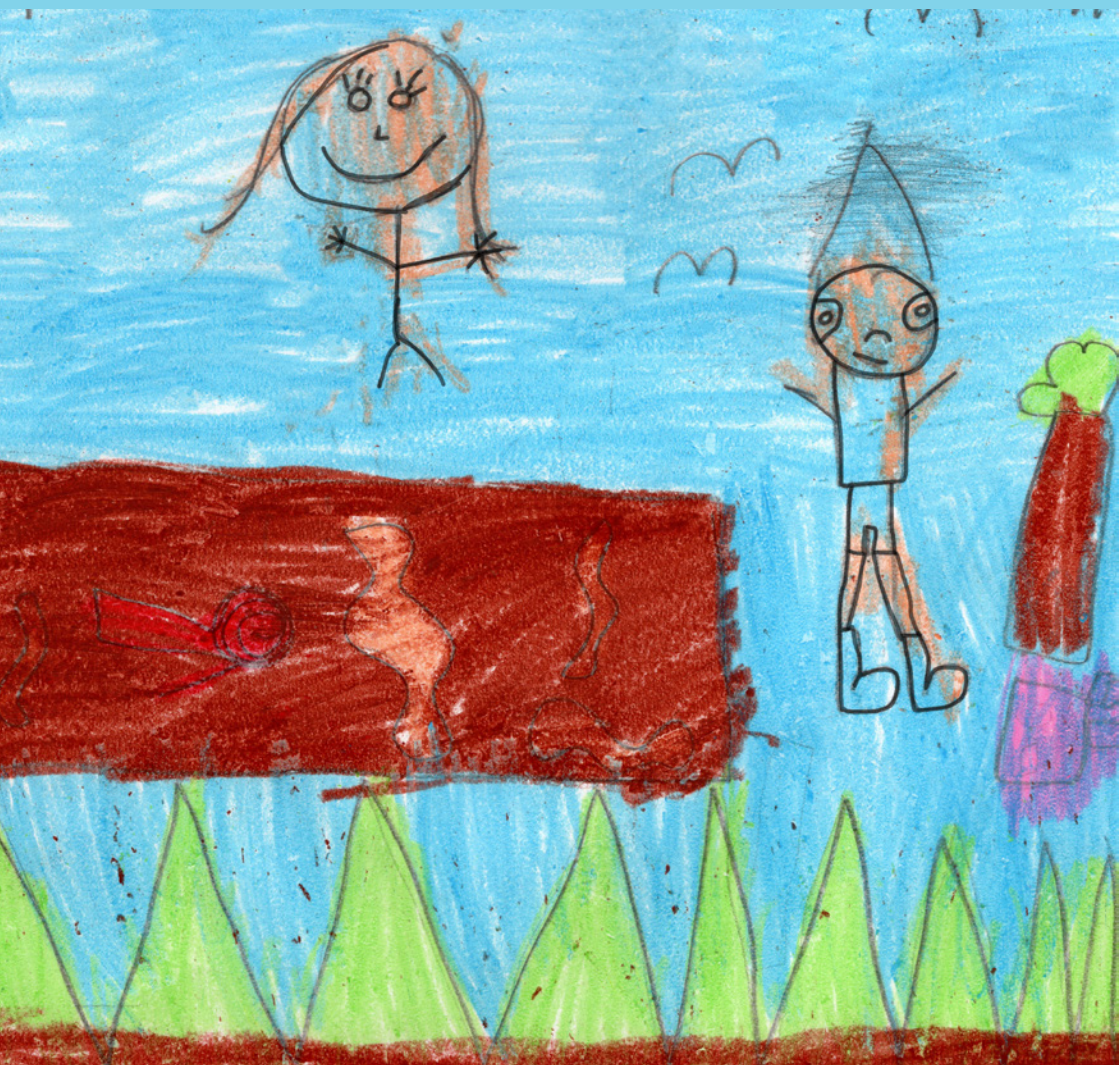


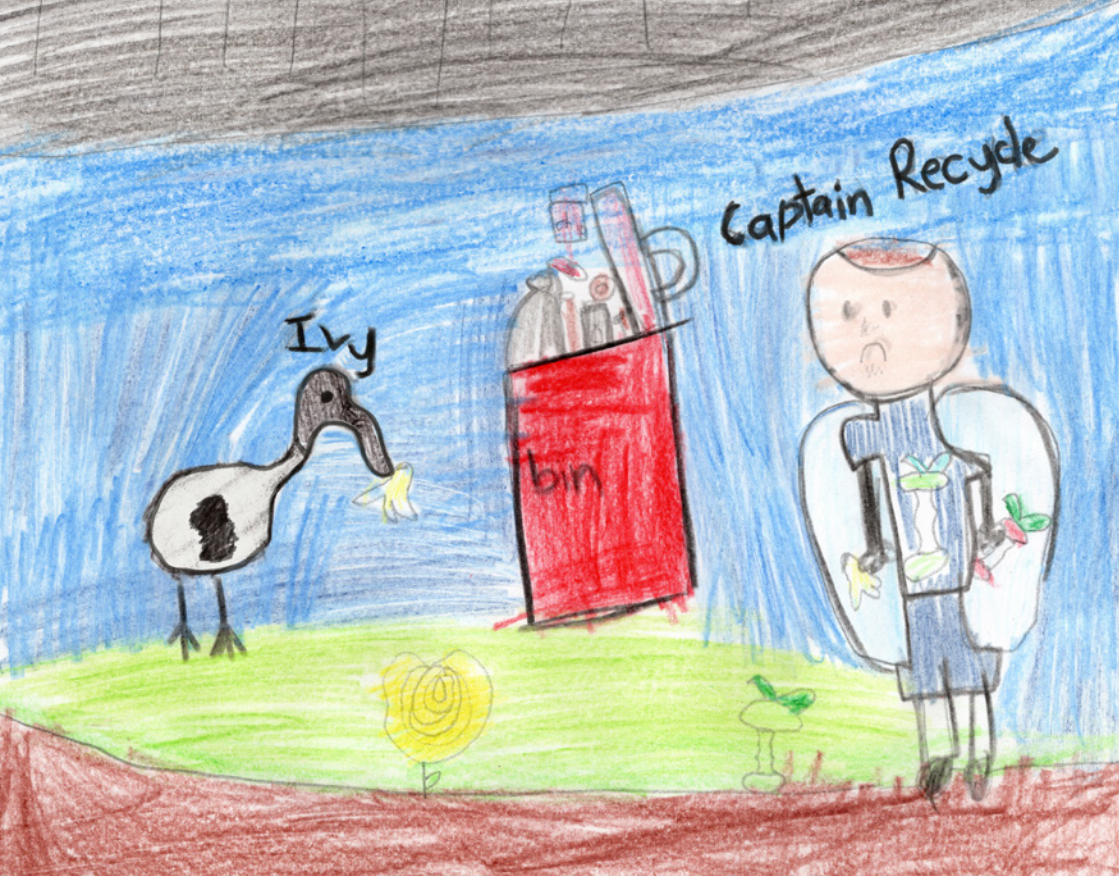
The kids researched the problem of overflowing bins and found that their school was producing too much waste.

This meant more trash was going to a landfill instead of being reused or recycled.

They wondered what they could do to help! They noticed that even the school's worm farm wasn't getting enough food scraps to make compost.

Ivy the ibis, who was really a curious bird, liked this school. Seeing the kids' concern, she decided to help. So, Ivy put out a call to a friend.





Luckily, the one and only ***Captain Recycle*** came to the rescue!

He explained to Ivy that putting all your rubbish in one bin is bad for the environment because it all ends up in landfill. When green, living materials break down in landfill, they release gases that contribute to climate change.

Other items that can be reused or recycled should also be separated from general rubbish. Reusing and recycling conserves resources, saves energy, and reduces pollution.

Captain Recycle then showed Ivy how to use the worm farm to save waste.

“Worm farms are an awesome way to recycle! Put food scraps in the worm farm, and the worms will turn them into compost.”





"This compost is full of recycled nutrients and minerals that can be put in the garden to help plants grow. Not only does this keep green waste out of landfill, but the school garden will be very healthy, too," Captain Recycle explained.

Next, clever Captain Recycle had a plan to show Ivy the clean canteen, where they were learning about food waste. He showed Ivy lots of things the school could improve on, like serving healthy, fresh food in the right-sized portions for students.





"Only buy what you can eat,"
explained Captain Recycle.



Ivy realised her lunchtime raids were messy and stopped rubbish from going to the right place.

She decided to change her ways and help others learn too.



Ivy and Captain Recycle started a club called the "Clean Up Crew" to help the environment by sorting waste.

They spread the message by teaching the students why caring for the environment is important.

They showed the students how to pick up after themselves, use the right bins, and only take what they need.

They also convinced the principal that they should invest in renewable energy sources, like solar panels, to reduce the school's environmental footprint. This would also help the school save money!



From that day on at St. Joseph's, the playground was cleaner, the worms were fed, and the garden bloomed.

There was less waste going to landfill, and the students were happy they could do their part to fight against climate change.





Ivy the ibis is now proud to be a legend of the environment and not a litterbug.

She is proof that small changes make a big difference.

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!**



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