

The Brave Little Fish



St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey
Year 4H, 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

The Brave Little Fish

School: St. Joseph's Primary School, Kempsey

Authors/Artists: Year 4H – Daisy, Maya, Tate B, Roni, Ryda, Chase, Mackenna, Wyatt, Lennox, Isaac, Kiera, Max, Eve, Tony, Hughe, Isla, Gus, Casey, Tahlia, Thomas, Oliver, Connor, Taj, JJ, Tate T, Indi and Kodhi.

Teacher: Mrs Zarinah Tolman

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.



Beneath the water in the beautiful blue sea was a wondrous habitat of sparkly, vibrant coral, containing all the colours of the rainbow.



Colourful schools of fish and buttery smooth dolphins, liked to play fun games of hide and seek amongst the pretty coral.

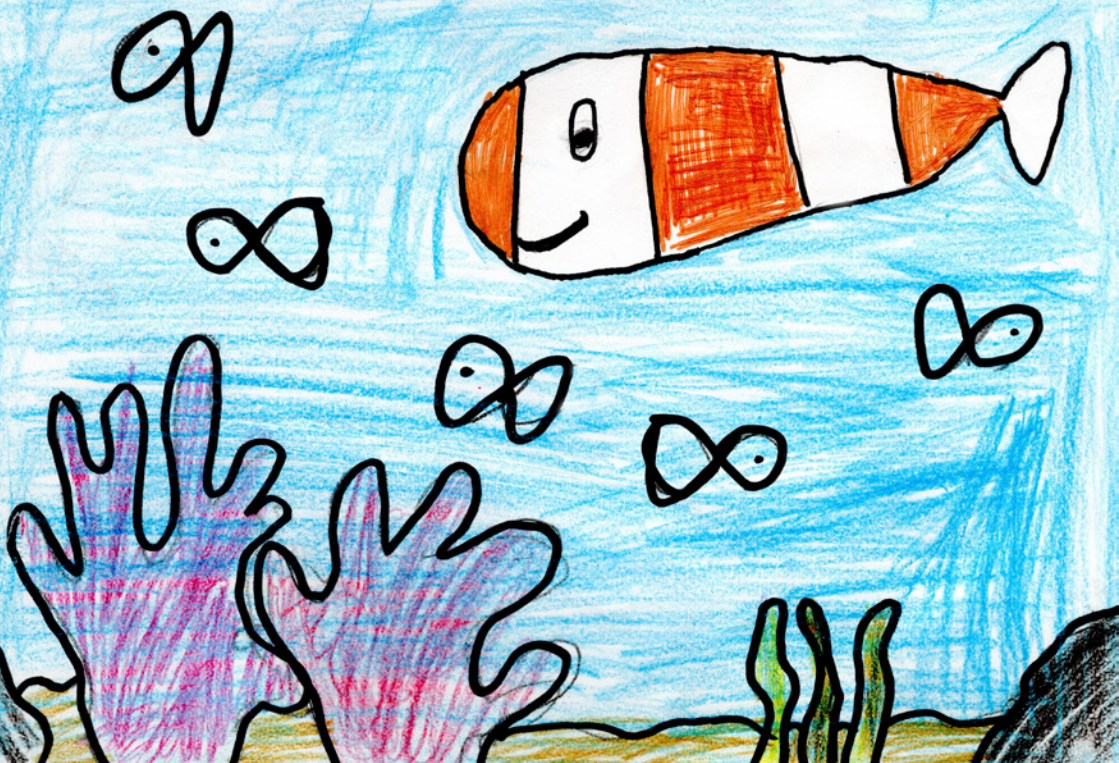
Lots of creatures called this healthy environment home, including maroon octopuses, dark blue tiger sharks, blue-spotted stingrays and orange lobsters hiding under rocks.



But one day, Finn the clownfish, who lived in the coral reef, started noticing changes to his pristine home. When he woke up and ventured out, he thought the water felt so much warmer than it should be.

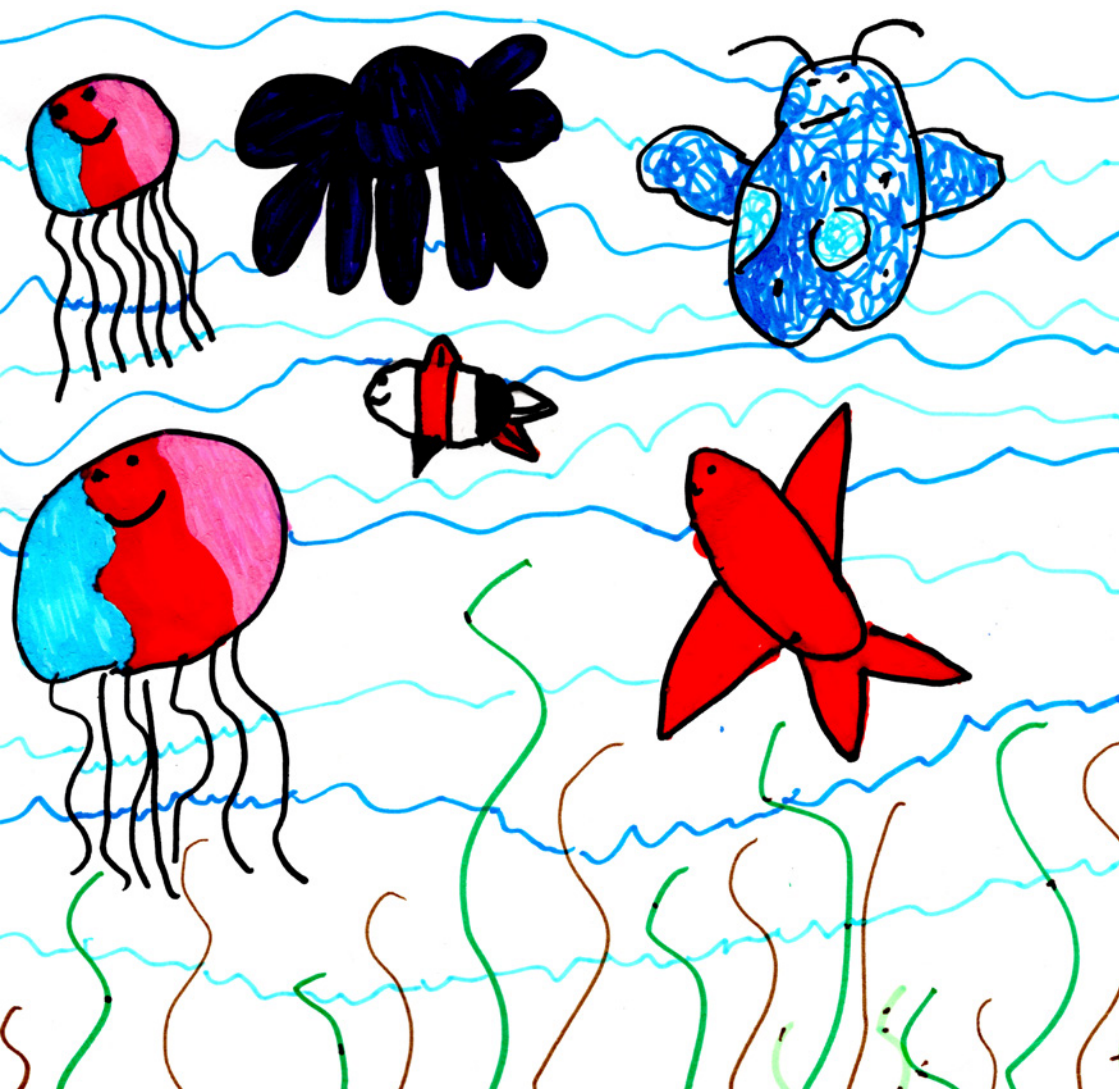
As he swam along, Finn noticed that the coral had lost its glow. There were patches of colour missing from the coral. The coral had been bleached!

Finn was so confused. He wondered what could cause all this damage so quickly. He had heard about something called climate change, but he didn't know exactly what it was.



After Finn ate breakfast, he set off on an awesome but daunting adventure to meet new friends and discover what he could about climate change.

He not only wanted to find out about how climate change was affecting the ocean's creatures, but also how to prevent it from getting worse.



Finn came across a school of small, silver shimmering fish who were looking rather sad.

Finn asked them what was wrong, and one of them said, "We are so hungry and can't find any plankton to eat. I don't think the plankton like the warmer water".

Finn felt very upset about this, as he realised climate change was affecting the food chain.



As Finn was swimming along, he spotted a dolphin who seemed to be lost.

"Hi, my name is Flicker," the dolphin said. Flicker explained "that the warming water is due to climate change and this has an effect on the water currents. This makes it harder to find food and navigate our way back home."

Finn felt very upset about this, as he realised climate change was making the oceans more dangerous for even the smartest creatures.





As he was gliding through the warm, salty sea, Finn approached a playful group of jellyfish. The jellyfish were loving the warmer water, thriving, and becoming bigger.

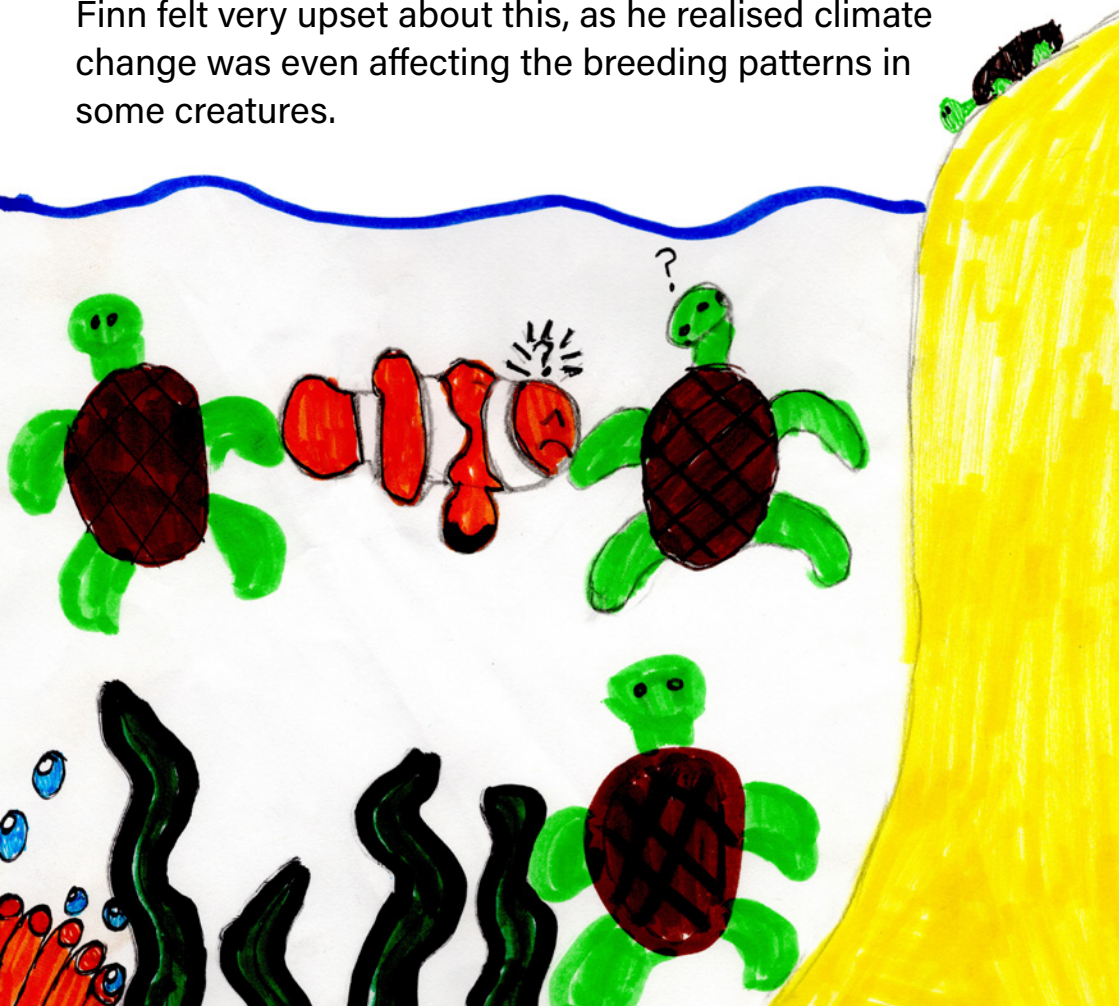
Finn noticed that the jellyfish population had increased. They had become so big that the other sea creatures were struggling to stay out of their way and now had to find new homes.

Finn felt very upset about this, as he realised climate change was causing imbalances in the populations of the ocean's creatures.

As Finn swam away, he bumped into a small female turtle, then another and another. It never seemed to end!

He saw their mother and commented on all of her daughters. She saw how baffled Finn was and started telling him about what's been going on. She said that there have been more girls born because of the increased heat from climate change. The hotter sand causes an imbalance in how many male and female turtles are hatching.

Finn felt very upset about this, as he realised climate change was even affecting the breeding patterns in some creatures.



Finn continued his journey until he saw Otto the Octopus. He was kindly picking up yucky rubbish with all his many arms. Otto explained how dangerous rubbish was to the ocean's creatures as they may mistake it for food.

Finn felt very upset about this, as he realised that the rubbish could choke poor unsuspecting creatures.





Finn told Otto that he was worried about the effects of climate change in the ocean, but he had no idea what to do about it.

Otto wisely told Finn, "Just like me doing my small part to clean up the reef, every action can inspire other sea creatures to help too." He continued by saying, "Even the tiniest fish can make a big wave of change."

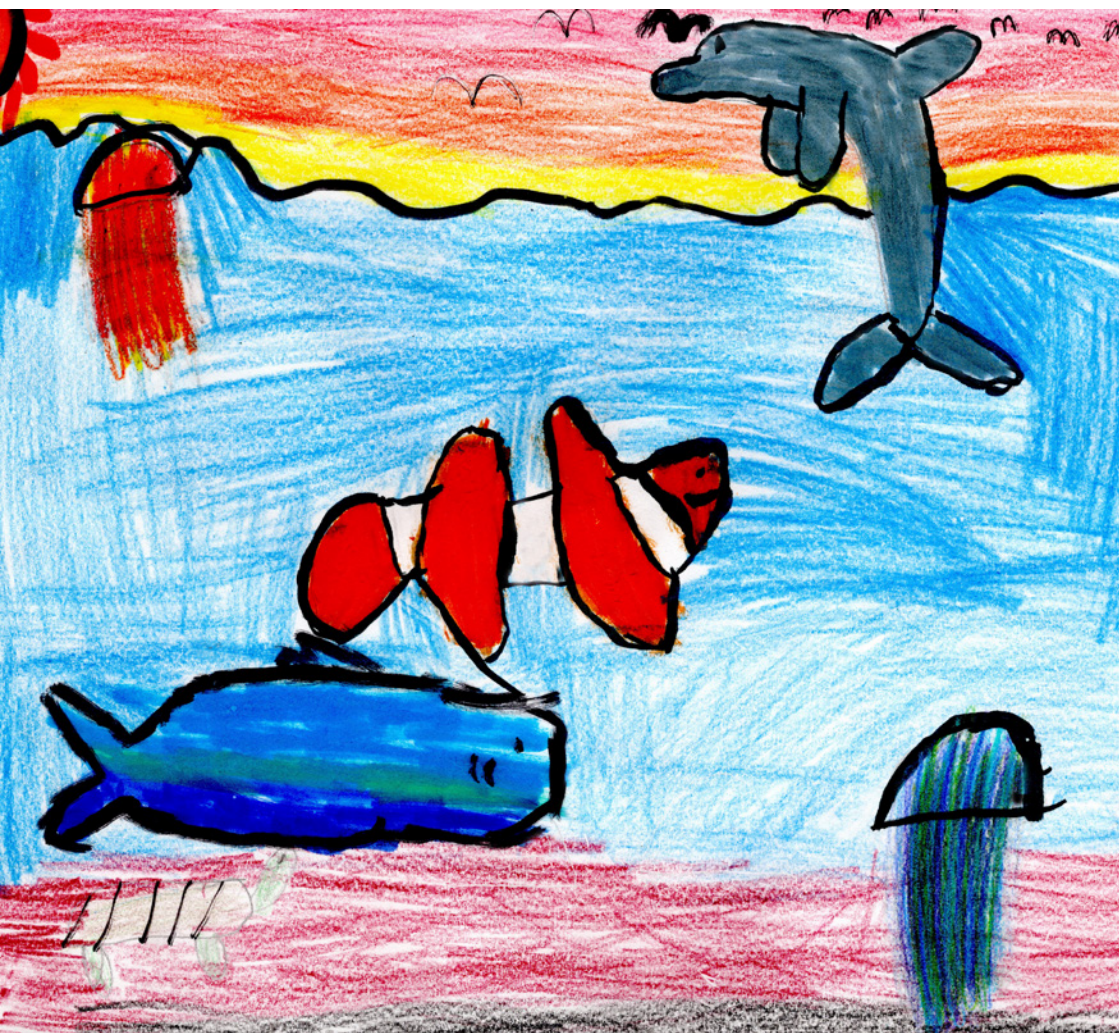
These moments helped Finn see that every creature living in the ocean is affected by climate change in different ways. Some struggle, some adapt, and some even thrive, but the balance of the ocean was changing.

And this is when Finn knew his journey had only just begun.



Finn decided he could help the most by raising awareness about climate change among the coral reef community.

He called a meeting with the other sea animals whose homes had been bleached, whose food had disappeared, or who had felt any other impacts of climate change. Together, they made a list of actions that they could take to try and help.

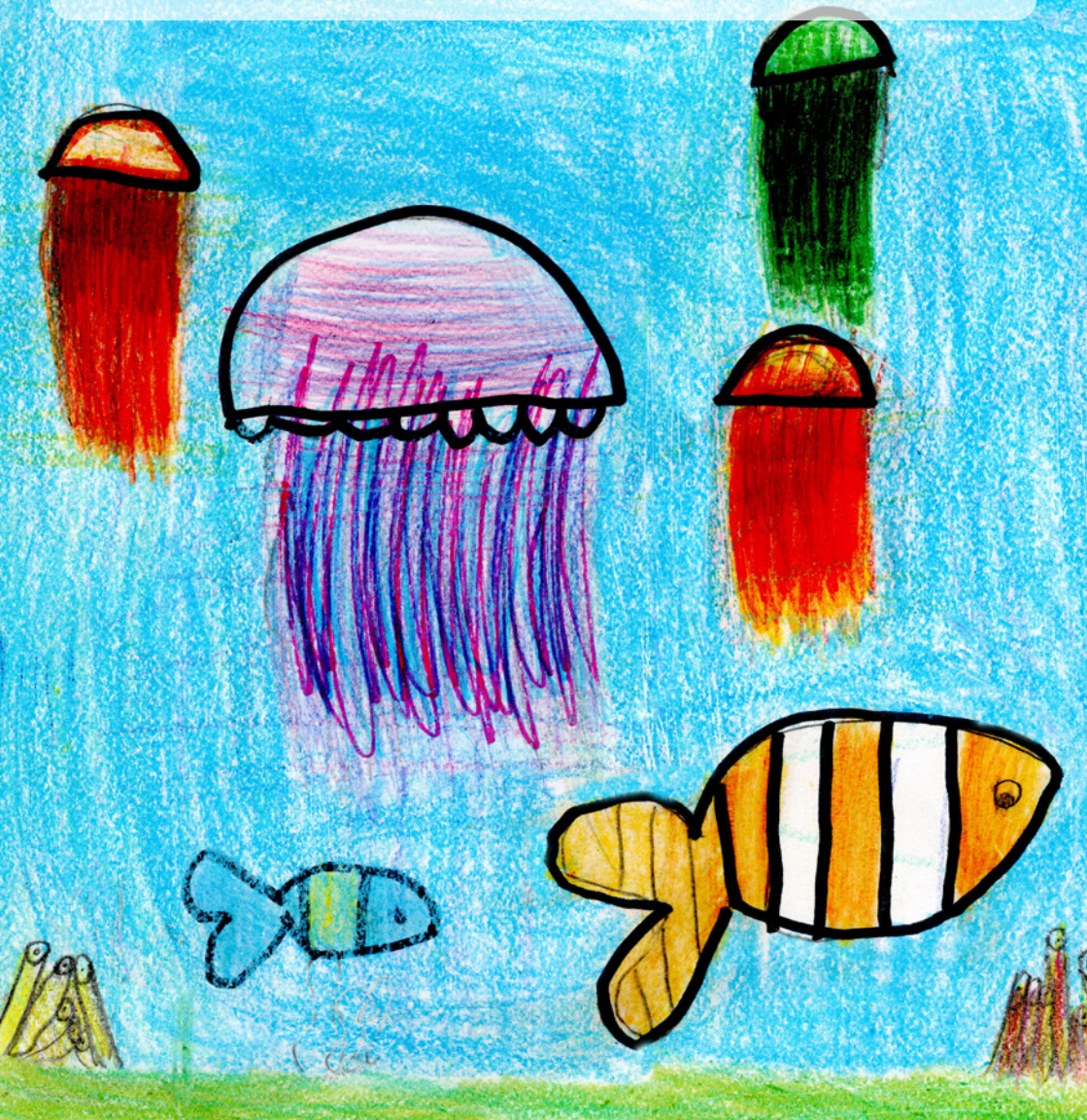


On top of that list was contacting the main cause of climate change and showing them that the oceans were hurting.

With Otto's help, Finn sent messages with sea birds and dolphins to take to the humans. He asked the humans to change their ways and help protect ocean habitats.



Finn had thought about what he had seen: the hungry school of fish, the lost dolphins, too many jellyfish, lots of only female turtles, an eight-armed cleaning machine, and most importantly, a coral reef community coming together. These actions made Finn feel proud because they inspired other sea creatures to help, too.





Yes, the ocean was hurting, but it was also full of life, courage, and creatures who cared.

"I may be small," Finn whispered, "but I can still make a difference."

When people aren't careful with the Earth, the ocean feels it too. Together, our actions can help reduce the impacts of climate change.

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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