

KREATIVE KOALAS CASE STUDY

GRESFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL - I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES



Students from Gresford Public School harnessed the power of dance, music and the news desk in their Kreative Koala's [video](#) focussed on the world's threatened species. Studying United Nations Sustainability Development Goal 15: Life on Land, the whole school became involve with the project, with their overarching message to plant more trees.

Helen Rubeli teaches Enrichment Classes, Creative Arts and STEAM at Gresford Public School and believed entering the school in Kreative Koalas was "a very positive and unusual way to empower young people to solve real-world problems." Students obviously agreed, taking to the program with enthusiasm and from the start, used their voice to project their ideas.

On their koala, named Kara, they incorporated technology in the form of QR codes (matrix barcodes) to link to their website where students read their nature-inspired poetry. More poetry and messages about the natural world were inscribed across Kara. "Kara has a personality and a "Voice" through the messages and QR codes," the school says in their artwork statement. "These links are webpages in our digital journal and our process has supported and valued authentic student voice."

This voice continued with the production of their video. The video opened with a news broadcast on the end of species, crossed to a "hottest day ever" weather report, and then found the good news – Gresford Public School planting trees to support native fauna. With a foot-tapping sound-track (a reworked version of You Sexy Thing - I Believe in Miracles - by Hot Chocolate) and groovy dance moves from both teachers and students, the video was a highlight of 2019 Kreative Koalas.



SEE AND HEAR THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TALK ABOUT THEIR KREATIVE KOALAS JOURNEY [HERE](#)



But the levity of their creative talents never distracted from the serious messages they wanted to impart and this was reflected when one of their own, Year 6 student Josie Hodges, was recognised as one of four Eco-Warriors in the Kreative Koala awards. "During the Kreative Koalas project Josie modelled excellence in Science and Technology and Design lessons for younger students," the school says in her nomination. "She encouraged people to try again and show resilience when things did not work out the first time. She also led the film-making project and was an outstanding leader in this group. Josie took on lots of the organising and directing of the project and learnt a great deal about how to film and use techniques in this field as well as how to get the best possible performance from the actors. Her interpersonal skills, particularly with younger students, are excellent."

Josie and colleagues at Gresford Public School excelled in their ambitions to protect life on land, and in particular Australia's threatened species, by acting at a local level. Their messages encourage us to clean waterways, create habitat, build bird boxes, control cats and plant lots of trees. As they say in their video: "its gunna be hard. Its gunna take a miracle. But I believe in miracles."

Special thanks to:

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