



# KREATIVE KOALAS CASE STUDY

## PLANET PROTECTORS: ST. BRIGID'S AWARD-WINNING ECO JOURNEY



### INTRODUCTION

St. Brigid's Primary School embarked on an ambitious journey to combat waste and foster sustainability, driven by alarming data showing the school's significant contribution to landfill. Through extensive student and community engagement, the school launched targeted initiatives to manage playground, classroom, and canteen waste, significantly reducing their environmental footprint. Their innovative actions, such as installing color-coded waste bins, creating recycling stations, and partnering with local environmental programs, exemplify how education and action can merge to create impactful environmental stewardship.

### ACCOLADE

In recognition of their outstanding efforts and achievements, St. Brigid's Primary School was honoured with the prestigious Minister's Award at the 2022 NSW Banksia Awards. This accolade highlights the project's exemplary success in environmental management and education, further validating its significance and impact on the community and beyond.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

#### **Dramatic Reduction in Landfill Contributions:**

The project showcased effective waste management strategies that dramatically reduced landfill contributions and operational costs.

**Community Involvement:** The initiative fostered strong community engagement, with parents volunteering and students actively participating in environmental stewardship.

**Marine Conservation Education:** Participation in the Marine Estate Pilot Program and collaboration with the Sea Shelter charity enhanced students' understanding of marine conservation.

**Innovative Solutions:** The enthusiasm and creativity of the school community led to innovative solutions, such as persuasive texts to school leadership advocating for sustainable changes.



*St. Brigid's Primary School's PlanetProtectors program exemplifies transformative environmental stewardship through strategic waste management and sustainability education. Recognising their substantial landfill contributions, they initiated comprehensive waste reduction strategies—installing colour-coded bins, launching recycling stations, and fostering partnerships with environmental programs. These measures led to a significant decrease in waste and an enhanced community commitment to environmental conservation. The school's efforts were celebrated with the prestigious Minister's Award at the 2022 NSW Banksia Awards, underscoring the initiative's exceptional impact on environmental management and education. Key achievements include a dramatic reduction in landfill waste, robust community engagement, and innovative solutions promoting sustainability. Despite challenges like sorting errors and persistent soft plastics, the school's passionate pursuit of eco-friendly practices inspired notable changes in student, teacher, and community behaviours, establishing St. Brigid's as a leading model for integrating sustainability into educational settings and beyond.*



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## CHALLENGES AND SURPRISES

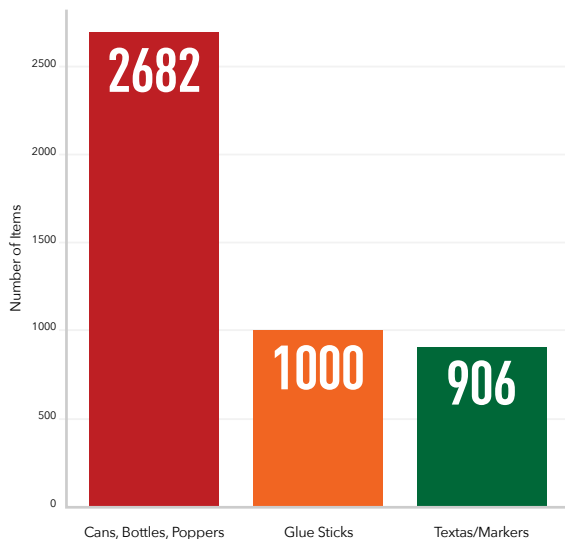
**Sorting Errors and Soft Plastics:** The project faced challenges such as sorting errors and the persistence of soft plastics in lunchboxes.

**Student Passion and Successful Eliminations:** A surprising outcome was the high level of student passion for making a difference, evidenced by the successful elimination of single-use lunch order bags and polystyrene cups.

## CONCLUSION

St. Brigid's Primary School's project serves as an inspiring model for how schools can actively engage in sustainability efforts, achieve tangible environmental benefits, and educate the next generation on the importance of responsible waste management and environmental conservation. The prestigious Minister's Award at the 2022 NSW Banksia Awards stands as a testament to the project's excellence and the meaningful impact it has created.

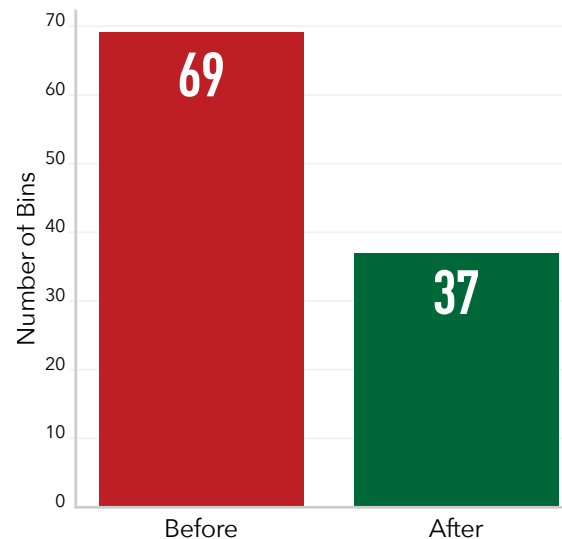
### RECYCLING ACHIEVEMENTS



The bar graph above showcases the recycling achievements of the St. Brigid's Community Action Project:

- **2,682 cans, bottles and poppers** were saved from landfill.
- **1,000 glue sticks** were collected for recycling.
- **906 textas/markers** were also collected for recycling.

### REDUCTION IN LANDFILL CONTRIBUTION



The graphs above illustrate two key outcomes from the St. Brigid's Community Action Project:

- **Reduction in Landfill Contribution:** The number of bins contributed to the landfill was nearly halved, dropping from 69 bins before the initiatives to 37 bins afterward, over a span of three weeks.
- **Reduction in Sorting Time:** The time spent on sorting waste was significantly reduced from 50 minutes to an average of 15 minutes weekly.

### REDUCTION IN SORTING TIME

