

KREATIVE KOALAS CASE STUDY

MEDOWIE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - SIX SIMPLE STEPS



Distilling their environmental message to six simple steps earned Medowie Christian School, of Port Stephens, the title of Grand Champion Community Project for Change in the 2019 Kreative Koalas – Design a Bright Future challenge. The school teamed up with Hunter Local Land Services to study United Nations Sustainability Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and focused on the health of local waterways.

“We formed a partnership with Jane Lloyd Jones from Hunter Local Land Services,” teacher Martha Atkins says. “Jane came to our class with activities and resources for the kids to teach them about keeping waterways healthy. We had an excursion to Grahamstown Dam where Jane took us through water testing and bug surveys and we then decided to make some pamphlets to give to people in our local community.”

“It was great to see the whole project develop from my initial presentation where the students didn’t really know much about looking after waterways, to the end when they came up with these fantastic brochures, which are now throughout the whole of Medowie,” Jane says.

The six environmental steps within the pamphlets were reproduced on the school’s Kreative Koala named Captain Waterways. They are:

- Don’t litter
- Pick up your dog’s poo
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash
- Prevent sediment going down the drain
- Fix your leaky cars – oil is bad for our waterways
- Pick up grass clippings after you mow



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



Captain Waterways is another split personality koala illustrating a world with both good and bad waterway management. He incorporates real-world research from the students including pH strips used to test water at Grahamstown Dam and recording sheets from field visits. Across his ample rump is the students' main message: "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain."

As well as winning Grand Champion Community Project for Change for their healthy waterways initiative the school was also pleased to have student Tayla Weeks awarded as a Kreative Koalas Eco Warrior. "Tayla is passionate about taking action and making a change in her community and displays empathy for the needs of others, locally and globally," Martha says. "She enjoys being challenged and thinks creatively about the way in which she can solve problems in our world. She will often come into the classroom with an idea or story to inspire others, and at only 9 years old, her knowledge about sustainability, her passion for the environment and her desire to make the world a better place is impressive."

Medowie Christian School's partnership with their community champion Jane Lloyd-Jone and Hunter Local Land Services in the Kreative Koalas project shows the power of collaboration. By working with their community students have become change-makers on a local level and advocates for change around the globe.

"We love Kreative Koalas," the students say in [their video](#)," and remember only rain down the storm drain."

