

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS



OUR GOAL

Our Focus Goal in 2020 was Goal 2 - Zero Hunger. What we really wanted to do, however, was to make all of UN Global Goals famous while we were in the process of combatting hunger in our community.

OUR PROJECTS

We had many great ideas for projects to help us achieve our goals, but when we did our research, we had to adjust our direction. We ended up with four community projects that we worked on over term 3 and term 4! Read about them next!

PROJECT 1: KINDERGARTEN GARDEN



THE IDEA

The idea to create a Kindergarten garden came to us after conducting our community survey. Our survey results showed us that many people wanted more information about how to grow a sustainable vegetable garden as they recognised that this is one way to combat the problem of hunger. An added hurdle for our Kreative Koala Kids was COVID 19 - we were unable to go on excursions and therefore we had to find a project that we could do IN SCHOOL! We have an AG teacher and vegetable plot, so we used our resources to get started on this project.

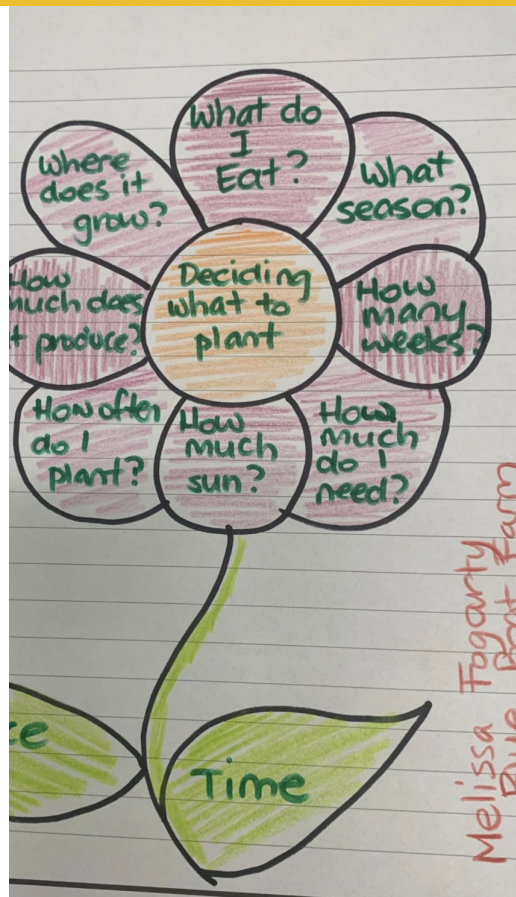


TAKING ACTION

Before we could teach our Kindergarten students how to grow a sustainable vegetable garden, we first had to learn! We had a guest speaker from a local farm come to help us!

Melissa from Blue Boat Farm was such a wonderful source of knowledge and inspiration.

She told us where to start and gave us some wonderful ideas for teaching our Kindergarten buddies about sustainability. We got straight to work preparing our garden bed and planting our crops, and within weeks, with careful help from the students, we were harvesting our silverbeet and lettuce! The garden continues to be bountiful! .



SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks needs to be given to our community partners and experts - Mrs Eleanor Ward (MCS Ag teacher) and Melissa from Blue Boat Farm Gate . Without the help, knowledge and support of these community partners, we would not have had the knowledge or skills or resources to develop our sustainable kindergarten garden!



DEFINE SUCCESS:

This project was successful! Our garden is thriving, even our [Kindergarten students can tell us](#) features of a sustainable garden, and we had our first harvest!



EXCELLENT, UNFORTUNATE,
SURPRISING!

It was excellent and surprising to see that, even though this garden was located in our main infants play area, NO ONE disrespected our garden. All students looked after it, made sure it was cared for and our plants grew healthy! It was unfortunate that we didn't have more time to grow more vegetables!





OUR JOURNEY!



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PROJECT 2: FOODWAY TIN DRIVE



THE IDEA

One of the students in our Kreative Koalas group informed us early on that his father was a volunteer at the Medowie Foodway! We invited him to come and talk to us about hunger in our community, and he told us that a tin food drive would be extremely helpful, especially as we couldn't volunteer our time during COVID.

TAKING ACTION

The students got straight to work. They visited each class to explain the tin drive, made flyers and posters and promoted it on our school social platforms. We even had The Examiner come to interview us about the project! We collected tins and non perishables throughout term 3, and we presented Medowie Foodway with over 150 tins at the end of the drive!

DEFINE SUCCESS:

We had students of all ages involved in our Tin Drive. Our youngest preps and Kindy's presented us with many tins, and some of our oldest secondary students did a school assignment on our Tin Drive! We presented Medowie Foodway with over 150 tins at the end of the drive! We made the newspaper and raised awareness for this wonderful organisation and cause! I would say that this was SUCCESSFUL!



**EXCELLENT, UNFORTUNATE,
SURPRISING!**

We were surprised by some of the stats that were presented to us about hunger in our local community. It was sad and unfortunate to learn that this goal is so relevant to our community and that we really have a lot to do in order to combat hunger locally and then globally! We were also surprised and excited by the support we received from our school families and from the wider local community! People want to help, and together we can make a difference!



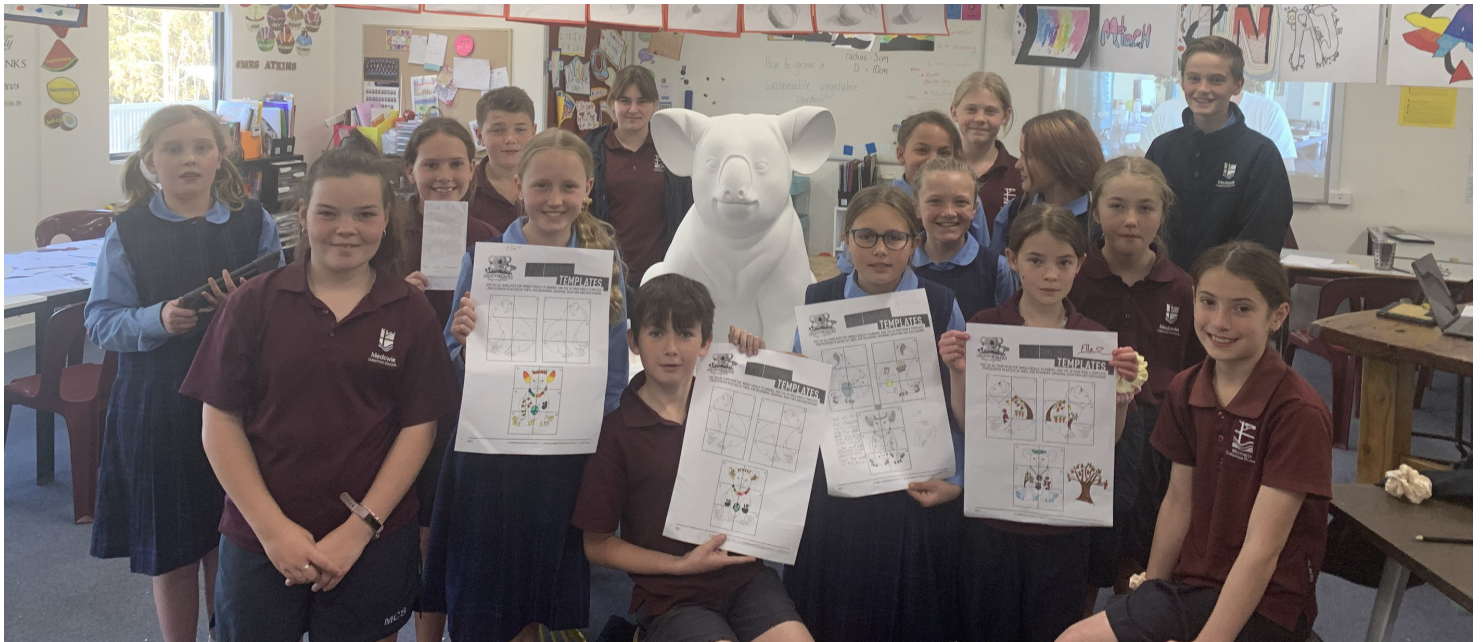


OUR JOURNEY!



PROJECT 3: MAKE THE GOALS FAMOUS!

GLOBAL GOALS



THE IDEA

From the very start of our journey, after watching the Worlds Biggest Lesson videos, the students decided to do all they can to make the goals famous! They recognised that focusing on one goal was a start, but real lasting change could only come if more people knew about the goals and how they could help!

TAKING ACTION

Through everything we did, we tried to talk about all the goals! One of our students created an amazing flyer to hand out to all the families at school, we made a video and we tried to inform anyone who would listen! Our project soon gained the attention of more and more people and we were featured in the media! It was great to share our story and inspire others!

DEFINE SUCCESS:

We were featured on ABC radio, in the Port Stephens examiner and in the PYIA blog. Every chance we got, we spread the word to our school and local community, and we believe we have educated and inspired many people through our projects!

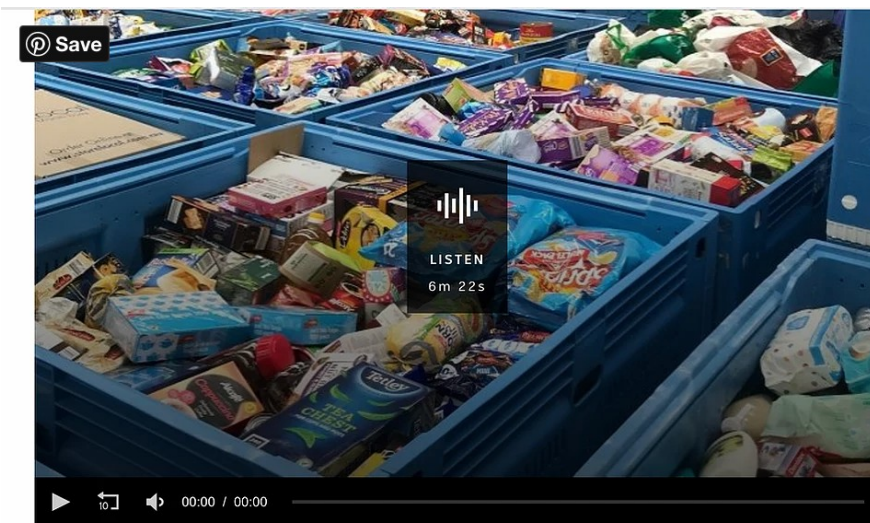


Image: Supplied: Foodbank

Full episode • 2hr
Mornings

6mins 37secs | The mystery of the 'Norman Swan'

6mins 22secs | **Zero Hunger: Young minds with big ideas**

Port Stephens students help feed their community

EXCELLENT, UNFORTUNATE,
SURPRISING!

Our project gained traction fast! It was so excellent for the students involved to see that they can have a voice and make a difference!

Kreative Koala Kids using cookbooks and big ideas to achieve zero hunger



Picture You in Agriculture
August 31, 2020
Kreative Koalas
Global Goals, United Nations, UNSDGs, Zero Hunger
[Leave a comment](#)



NEWS

portstephensexaminer.com.au

Students take local action on global issue

A GROUP of years 5 and 6 students from Medowie Christian School are helping kindergartners grow a vegetable patch and running a tin food drive as part of a program that inspires young people to investigate and reflect on global sustainability issues and to act at a local level.

The students have elected to join the Kreative Koalas program which encourages them to learn about and educate the community on the United Nation's 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

The 16 Medowie students involved in the program, which is also a schools competition, have selected one of the 17 goals, Zero Hunger, to focus on.

"It's good learning about what we can improve in the world," Zara Walter, 11, said.

Leila Waters, 10, was part of Medowie Christian School's winning Kreative Koalas team last year. She said she had "a lot of fun" and elected to join again this year. "I like learning about



IN IT TOGETHER: Some of Medowie Christian School's Kreative Koalas team which is helping to spread the message about sustainability.

the things we can do to help the local community and make the world more sustainable," she said.

As part of the program the students are encouraged to engage with their community. While more difficult to do so this year due to COVID-19, after selecting a focus goal the students decided to help kindergarten kids grow a garden and run a tin food drive for the Medowie Assembly of God's Foodway program. The food drive idea was based on results of a community survey undertaken by the students.

The Kreative Koalas team will collect tinned food from

school students until the end of term. The community can also help the team by donating tinned food to the front office of the school in Waropara Road by Friday, September 25.

The Kreative Koala students have also created flyers and posters about their work and blog throughout the project: mcskreativekoalas2020.com.

Teacher and Kreative Koalas coordinator Martha Atkins said the program was great to run in schools as it tied in really well with the science, history and geography curriculum.

— ELLIE-MARIE WATTS

OUR JOURNEY!

This ethos is mirrored in Kreative Koalas and it comes as no surprise another five schools are participating in both programs this year: Annangrove Public School, Medowie Christian School, Primbee Public School, St Brigid's Primary School and St Mary's North Public School. Here is what the teachers are saying:

"Kreative Koalas and FEAST are complementary programs and we will engage with them side by side to learn more about growing and preparing food in a sustainable way. Foods that we grow in our kindergarten garden (a community project we have begun in our Kreative Koalas program) will be used as much as possible when cooking and preparing meals as part of our FEAST program. We have also put in compost bins as part of our KK project so any food scraps in our FEAST program will go into our compost bins, and back into our gardens in order to grow (organically) more vegetables. Our goal is to create and continue this sustainable cycle." Martha Atkins – Medowie Christian School

Read more about Medowie's KK journey [here](https://mcskreativekoalas2020.com)

"One of our boy's fathers works with [AOG Medowie Foodway](https://www.aogmedowie.org.au) and he told us that Foodway supports 1500 families in Port Stephens, which is 10% of our population. This was an eye-opening statistic for students. They thought zero hunger only applied to homeless people. They did not realise there were people and families who had a house and jobs who were experiencing difficult times. It has not been a hard job to get them to engage with this goal – they are excited about doing something to help." Martha says

Whilst the students initially wanted to create a food bank within their school one of the things the students learnt from participating in KK 2019 was if you want to have community impact it's important to meet the needs of the community and so began a journey of community consultation. The students created a survey which they shared with their family and friends.

"The [feedback from the surveys](#) showed us the community felt a larger priority was teaching our community about growing fruit and vegetables in a sustainable way and that has become our focus," Martha says.



PROJECT 4: FEAST! LEARNING HOW TO PREPARE AND COOK SUSTAINABLY!



THE IDEA & TAKING ACTION

This was a project that we stumbled upon when looking up information and facts about Hunger in Australia on the Oz Harvest website. Shortly after, Lynne suggested this program as well! We applied, and throughout term 4, we engaged in the 6 week program to prepare and cook meals, learn about reducing food waste and design our own recipes!

DEFINE SUCCESS:

Everyone involved in this learnt something! They developed skills and knowledge and had a amazing time doing so! At the start of the program, many of the students informed us that they had NEVER cooked anything before. By the end, many of them were cooking for their families at home!

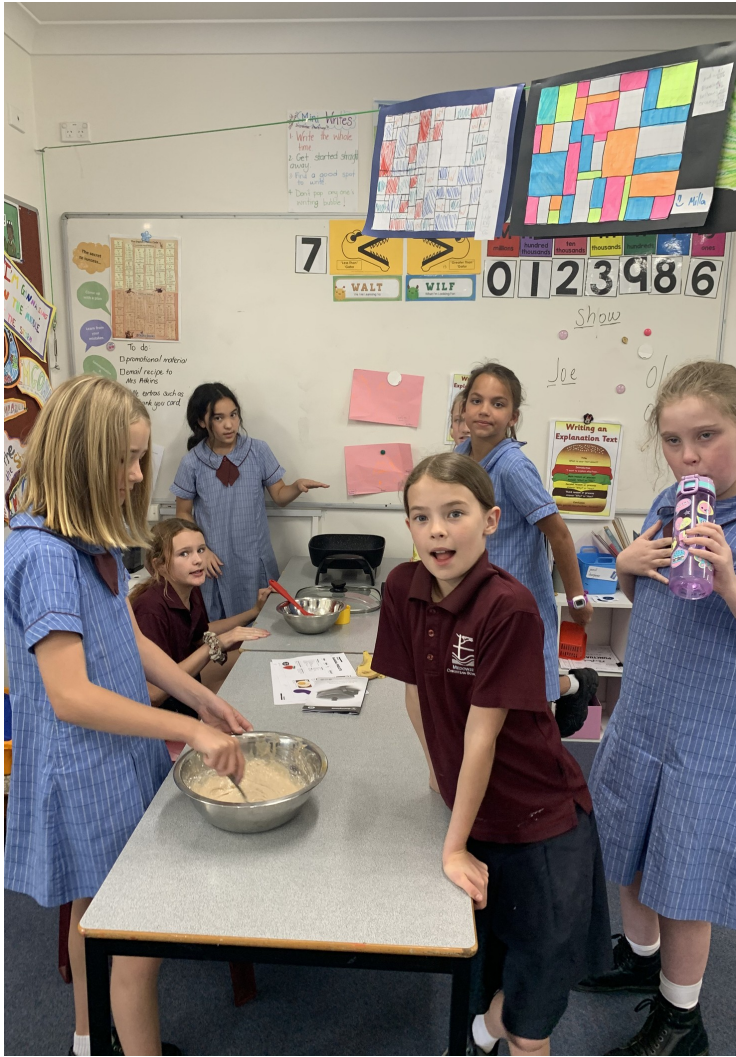


EXCELLENT, UNFORTUNATE,
SURPRISING!

As the weeks went on, it was excellent to see the students become more independent and skilful! They also became food waste warriors, always looking to reduce waste when creating their meals.



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