

Environmental Impact

Based on the book written by
Josie & Matthew Wright-Simon
 Illustrated by **Robin Green**
 ISBN: 0-9578087-8-X © 2006

Published by the **River Murray Urban Users Local Action Planning Committee**

Rusty Loses his Loop

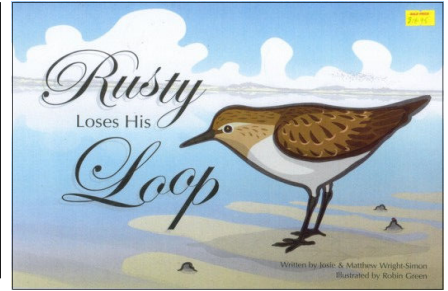
(Using the resources as a Sunday school lesson)

Sunday School resource
 prepared by
Judyth Roberts

This book has been produced in South Australia and excellent resources to support its use with children have been made available freely in an educational booklet on the web. Therefore I have started with some of these materials and linked them with our understanding of God's care for birds and the environment.

Download the booklet from: www.murrayusers.sa.gov.au

The book itself is available for **\$18.95** (+pp&h) from the same website, and is now available from the MRN bookshop in the SA UCA office, Level 2, 212 Pirie Street, Adelaide. **Price: \$18.95**



With the children:

Begin:

- Ask if any children have been to the Coorong or the beach and seen sea-birds, especially pelicans.



Use a globe to show children the way many water birds fly across the world to China, Russia and also within Australia. We call them **migratory birds** and they spend a lot of time travelling.

Remind them to look for different birds next time they are at the beach.

Introduce the story as a local one about birds they might see. This is also a real story ...

Read the book...

Reflect for a time as a group:

- Ask a few questions e.g.
 - ◆ What happens next do you think?
 - ◆ How can we make a difference?
 - ◆ Does God care?
- Explain that we know God cares very much because the Bible reveals God knows and cares about the least of animals and birds (**Psalm 147:9, Psalm 104:21, Psalm 84:3**) and Jesus tells us that God is aware of every small bird that falls to the ground in **Matthew 10:29**. (RCL 22/6/08)

Pelican photo courtesy **Paul Barnett UCInvest**

- Then the children might like to explore their response to the story in various ways depending on your facilities, the time available and the age of the children.

Explore:

Write:

- Some children might like to write a new ending, or a 'what happened next' sequel to the book.
 - ◆ **Brainstorm** this as a group or it could be a private response.
 - ◆ Ask children "What might happen when Rusty goes back to the Coorong next year?"
 - ◆ or "What needs to change so that Rusty can keep staying at the Coorong?"

Habitat picture:

- In the booklet on the website, there is a photocopyable picture of Rusty that could be coloured with felt tip pens or paint and a healthy habitat created as a backdrop.

Saving water:

There is also a photocopyable page of a drop of water, headed 'Every Drop Counts', asking children to think of three things they could do to save water.



Mural: A group activity.

- If you can source a long length of paper (plain wallpaper can work) and lay it on the floor, children can draw on it using chalk or paint or felt tip pens.
 - ◆ Children can explore the technique of 'bird's eye view' drawing.
 - ◆ Create a mural depicting Rusty's journey from Australia, over the sea and land to Siberia.
 - ◆ Or they could draw a mural of the Coorong with long stretches of sand and shallow lakes, with water birds, boats and fish added.
 - ◆ Children may find a quote from one of the Psalms or the Matthew passage to write along the bottom of the mural.
 - ◆ Make sure all children who contribute to the mural record their names on it.

Whatever the children create, try to make an opportunity for them to share it with the church and find a prominent place to display it with an explanatory label.

www.murrayusers.sa.gov.au

Coorong photo downloaded from 'Steve & Thelma's' Picasaweb album

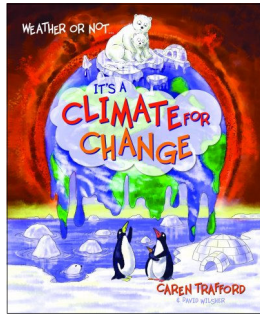


Resourcing you environmentally

WEATHER OR NOT

IT'S A
CLIMATE FOR
CHANGE

by **Caren Trafford & David Wilsher**
published by Etram Pty
Ltd 2007 © 2006
ISBN: **9780958187831**



Weather or Not... is the fifth of 6 books by Caren Trafford, in the series *Environmental Education ... Serious Fun*

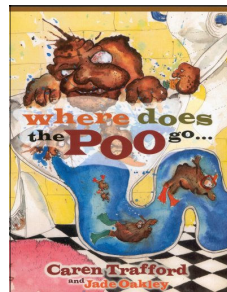
Caren Trafford lives in Sydney. She is an Australian environmental educator and author who became passionate about worms and set out to discover the truth about vermicast or worm poo and whether it might

be viable as a soil conditioner.

After winning a Eureka Science prize for Industry, and being invited to the World Bank to discuss worms, Caren created a series of books to explore and explain today's complex environmental issues and solutions in a fun, easy-to-relate-to manner. Using narrative non-fiction she invites her readers to take a stand on environmental issues and make a difference.

These books are designed to appeal to and excite children's interest, help lesson planning for teachers and amuse adults.

She describes them as "serious fun".



The other 5 books in the series are:

A Worm's Eye View ... the History of the World ISBN: **9780646415888**

Where does the POO go ... when you Flush? ISBN: **9780958187800**

Water... the Amazing Journey ISBN: **9780958187817**

World-wide Waste ... it's not a load of Rubbish ISBN: **9780958187824**

Meet the Renewables - Power our World ISBN: **9780958187848**

Suitable for 7-14 year olds, teachers, parents, reluctant readers, school, home and church libraries.

Available separately, or buy as a set of six as an 'environment library':

Waste, Water, Weather, Worms, Poo & POW!

A library for tomorrow's environmental heroes

The set is available from the **New Internationalist** shops for **\$93.40** (save \$20). Individual price **\$18.90**

Or shop around online. RRP **\$18.00**.

Seekbooks.com has all 6 books for less than \$18 each plus \$6.95 p&p:

<http://www.seekbooks.com.au/booksearchresults.asp?>

[StoreUri=seekau&searchby=author1&searchbycriteria=Caren%20Trafford](http://www.seekbooks.com.au/StoreUri=seekau&searchby=author1&searchbycriteria=Caren%20Trafford)

Weather is one of the most talked-about subjects in the world. Caren Trafford has created three characters (Muzbar the inter-galactic weather detective, Storm Front and Weather-Pod) to simplify the complex science of weather so that everyone can both understand what's happening to our climate and enjoy learning what we all can do to help save the planet. With a blend of humour, words and pictures this is a great tool for sustainability education that will engage even kids who are not scientifically-minded. Great for parents too!

Available from **Unichurch Books: \$17**
Ask Margaret about the other books in the set....

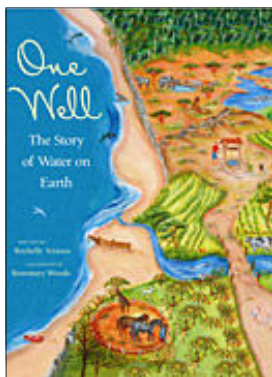
One Well

The Story of Water on Earth

Written by **Rochelle Strauss**

Illustrated by **Rosemary Woods**

ABC Books © 2007
ISBN: 978 0 7333 2079 8 paperback
RRP: **\$15.95**



Imagine for a moment that all the water on Earth came from just one well. This isn't as strange as it sounds. All water on Earth is connected, so there really is just one source – one global well – from which we all draw our water.

Water has the power to change everything – a single splash can sprout a seed, quench a thirst, provide a habitat, generate energy and sustain life.

How we treat water in the well will affect every species on the planet, now and for years to come.

One Well shows how every one of us has the power to conserve and protect our global well.

Presented in simple but scientifically-accurate language, and aimed at primary school students, each double page spread tackles a different aspect of the global well's story:

- ◆ where water is found on earth
- ◆ why all water is recycled
- ◆ the water needs of plants, animals and people
- ◆ watery habitats
- ◆ freshwater
- ◆ demands made on the well, and by whom
- ◆ pollution
- ◆ conserving
- ◆ becoming water-aware.

There is also a section of notes at the back for parents, guardians and teachers.

Available from ABC on-line, Oxfam shops, or enquire at your local bookshop or Unichurch Books.

true green kids

by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin
ABC Books
April 2008
ISBN: 9878 0 7333 2286 0



100 things kids can do to save the planet – in their room, the home, outdoors, with friends, buying stuff, at school, on holiday and more...eco facts, fun things to make, Eco Quiz, websites... Practical tips include planting an organic garden, calculating the family's/ school's carbon footprint, and keeping a worm farm.

These are fun and easy things kids can do to become green change agents at home, at school and in their communities.

Available from ABC shops: **\$19.95** on special if you're lucky; **\$22.95** online



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