

Image; First Dog on the Moon

The Carbon Neutral Adventure of the Indefatigable Enviroteens Education Pack

By First Dog on the Moon

Produced by Archipelago Productions, in association with the Theatre Royal.

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we wish to acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who are the traditional owners and continued custodians of the land and waters of lutruwita (Tasmania).

Acknowledgements: Archipelago Productions would like to thank Curious Climate Schools for permission to use content and Landcare for their support and knowledge sharing, especially Dr. Rachel Kelly, Knowledge Broker, Future Oceans Research Fellow at the Centre for Marine Socioecology, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

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Education Pack compiled by Jen Murnaghan, Archipelago Productions.

ARCHIPELAGO
PRODUCTIONS

**THEATRE
ROYAL**



DETACHED

Welcome to the *Enviro*teens Education Pack

For Teachers:

We wanted to start with an acknowledgment of the importance of taking young people to see live work. We acknowledge the labour that drama and english teachers engage in when advocating for students to be in the theatre. Before you come to see *Enviro*teens we suggest you have a discussion with your class about the impact of live work, especially live work that discusses climate change and sustainability.

What are audiences allowed to do in the theatre? We think, if a student is uncomfortable, they can always leave. We suggest letting the class know that they can sit on an aisle seat and always have the option of leaving if they feel they can't be in the theatre anymore. Theatres are dramatic and beautiful spaces to be in, but can also feel imposing– in live theatre the co-presence of audience and performer is powerful, rich and rewarding and very different to viewing content on a screen.

Before you come to the Theatre:

If you've got time, we recommend having a look at First Dog on the Moon's book and explore his website <https://firstdogonthemoon.com.au/> to give your students an understanding of the context and directorial vision of the production.

His graphic novel is available via [First Dog on the Moon website](#) and through our friends at Fullers Bookshop. Leading up to the production and during the season. Fullers will have a window dedicated to the production, so if you are in town, be sure to come and have a look!

We have included some helpful resources that include activities to enhance student learning. You will find them at the end of this document.

Production Credits

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Cast

Young and emerging Tasmanian actors and puppeteers will play multiple parts!

Milla Chaffer:

Nurse Barnevelder - An incredibly talented chicken

The Microbeads - Plastic Brendan's sidekicks

Various science moment scientists

Captain Snoothole - a salty sea whippet

Some of the Acts - mostly squeaky creatures who announce the start of each act

The Big Rosti/Senator Ian the Climate Denialist Potato - supervillain potato

Beverly - a sourdough starter

Various cakes, biscuits and scones

Janet Worried - Worried Norman's mum

Noah Casey:

Plastic Brendan - an angry supervillain plastic bag

The Microbeads - Plastic Brendan's sidekicks

Tina the Tiny Turtle - a tiny turtle

Albury - a penguin

Croquembouche the wobbegong - a shark

The Great Niffle - a wise and mysterious creature

Some of the Acts - mostly squeaky creatures who announce the start of each act

Various science moment scientists

Dictionary Deidre - a bossy word expert shaped like a bread roll

Commander Sockweasel - an evil sockweasel

Various cakes, biscuits and scones

Norman's Dad - a Spanish speaking refrigerator

Swiss Farmer - a farmer

Swiss Cow - a cow

Difficult child

Skywriting pomeranians

Potato Assistant - Senator Ian's assistant

Melissa the giant anteater - a duplicitous anteater

Fondue

Compost Heap

Caitlin Berwick:

Binky - a half echidna half platypus teenage superhero known as The Monotreme

Denise – an enormous robot

Freemarket Philip – a wicked finance villain

Bhavika Sharma:

Letitia - a genius teen wombat

Mrs Thermomix – An evil thermomix

Griffin McLaughlin

Worried Norman/Pastry Person - an anxious teenager whose alter ego is a pastry based superhero

Professor Flappytinkle - an evil fruit bat

Production

Director: Ben Winspear

Lighting and Sound Designer : Jason James

Puppet and Costume Designer: Anja Reinalda

Stage Manager: Gabby Cousins

Assistant Stage Manager: Milla Chaffer

Marketing and Publicity: Jen Murnaghan

The Play



Cast in rehearsals. Photo Ben Winspear

This is an all new, all Tasmanian production. A stage adaptation of a graphic novel, built entirely from salvaged materials, spruiking its local, sustainable credentials.

We have a dynamic young crew of theatre makers, some still in their teens, and many on their first professional job, building a unique and hilarious world. It's a pleasure to be able to set them loose on this riot of a play with so many oversized characters and ridiculous situations. But under it all is a serious message, urging our young people to take control of their futures, hold onto their hope, and find the super hero within.

The artists have taken to the challenge of producing a carbon neutral work with relish, innovating processes and systems to minimise our impact, without compromising the standard of the production. Makes you feel good to be creating such wonderful characters from materials that would otherwise be thrown away.

It's a joy to be sharing a room with Binky the Platy-chidna, the evil Mega Patricia (hater of vegetables), and all the rest of the gang, Singleuse Brendan the angry plastic bag, Captain Snoothole, and of course Beverly the sentient sourdough starter.

About First Dog on the Moon

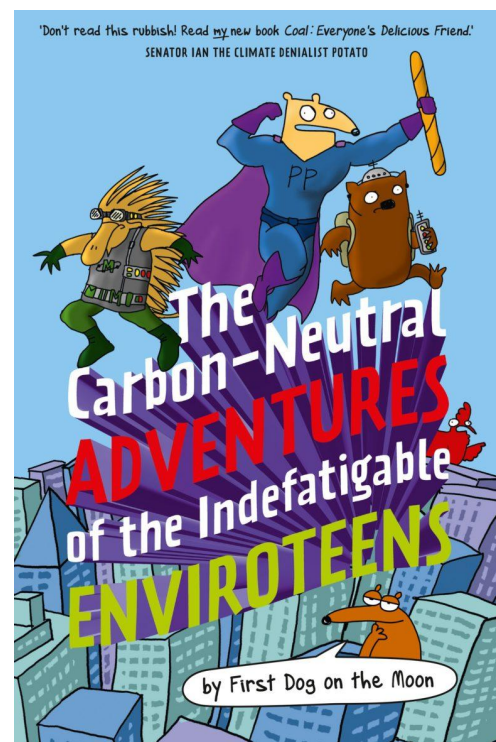


First Dog on the Moon is Australia's only Walkley award-winning marsupial-based cartoonist and has done all sorts of things like illustrated various books, illustrated numerous others, performed live on stage in a number of shows and is currently working on more exciting projects than you can poke a stick at including another book.

We asked him how he felt about his book and characters coming to life...

"I have been completely delighted with this project from the beginning - writing a play is harder than I thought it would be but I think that about everything - however it is just amazing to see the contents of my brain come to life in the real world - all these wild and fabulous creatures and characters that are normally running around inside my head but there they are up on stage - googly eyes and fur and teeth - I am completely thrilled and not ashamed to say I have shed a tear or two occasionally watching all these incredibly talented people working to make my hapless scribbles come to life. It really is a gift I feel incredibly fortunate. Look I am having a lot of feelings about this, you should probably just go and see it."

- First Dog, March 2023



The Production

Enviroteens is presented by Archipelago Productions in association with the Theatre Royal.

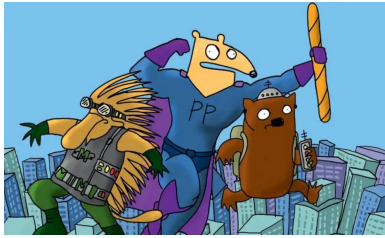
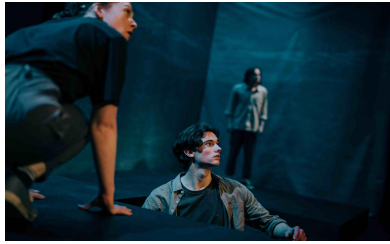
We are also attempting to make this production carbon neutral. Seeing as our play is all about the topic it made sense to put this into practice!

What we are doing:

1. We are considering all physical aspects of production (sets, props, costumes etc), and limiting the amount of new materials used in construction
2. Cataloguing all materials used.
3. Tracking production data (transport etc).
4. Participate in offset exercises (eg. tree planting).
5. Creating a final reconciliation of emissions vs offsets and take further action as required.

So far we have used only two new cans of paint, and four or five car trips to transport costumes and puppets. Cast members are walking to rehearsals or catching the bus, using digital versions of our scripts, or printing on 100% recycled paper. Our posters have been printed on 100% recycled Ecostar paper which can also be recycled.

Archipelago Productions



Left to right: Past the Shallows 2022, The Carbon Neutral Adventure of the Indefatigable Enviroteens 2023, Bay of Fires, ABCTV 2023

Archipelago Productions produces feature films, television, and works for stage and festivals. We aspire to develop and create work locally, in collaboration with interstate and international partners, bringing the world to us, and the work to the world; projects that are born of place, but which reach far beyond our perceived isolation.

We endeavour to export artistic and cultural projects that paint Tasmania as a viable and exciting place to create new work, extending our ambition, thinking and reach. Through quality, supported work driven by passion, we can simultaneously engage with pressing social issues, nurture new talent and develop stories for everyone. Archipelago Productions has its sights set on promoting Tasmania as the most exciting corner of the country. A place in which to risk, innovate, and inspire.

We stand by the assertion that access to and participation in culture is a fundamental human right, and promote this fact at every opportunity. To learn more visit www.archipelago-productions.com or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) #archipelagoproductions

Theatre Royal



Opening in 1837, Hobart's [Theatre Royal](#) has been the home of contemporary theatre in Tasmania for more than 185 years and is Australia's oldest working theatre. Since 2020, the Theatre Royal has also occupied The Hedberg, a new state-of-the-art facility shared with the University of Tasmania.

Find the Theatre Royal at www.facebook.com/theatreroyalhobart,
www.instagram.com/theatreroyalhobart/ and www.youtube.com/TheatreRoyalHobart

Class Planning - Learning and Teaching Activities:

Curious Climate and Curious Climate Schools is run by climate change and education researchers at the University of Tasmania. In 2022 school students worked with their teachers to ask questions about climate change.

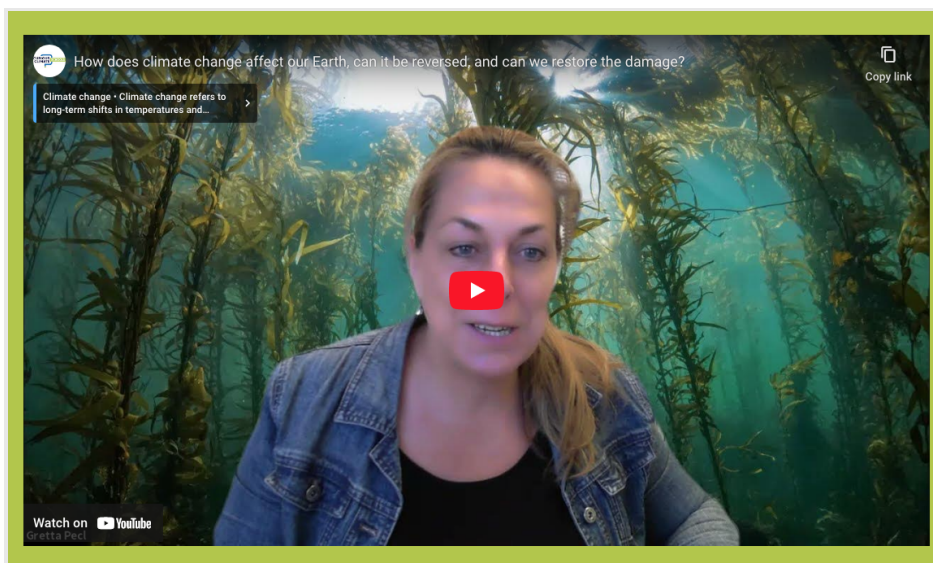
Curious Climate brought these questions to climate scientists, conservation biologists, fire scientists, chemists, lawyers, engineers, psychologists, social scientists, oceanographers, Indigenous knowledge specialists and health experts, to answer them.

Enquiry Learning

Here are some sample questions from the [Curious Climate Schools Project](#) ...and answers to assist in students enquiry. Discover whether other children in Tasmania are asking the same questions as your class?

Q: How does climate change affect our Earth, and how can we restore the damage that we've already done to it??

A: Professor Gretta Pecl, Climate Change Ecologist, University of Tasmania
<https://youtu.be/EtSkF-MBKLk>



Q: How do you stop climate change (most effective) and what can kids do?

A: The key thing that we need to do to help stop climate change is to stop emitting greenhouse gasses – particularly carbon dioxide and methane. There are things we can all do to help with this, like driving less, using renewable energy, or trying to eat local produce that doesn't have to be transported to Tasmania from far away. But for the really big changes to greenhouse gas emissions that are required to help stop climate change we need our governments to implement policy change. The more we all call for these changes – as a community – the stronger our message to politicians will be.

Another thing we will need to do to help stop climate change is to actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. There are lots of ways to do this, but some of the simplest and most effective are those that harness the power of nature. Planting more trees, leaving coastal and marine habitats like mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and kelp forests intact. If you're interested in engineering then there are also some very cool technologies emerging that will help us to pump carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and back under the ground.

The future of Tasmania and of our planet belongs to kids of today, not to grown ups. Kids ask great questions and they are fantastic at thinking up new ways to solve problems. One of the most important things that kids can do is to keep asking questions and to keep learning to be problem solvers. Keep being curious and caring about climate change!



Planting trees is one of the best ways you can take carbon out of the atmosphere. Photo: pefix

For more questions and answers visit: <https://curiousclimate.org.au/schools/q-a/>

Devising Task

With thanks to Bella Young. Bella is an artist from nipaluna/Hobart passionate about performance as a theatre-maker, producer and director. She is Youth Advisory Officer on the executive board of Regional Arts Network Tasmania (RANT) and currently works as a puppeteer with Terrapin and performer with Second Echo Ensemble (SEE).

Object Exploration

Collect a selection of intriguing objects from around your classroom and place them in a big pile in the centre of a standing circle.

Part One:

A simple warm up to this exercise is having students pick out an object from the pile that they are personally drawn to:

1. Explore the object through each sense: touch (with eyes closed if comfortable), sound, smell, and sight. Taking time with each to play and be curious.
2. How does this object move through space? Does it fly, walk, trip, slide, what direction does movement come from?
3. How does this object make you feel? What feelings does it give out?
4. What do you like about this object? Find three things.
5. Does it have a character, or face, or remind you of something? If it had eyes where would they be?
5. Share with a partner, or with the whole group.

Part Two

1. Pick up one object - take a moment to feel it, look at it and examine it.
2. Come up with a different imagined use for this object, say it out loud to the class and also demonstrate it using the body. (This can be anything except using the object for what it actually is. For example, a pen could be a device used for removing earwax, a clicking metronome, a way of measuring distance, a walkie talkie, etc.)
3. Pass the object around the circle, giving each student a chance to come up with a new re-purposing of the object.

- Encourage the students to physically interact with the object before coming up with their creative idea - letting their experience of the object lead to their discovery.
- They can be as random, open, imaginative and creative as they want with this exploration.
- Explore a few different objects that can enable expression and utility.