

A photograph of a glacier, showing a large, dark crevasse running vertically through the center. The ice is white and textured, with some brownish debris visible. The water at the bottom of the crevasse is dark blue.

The Changes

art, writing and research by student researchers in
the Climate Change and Me project

Edited by David Rousell and Amy Cutter-Mackenzie

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Between August 2014 and July 2015, 135 children and young people from across Northern New South Wales (NSW) Australia participated in the *Climate Change and Me* project as researchers. The children and young people attended research methodology training workshops with experienced educational researchers from Southern Cross University. They learned to engage with theory and methodology, and use a variety of ethnographic and art-based research methods for collecting data about climate change in their communities, including interviews, video, photography, field notes, drawings, poetry and fiction. They were not given predetermined definitions or perspectives on climate change, but were encouraged to investigate the diversity of children and young people's awareness, attitudes and actions towards the issue. The *Climate Change and Me* website was developed as a social media space for the researchers to post and comment on their research findings and creative works. Researchers also worked together to analyse and curate the data for the *Past Now Future* exhibition, which travelled to public libraries across Northern NSW. Researchers were actively involved with all aspects of the exhibition, including the titling, selection of works, locations, and artist/researcher statements.

Over the course of the project, certain researchers developed their own creative and scholarly research practices in response to climate change in their communities. A wide range of works were generated, including speculative fictions, short stories, essays, poems, artistic photographs, drawings and illustrations. These works have been curated and assembled into this unpublished book entitled *The Changes*, which formed part of the *Past Now Future* exhibition. The book has been previewed at each exhibition showing, and each library has been given a copy for their permanent collection.

Each of the book's four parts focuses on a different stream of creative and scholarly responses from the researchers. 'Voices' contain a series of essays which address a wide variety of concerns and perspectives of children and young people towards climate change. The second part, 'Visions', contains a series of photomontages which researchers have assembled from the thousands of images produced over the course of the project. Each photomontage is also named and annotated by student researchers to take the form of a visual essay or narrative. 'Imaginations' is the third part, and this focuses on the short stories, poetry and drawings created by researchers. These are either presented as stand-alone works or placed into collections with other works based around a common theme. The final part is called 'The Beginning of the Change', a creative work which began as a collaborative writing project on the Climate Change and Me website and continued to develop in the research workshops. 'The Beginning of the Change' uses fiction and illustration to imagine the lives of young people who discover they have unique powers to fight against social and ecological injustice. Due to their strange and sometimes uncontrollable powers, these young people are labelled 'aberrants' rather than 'normals', and treated like criminals. While 'The Beginning of the Change' remains a work in progress, it offers readers a glimpse into a future world of difference, empowerment, resistance and fragile hope. The book's conclusion highlights reflections from four student researchers based on their experiences of working on the project. We hope that you enjoy this initial edition of the book, and are able to take inspiration from the creative energy and passion which the researchers have shared with you.

INTRODUCTION: ON BECOMING A RESEARCHER

Becoming a student researcher was AWESOME! It was a very unique experience that generated lots of knowledge about how big climate change can be and the problems it can cause. We worked with different people that we would never get the chance to be around, and found that the people at the workshops were so intelligent and kind in every way possible. The research was so much fun, but it took a lot of hard work too. Becoming a researcher was even a little scary at first, because we really didn't know much about it to start with. Researching the environment is a lot more complex than it seems, and sometimes we found ourselves lost in the research and had to keep bringing ourselves back.

In order to research climate change from different points of view, we firstly needed to make sure we knew more about the topic ourselves. This meant learning how to explain things clearly, and how to interview people with open questions. As a researcher, it's not about putting your own opinion first all the time. Instead, you have to always remember to agree to disagree without being judgmental. Other than that, you don't need too much to start off as a researcher: just a pen, a notepad and your listening ears!

During the process of becoming researchers we discovered many new things about ourselves and each other. We discovered that we were able to do our own research, and that other people were just as excited about the project as we were. We found that we knew things that we had never really thought about before. We're actually smarter than we thought, and we turned out to be good researchers and good writers! We realized that there will always be things that we don't know about, and also things that we *do* know about that we can help people with. We discovered that there are a lot of interesting people in this world who have experiences that are really different to ours. And we also found that we could work well with others, and even adjust to being split up from friends and working outside our comfort zones.

Learning about the climate through different artistic media was a great experience and learning time to have. We believe that creative practices are some of the best ways to form opinions and understandings on every subject, whether it be animals, food or any subject that people have any interest in. Drawing, photography, poetry and fiction are all ways that the brain can become aware of everything surrounding the human mind in everyday life and in places across the world. This is because artistic ways of showing information can draw young people in more than a fact sheet or an information report. Creative ideas help young people understand and absorb issues like climate change in a much more enjoyable, stimulating and interactive environment. Practices like video, poetry, drawing, and fiction can also help young people respond to climate change in their own creative ways. This lets students actually see and feel the difference it makes when lots of people work together, and this makes them want to join in too. Exhibitions can also do lots to help attract attention from communities so they become more interested in learning about climate change from different points of view.

This book is a creative way of letting the world know what is really happening to our world and how humans are demolishing the beautiful sights that we have on the earth. We all need to realise that we humans are killing plants, animals and the way we see nature. The world needs to think about our future, what will happen to our children and how they will think. We feel like this book is a wake-up call. Life will never stop being different. Right now, as you are reading, the world around us is changing: the

temperature, *and* the way we humans are changing as the world changes. This book is about what has and could happen. We hope you enjoy it.

This introduction was composed entirely from pieces written by researchers from Alstonville, Bexhill and Kyogle Primary schools.

Part One: Voices

I. WHAT IS MY WORTH IN THE WORLD?

BY NIKKI WHITEHEAD

'Is my occurrence on the face of this planet just to create a life that may support me... or to create a life for others too?'

It appears that we humans have lodged an idea into our minds that we must fulfil every need of ours; every craving, desire, anything that could help to increase our over-enlarged egos. This is the main reason as to why climate change has been worsening. Our species has developed a sophisticated society, where each new generation paints many new ideas and lifts the rate of environmental destruction. This continually reduces the natural world; a world which we cannot live without; a world that's far away from today's high-tech gadgets and devices.

Sadly, we are virtually blind to our destructive habits; actions that are the centre to the expense of our own wellbeing and flora and fauna that inhabit the Earth. We appear to be so self-serving and lacking of self-awareness that we've become selfish and short sighted to the bigger picture. Always wishing for bigger... better... more; so much so that we never appear to be satisfied or pleased. We find ourselves currently facing a global climatic crisis due to each and every one of us, where each new thing is only admired for a short period of time before we establish a new desire; a cycle which repeats continually. We must change our values and what we believe is important to us- this change mustn't only occur in a small minority of the population, but almost all seven billion of the humans whom inhabit Earth.

Our lifestyles directly contribute to not only us humans, but to the lives of many diverse species of animals, plants and bacteria too. Life as we know it must change for health and the wellbeing of our future. Everything has a life centre and needs fresh air and water to remain alive. As humans, we may think of ourselves as being superior and better than all other life forms due to our advances in the creation of 'technology'. Yet we've missed the crucial part of the 'big' plan. By stepping forward and learning how to make our lives better and outliving many, we've been progressively destroying the habitats of many; causing species' extinction rates to rise to unprecedented levels in history. These organisms haven't caused our big-head stupidity. They do not deserve this disrespectful, blatant disregard.

I believe that the issue is that the opinions and motivations to which we believe and focus upon have no impact on what really matters; dealing with the wellbeing of our planet, to which our lives thoroughly depend upon. The health of the planet is directly correlated with our own health. We are so wrapped up in what's happening in our modern, heavily materialistic lifestyles (our focus upon sports, fashion and the media, etc.), that we have just evolved to disregard/not care for what really does matter. We are in a routine of selfishness and consuming more, and more. We have missed out on the basics of nature, our connection to it, and its role in our wellbeing and how it's essential for our survival. We've been destroying animals' lives and their habitats daily without even realising the downfall to our selfishness. We must prevent worse disasters that ruin life as they know it... and have the potential to ruin life as we, ourselves, know it.

We as humans have created and succeeded in numerous positive and improving feats, yet whilst doing this, we've also succeeded in destroying much of the physical world. And yet we have failed to notice this when it's completely obvious. More than thousands of people are still unaware of the steps they must take and responsibility in reducing their carbon outlet, and reducing their overall impact.

The only possible solution is if humankind realises that we must evolve to become more realistic with our lifestyles, opinions, focuses and choices; we must take action towards saving our tainted planet, before your

thoughtless destruction of environmental resources has gone so far that there can be no reversal. This issue must become the top priority within every single nation. We must band together to reverse the effects of climate change to which we, ourselves have caused.

The difference must begin with us. We must make drastic changes to how we think and make choices about our everyday activities and focuses. We were not placed on this Earth to make an acquisitive and ideal life that supports the human race only; we were placed on this planet to foresee a life for all things, whether they are living, or non-living, plant or animal. Not to destroy the climate by means of our own self-centred needs.

II. CLIMATE CHANGE

BY FINN BALL

What does hotter weather mean to you? More time in the pool? Getting burnt or getting tanned? A global catastrophe? Climate change? The Macquarie Dictionary defines the term 'climate change' as- '*a significant change in the usual climatic conditions, especially that thought to be caused by global warming*'. This climatic change can be either naturally caused or from human impacts. **Figure 1**, from the BBC, shows a rise in temperatures from 1860-2000.

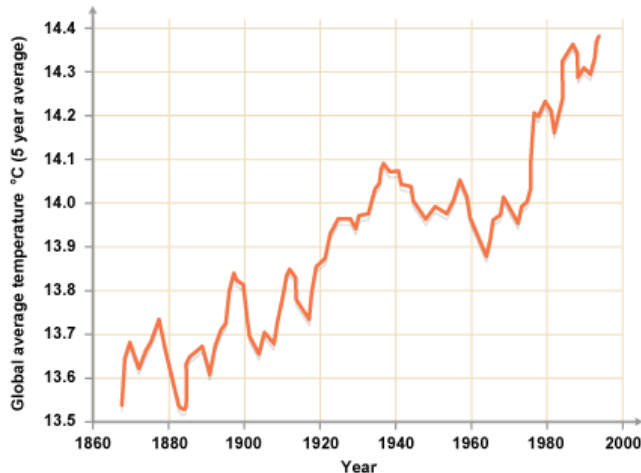


Figure 1

It shows that the global average temperature has risen by nearly a degree in the past 50 years. Scientists around the world have been recording temperature increases, raised ocean levels and melting of ice caps. All this is evidence that the earth is experiencing a 'climate change'. Many people believe that this change is primarily due to the fact that our CO₂ emissions have created more greenhouse gases. When viewing **Figure 2**, and comparing it to **Figure 1**, you can see that there is a relationship between the rise in temperatures and the rise in CO₂ emissions.

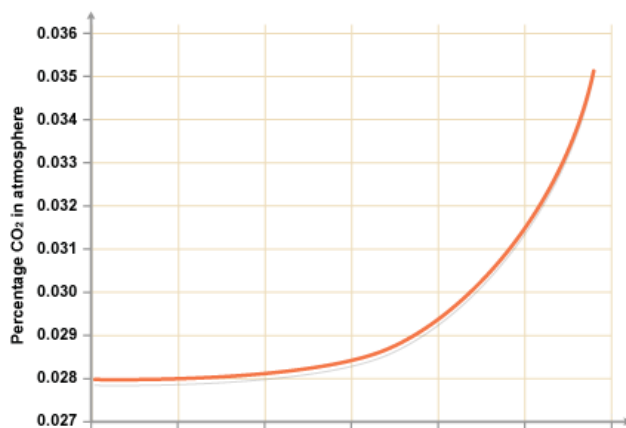


Figure 2

This data shows an ‘association’ between temperature levels and CO2 emissions but does it prove that increased CO2 levels are the most significant aspect of today’s climate change? For something complex like the weather system, many scientists are needed to unravel the story behind climate change. While most scientists believe climate change occurs, not all agree on the extent and relevance of human activity as an influence on climate change. While major international climate agencies all emphasise the critical role of CO2 emissions in climate change, others are not so sure. For example, some scientists have conducted research that suggests that temperatures were higher than they are today, during the Roman and Medieval periods! These ancient civilisations would not have emitted CO2 emissions as we do today, so why did their temperatures rise? **Figure 3** shows us a temperature graph from the past 2000 years. It shows that temperatures have gone up and down for a long time.

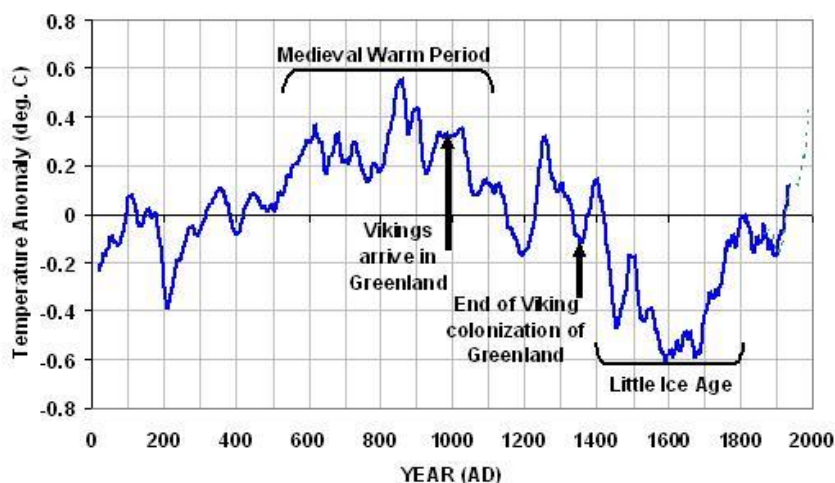


Figure 3

Why do they do this?

The National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) states that climate change over the longer term is mainly due to the amount of sun energy hitting the Earth. Slight changes in the Earth’s orbit and changes in sun ray intensity, can alter the temperatures here on Earth. **Figure 4** shows that the world’s temperature has been rising and falling for millions of years. The temperatures have more than doubled what they are today during other periods.

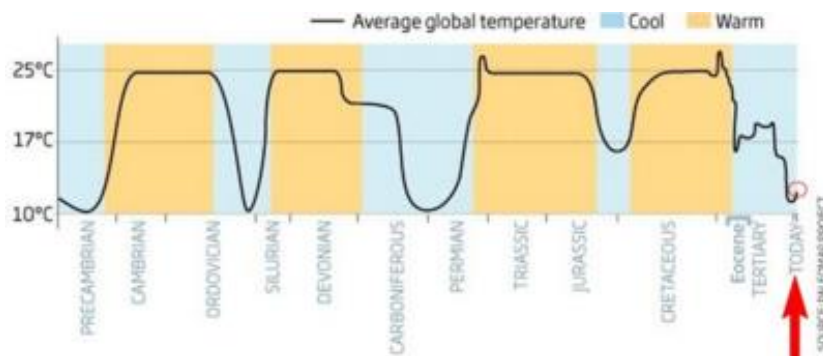


Figure 4

If the world is constantly changing, why do CO₂ emissions count for anything? Most scientists emphasise the role of CO₂ emissions in unprecedented, rapid global warming. Global warming= **a significant rise in temperatures in the Earth's atmosphere**. While it is thought that the Earth's atmosphere has changed over billions of years, for the past 200 million years it has been much as it is today. We are, however, causing our atmosphere to change by human activity. Burning fossil fuels and deforestation are two examples of human effect on the environment. Mainstream scientists believe that 'global warming' is a recent event and that millions of years before humans walked this Earth, the atmosphere stayed pretty much the same.

What does a more rapid change in atmosphere mean for us humans?

It should be noted that in **Figure 4**, change happens slowly over long periods of time. This is because orbital changes and sun intensity increases don't happen instantaneously. Life on Earth has been given time to adapt to changing temperatures in the past. Fish have had time to adapt to rising ocean temperatures, land animals to rising sea levels and arctic animals to disappearing ice. The humans of the past have also had time to adapt to such high heats. The concern is that we are currently trapping more and more of the increasing heat, using CO₂ emissions, and speeding up the heating process. The result is an extreme and rapid increase in temperatures that we may not have enough time to adapt to. As we move into a hotter natural period, CO₂ emissions will further speed and intensify the process.

What can we do to stop climate change and global warming?

Climate change cannot be stopped. It is completely natural. Global warming also cannot be stopped but it can be made less drastic. If we stopped polluting the atmosphere, the CO₂ emissions will not disappear. It will take millions of years for our atmosphere to return to normal again. Most scientists will tell us that by stopping the increase of CO₂ emissions it will give us a greater chance of surviving this climatic change. To significantly reduce CO₂ emissions requires government cooperation. Action by governments around the world is often delayed or inadequate because the actions to reduce CO₂ emissions can have substantial economic consequences and other priorities can be thought more important. The ongoing debate between scientists about aspects of climate change can make it hard for policy makers to be sure as to what decisions to make.

In conclusion, the Earth is currently heating up due to climate change. Climate change is mainly due to natural causes. However, scientists have found that global warming (increase in atmosphere temperatures) is mainly due to increased CO₂ emissions. An increasing amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere will trap more of the heat coming from the climatic changes and make the Earth hotter. This global warming will speed up the heating process and may not give us enough time to adapt. We can help slow down the process of climate change by reducing the amount of CO₂ emissions we produce. For this to be effective, global government cooperation is required and this can be challenging to negotiate.

There are many forms of climate change because our world is a complex place. Humans may have little ability over the long term to stop the Earth from heating up, cooling down, becoming windier etc., because it is nearly impossible to understand everything about our globe and what controls its weather. We should be working together to try and devise methods to help us reduce the effects of climate change, not fighting over whether it exists or not and to what extent humans are responsible.

Global efforts to reduce CO2 and learn more about our weather systems will have benefits beyond just CO2 reductions. Beyond CO2 emissions it is important that a global focus should also be made on making our communities and cities resilient against any current or future climate changes. It would be short sighted to focus simply on CO2 reductions to then discover in 50 years time we face a more important climatic threat.

Climate change is important as it effects all of us. It has been effecting us for years and years and will continue to affect us in the future. The Climate Change and Me program is taking a proactive step towards finding a solution to climate change and hopefully, within this century, we will have found a way to not only comfortably survive in a hotter climate but have global steps in place to make our cities and communities less prone to any form of climate change.

KAIRO: So Eve, what do you think of climate change? As in, what is your opinion on it?

EVE: As to whether it's true or not?

KAIRO: Yes

EVE: I think that the scientific enquiries they've done into it undoubtedly show that it's true and I don't quite understand how anyone could think it wasn't real, but I would be interested to hear their opinion.

KAIRO: Ok, so do you know what climate change is and can you describe it for me?

EVE: I think climate change is the emission of gases, such as carbon dioxide, into our atmosphere which erode the ozone layer, making differences to us, letting more sunrays in, making it hotter, melting the icebergs, changing sea levels and having major effects like that.

KAIRO: Ok, how would you describe your feelings about climate change? Are you really upset about it, or are you more relaxed?

EVE: When I think about the effects that it could have on us it is quite scary; just the fact that there's countries, island nations that are being flooded is terrible. I was reading about one country, I don't remember what, that in a few years would be completely covered in water. All of the country's inhabitants had to migrate to another country. It's quite scary, the effects are occurring now and it's very devastating.

KAIRO: So what should we do to stop, or not stop, climate change?

EVE: I think that in Australia itself, it being one of the world's biggest emitters per country rather than per population (particularly because of all the coal that is found in Australia), at least reintroducing the carbon tax would somewhat stop the emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and maybe finding... umm...

KAIRO: More sustainable sources of energy?

EVE: Yes. Using more reusable energies such as hydropower and solar power.

KAIRO: Yes. And what do you think we should be learning about climate change in school?

EVE: What should we learn?

KAIRO: Yes, it seems like most of the younger generations don't know much of it.

EVE: I think it might be hard for teachers to be able to take a side in the debate, but if they can I think we should learn about the effects, what is happening now and also what will happen in 20 to 50 years and how it will impact all of us individually.

KAIRO: What do you feel about the animals and plants affected by climate change?

EVE: Lots of animals will be wiped out because of climate change, I mean, natural things happen and species are wiped out, take the dinosaurs for example, but climate change is obviously man made, not natural. It selfish and horrible how humans are causing animal and plant species to die.

KAIRO: Do you have any other thoughts on the matter?

EVE: No, not really.

KAIRO: Thank you Eve.

Climate change is a debatable issue concerning the whole world. Some people believe that it is happening and some people don't. Some people want to try and help to stop climate change, and other people don't care. Even scientists have varied opinions about climate change.

I personally believe that climate change is a current issue. I also feel the need to try help stop climate change and the effects that it is having on our environment. I believe that my opinion is supported by scientific evidence from scientists who are studying the issue of climate change. I think that it is important to understand this issue because if we understand it, we stand a greater chance of reducing the problem.

Firstly, a vital piece of evidence is the increasing levels of carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) currently residing in our atmosphere. Carbon dioxide gas levels have risen dramatically in the past millennium. Carbon dioxide gas is an excellent retainer and trapper of heat. Its ability to transfer infrared energy through our atmosphere and onto our earth is also contributing to the warming of our planet. Because of the increasing amount of this gas, scientists believe that this is having an astounding effect on the climate of our planet.

These new emissions of carbon dioxide are caused both naturally and by humans. They are adding to the thickness of the atmosphere. This means that today the earth is effectively covered in a giant blanket. This blanket is trapping heat in the same way that a cotton blanket keeps you warm at night. The environment on earth responds to changes in the atmosphere. This could explain why our environment is dramatically changing. I believe that the root of this problem is climate change. 1000 years ago, climate change wasn't a problem. Today, with increased levels of carbon dioxide gas, climate change IS a problem.

The easiest way to see the effect that climate is having on the world is to look around us. The changes in the weather, the changes in the physical aspects of the world, even the changes in the climate. These problems all point to the most reasonable, and the obvious answer; climate change. These problems include, but are not limited to:

Sea Level - Has risen about 17cm globally in the past century.

Temperature Rise - Is affecting the whole world. Studies show that the earth has warmed dramatically over the past two centuries.

Warm Oceans - Oceans have absorbed much of the extra heat. The top 700 metres of the ocean are shown to have warmed considerably.

Shrinking Ice Sheets - Northern ice sheets have lost between 150 and 250 cubic kilometres of ice every year for around 4 years.

Declining Arctic Sea Ice - The thickness and extent of the ice has decreased.

Extreme Weather Conditions - Whether it be high temperatures or extreme rainfall.

Glacial Retreat - Glaciers are receding in most places around the world. Alps, Andes, Alaska, Africa and the Himalayas are all regions affected by this problem.

Acidic Oceans - The acidity of oceans has increased about 30% since the Industrial Revolution.

Decreased Snow Cover - Spring snow in the Northern Hemisphere has decreased over the past 50 years and the snow is melting more quickly at the end of each season.

All of these events are occurring because of the warming of our earth. Climate change IS affecting the environment.

Finally, in conclusion, I believe that climate change is a global problem. I believe that many people in the world are unaware of this problem. I believe that it is affecting everything in our world, whether that be biotic features such as plants, animals and even humans, or abiotic features such as habitats, eco - systems, ocean currents and landforms such as the arctic ice. Based on the evidence that I have described, I believe that it is quite obvious that climate change is occurring and that we need to do something about it.

Part Two: Visions



THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME LIFE IF THERE IS OXYGEN AND WATER. NATURE RISES FROM THE ASHES.
IT WILL PUSH ON PAST THE IMPOSSIBLE





THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSHROOMS IN THE WORLD AND THEY CAN GROW ALMOST ANYWHERE.





THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF BUGS AND THEIR FOOD SOURCES- THE LITTLE WORLDS THAT EXIST AROUND US.
WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL THAT WE DON'T FORGET TO PROTECT THESE BEAUTIFUL UNIVERSES.





CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES DIFFERENT WEATHER PATTERNS, WHETHER IT BE INCREASED RAINFALL, OR INCREASED HEAT. THESE PHOTOS SHOW AFTER RAIN.





THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADAPTING TO THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT, WORKING WITH THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT





THIS IS AN ECOSYSTEM IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS. ECOSYSTEMS CAN BE ANYWHERE AND CAN GROW QUICKLY
THEY SHOW THE FLOW AND CYCLES OF NATURE



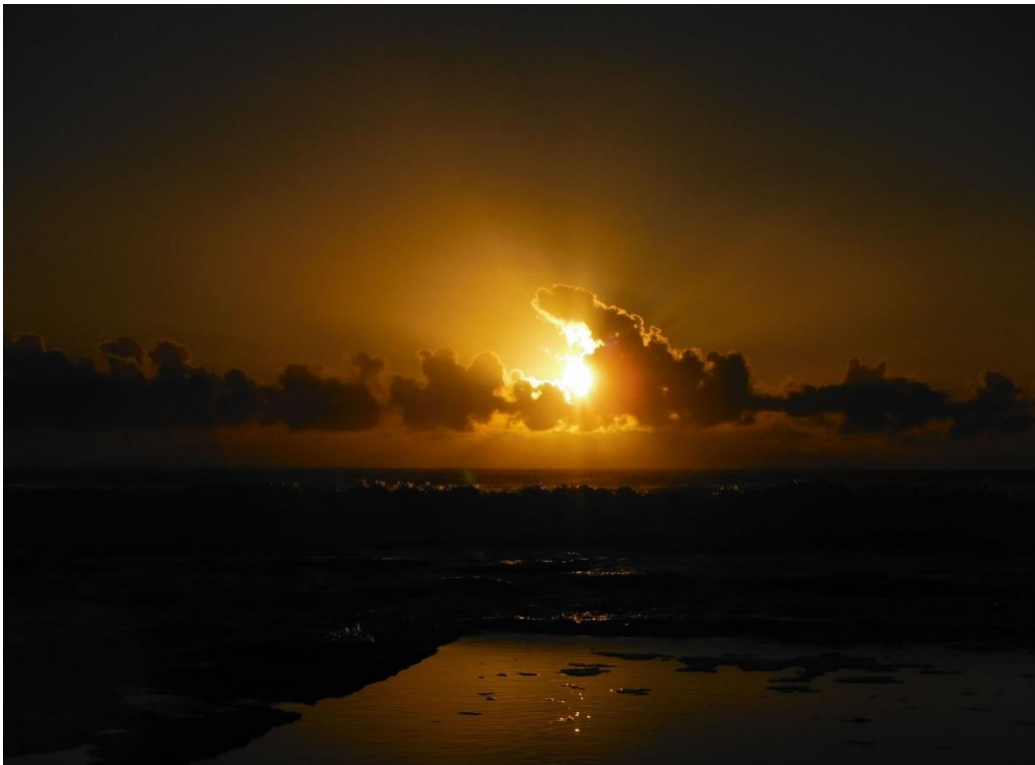


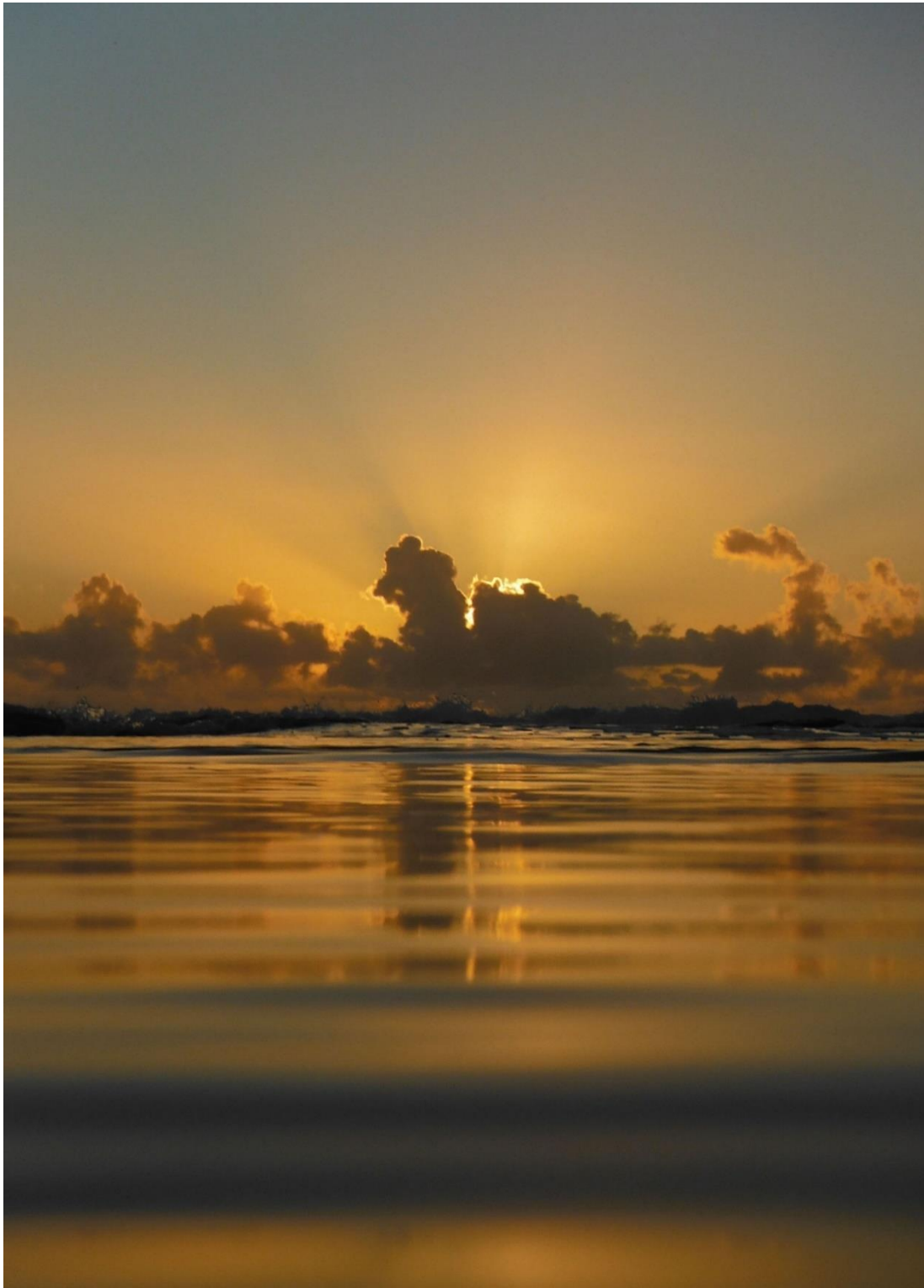
WITH MORE CO₂ IN THE AIR, THESE NATURAL PROCESSES WILL BE INTERRUPTED AND EVENTUALLY LOST.





THE SUN BEATS DOWN ON THE DARK, DARK WORLD. THE CLOUDS THAT GAVE SHELTER ARE GONE. THERE'S NO LIFE LEFT ON THE BARREN BLACK WORLD. EVERYONE MELTED SO NO ONE CAN MOURN.





IT IS DARK ON THE HORIZON... BUT THROUGH THIS PROJECT IT IS BECOMING CLEARER. CLEARER OF THE WAY OUT OF THE DARK, TO THE AGE OF NATURAL INFORMATION. THE HEAT, THE COLD; THEY CANNOT BECOME EXTREME... OR WE WILL DIE.



THE PROPHECY OF THE BURNING DAY

THE EARTH HAS BEEN THOROUGH IN ITS HEATING, ITS COOLING

IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE...

IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN...

IT IS HAPPENING...

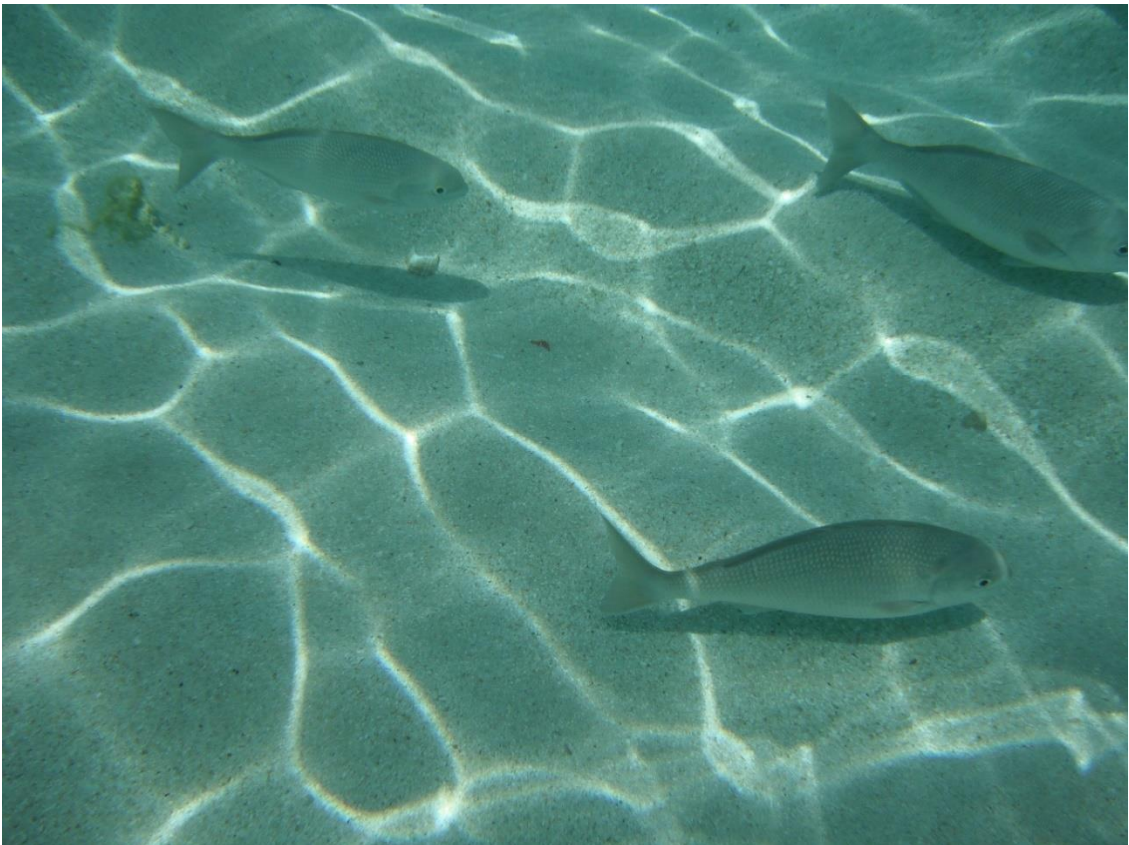
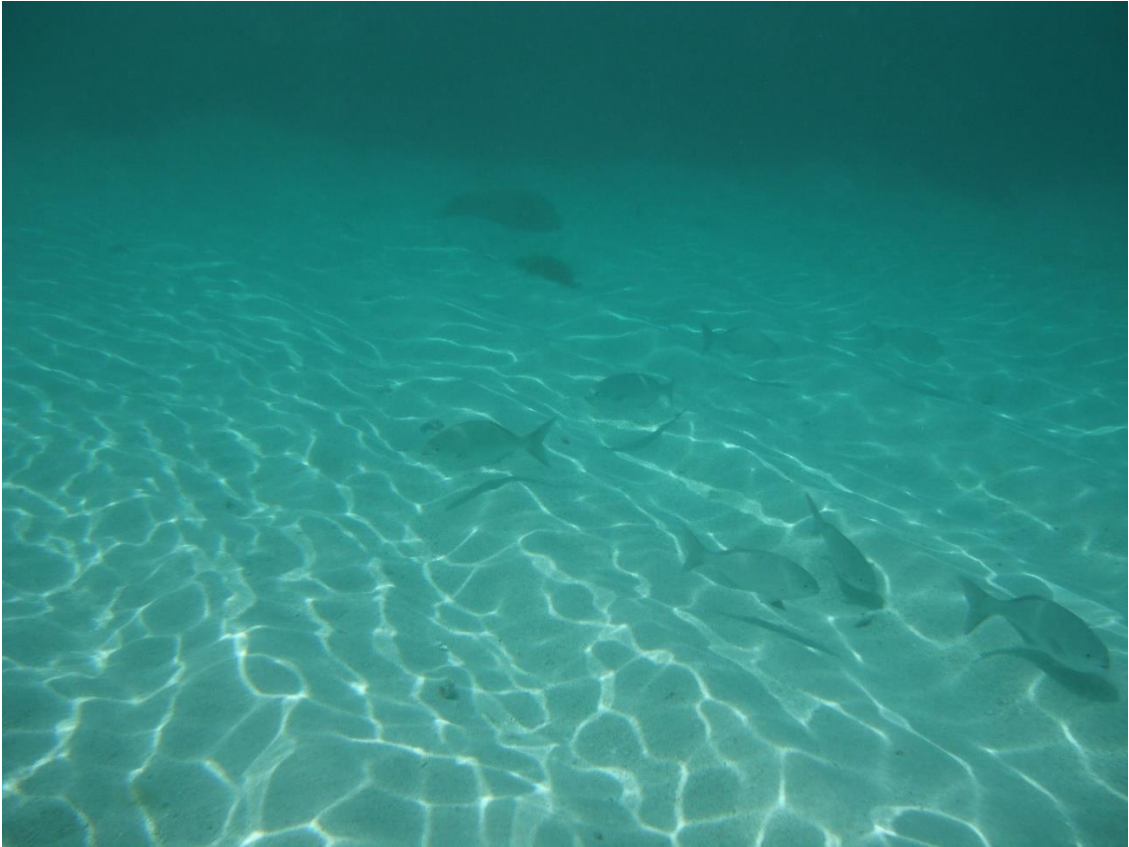


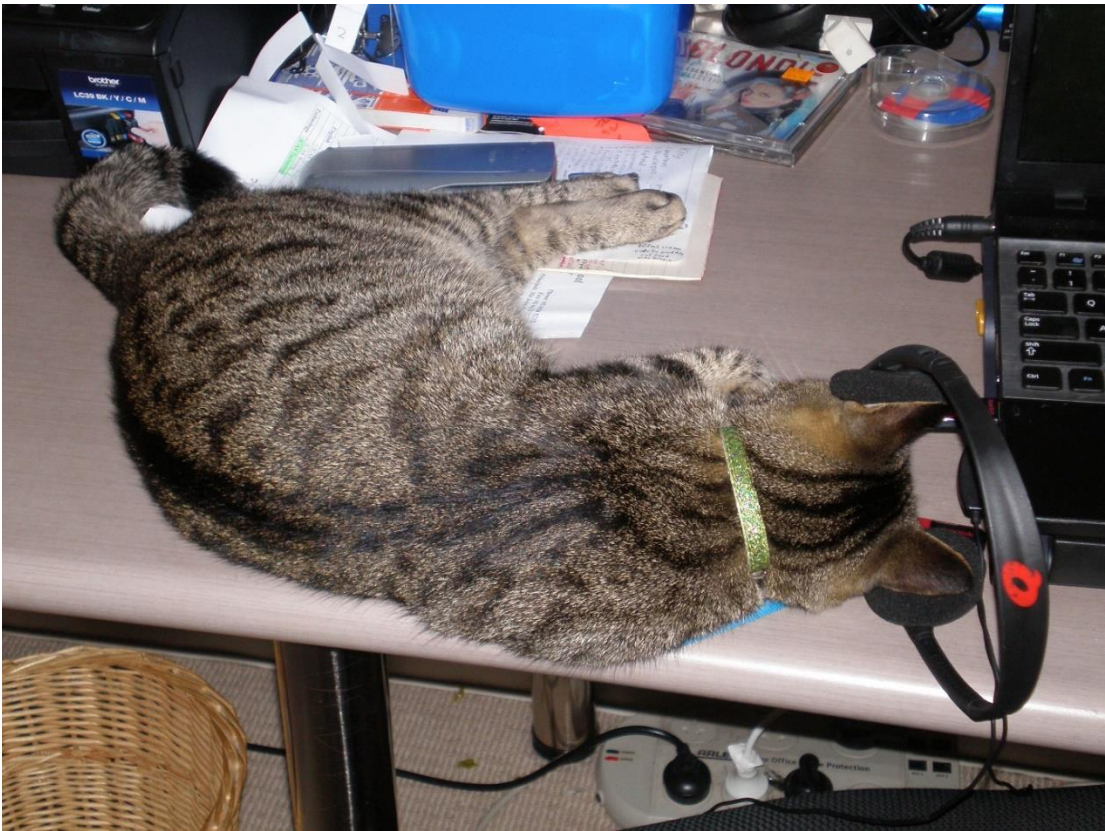
NORTH WEST ISLAND IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AT SUNSET ON THE BEACH













OVER THE YEARS, THIS ROCK HAS PROTRUDED THROUGH THE GLACIER, SPEEDING ITS MELTING PROCESS





HOLES LIKE THIS IN THE GLACIER WOULD APPEAR EVERY SO OFTEN, THOUGH THEY WOULD NOT LAST LONG. IT WAS PREDICTED TO MELT AND FALL APART WITHIN A FEW DAYS.





OVERALL, THE FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER HAS RETREATED AROUND THREE KILOMETRES SINCE THE LATE 1880'S.

There have been a number of advance periods during this time, with the greatest advance occurring between 1983 and 1999.

RETREAT OR ADVANCE?

The Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers are considered to be among the most sensitive glaciers on the planet. Both glaciers have very short reaction times; this is the lag time between a climatic event and a change in the glacier's size.

A change in temperature or precipitation levels will influence whether the glacier gets bigger or smaller. For the Franz Josef Glacier, the lag time is around three to four years.

In 2012, a dramatic change occurred to the Franz Josef Glacier. The development of a hole in the ice resulted in the loss of 250 metres of ice at the terminal face, over a period of just 12 months.

THE HOLE IN THE GLACIER



In 2004 the Franz Josef Glacier developed a depression about 2.1 kilometres up the glacier. At the time, the glacier was in a period of advance and the depression did not have a chance to develop to any great size.

From 2008, with the glacier in a period of thinning and slowing, the depression developed dramatically. The depth of the depression or 'hole' compromised the ice and resulted in a great chunk of ice falling from the base of the glacier into the sub-glacial channel in January 2012. This weakened portion of the glacier soon collapsed into the river flow below it.

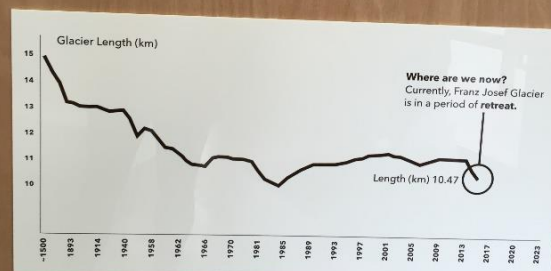
The collapse led to further ice loss and left the new terminal face an unstable area for hikers. Occurrences like this are not out of the ordinary for glaciers, but glaciologists studying the Franz Josef Glacier say that at the speed at which the depression developed was 'remarkable'.

THE GREAT GLACIAL BALANCING ACT

A glacier's ability to retreat or advance depends on the Glacier Mass Balance.

When annual snowfall at the accumulation zone (névé) is greater than annual snow-melt, there will be **Glacial Growth (accumulation)**.

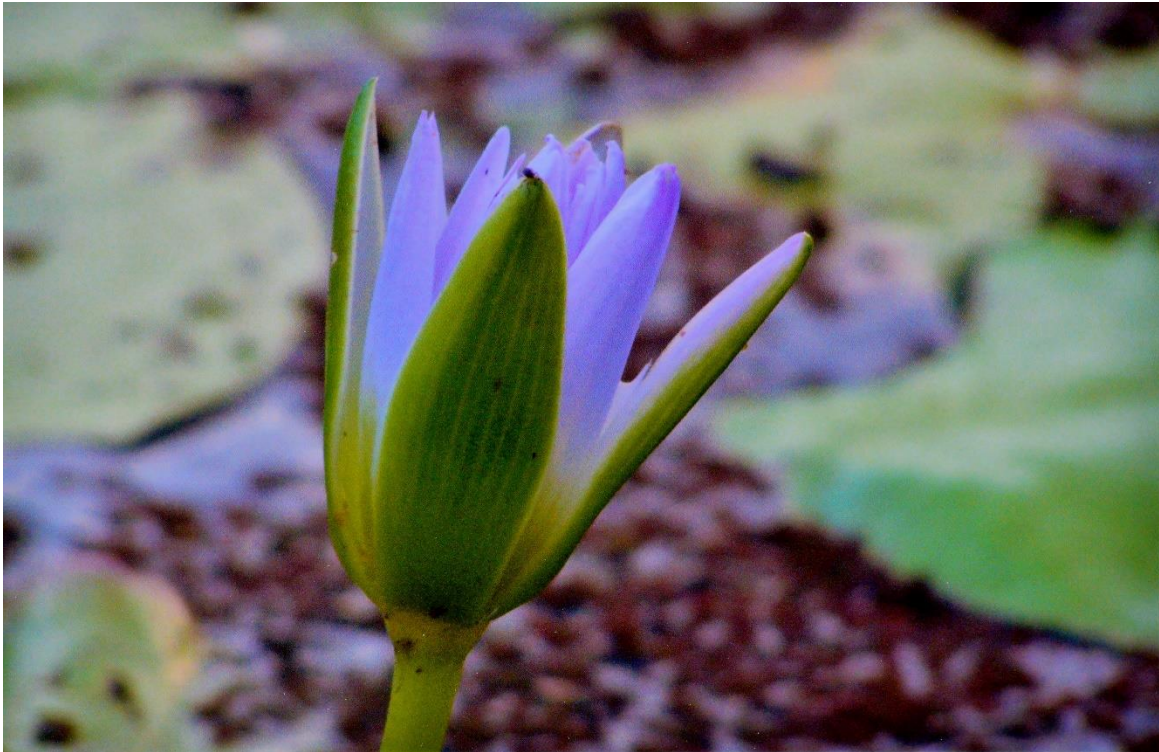
When annual snowmelt is greater than annual snowfall, there will be **Glacial Shrinkage (ablation)**.



SINCE 2008, THE FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER HAS BEEN IN A PERIOD OF RETREAT AND HAS LOST AROUND 800 METRES OF LENGTH.



THIS PUDDLE FORMED OVER THE NIGHT. IT WAS A GOOD 5 METRES WIDE, WITH THE WATER INSIDE BELOW FREEZING.



BUGS. WHY CAN'T SOME PEOPLE SPOT THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE?





THIS IS THE ENVIRONMENT HIDING FROM THE HUMAN-MADE STUFF LIKE THE SUN HIDING FROM THE ROAD.



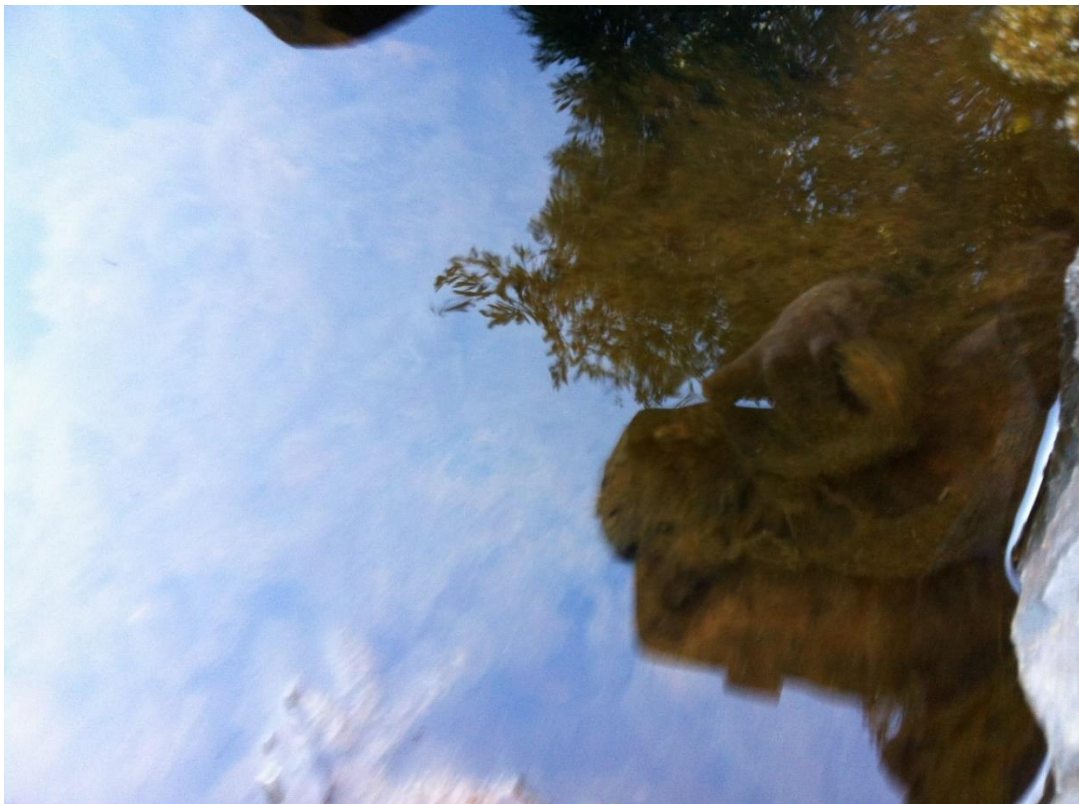
THIS IS A POISONOUS TREE THAT WAS CUT DOWN TO HELP THE NATIVE TREES ON THE OTHER SIDE.



ALL OLD TREES COMING TO THEIR TIME, AND THEY'RE GOING TO THEIR TIME.



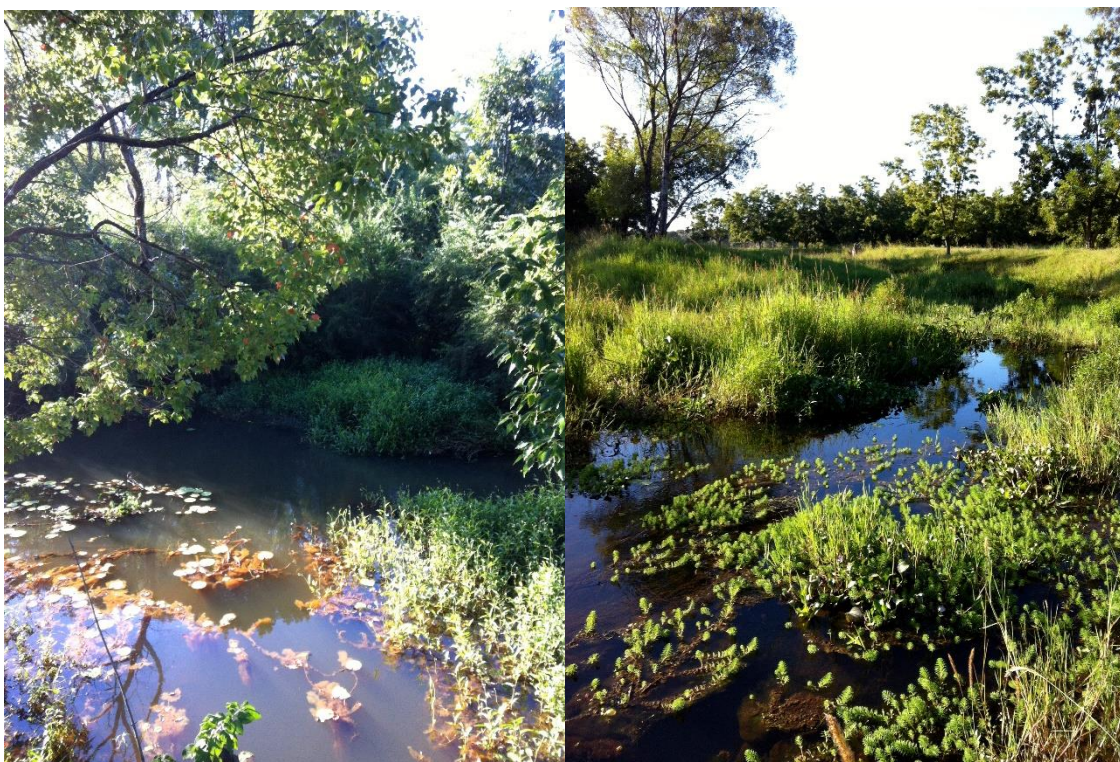
WHEN THE RIVER FLOODS THE BRIDGE THIS IS A PLACE WHERE ALL THE RUBBISH STAYS ON THE BRIDGE.



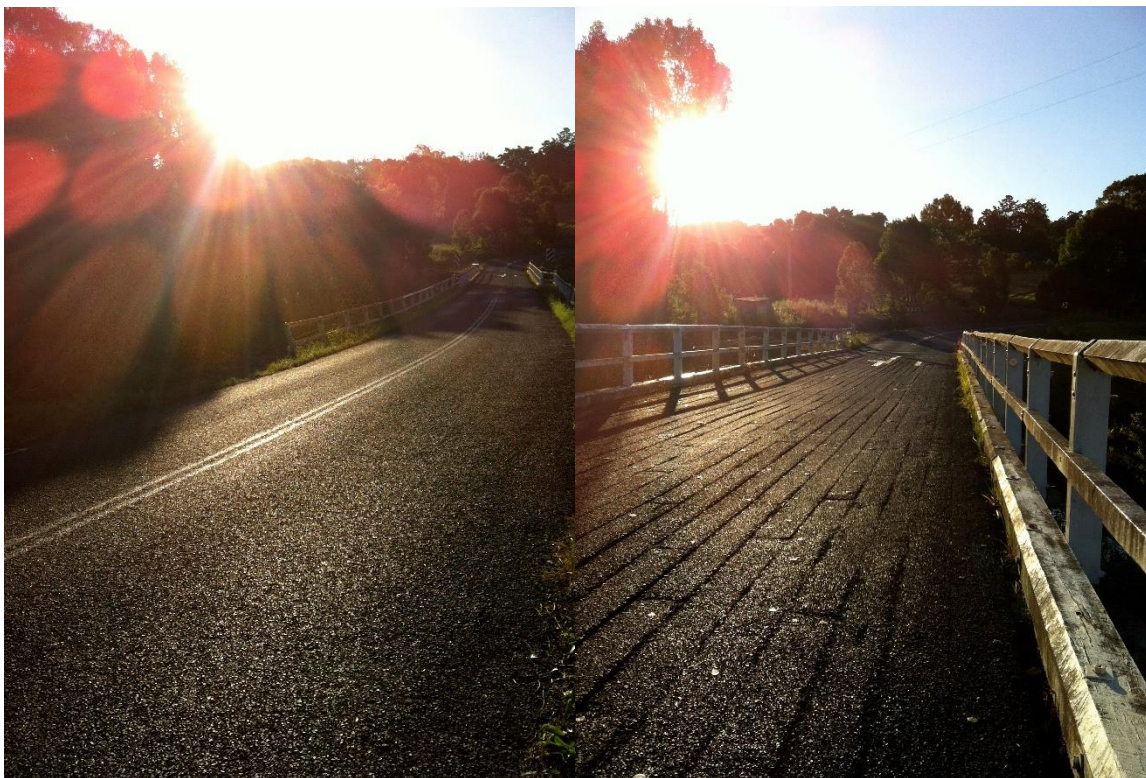
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS UNDER THE WATER? PROBABLY FISH, FROGS, MAYBE MORE.
BUT WHY DO THEY STAY UNDER WATER? TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM POLLUTION.



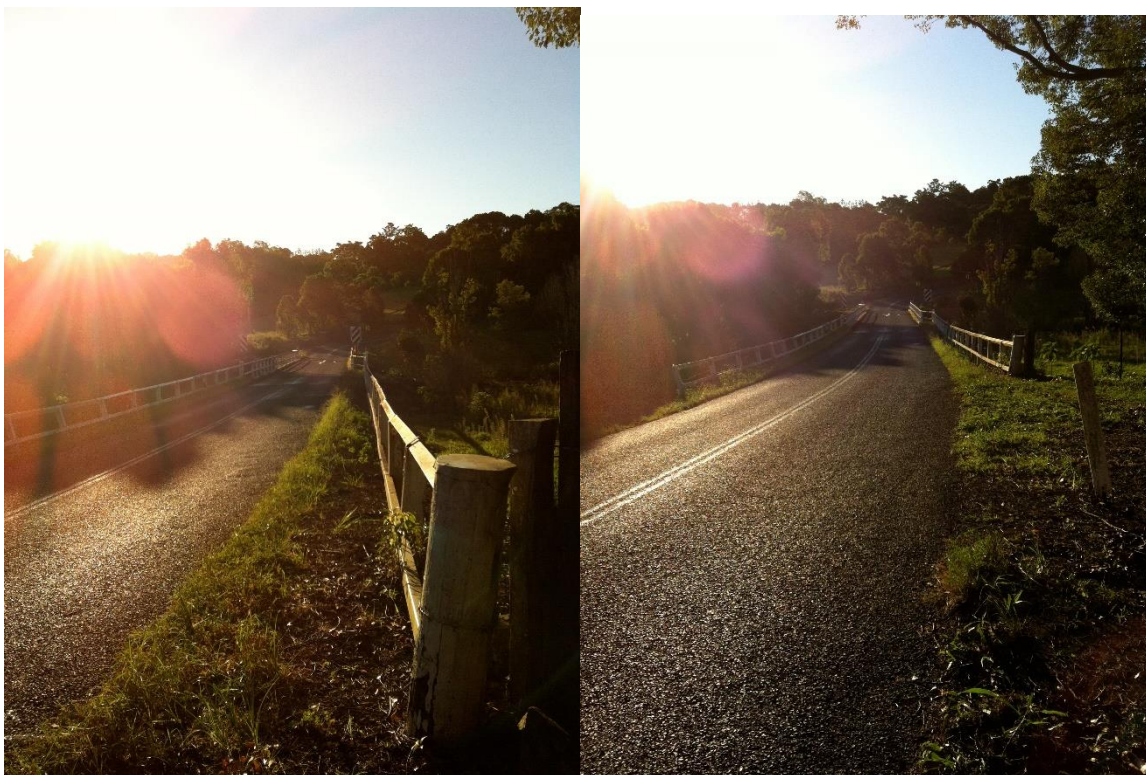
THIS CREEK IS VERY DEEP IN PLACES. IT'S SO DEEP THAT I CAN'T DIVE TO THE BOTTOM OF IT.



THIS CREEK HAS BEEN LEFT FOR A LONG TIME AND HAS STARTED TO GROW ALGAE.



IT IS A BATTLE BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HUMANS TRYING TO CUT THINGS DOWN.



THE HUMANS WILL WIN.



IT ONCE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. IT WAS ONCE WONDERFUL. AND NOW BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE...
AND OUR COMMUNITY WALKS THROUGH IT.



VIII. MANY STEPS

BY NIKKI WHITEHEAD



TRUE BEAUTY CAN LIE UPON ANY SURFACE, WITHOUT BECOMING UNPOLISHED. A FEATHER CAN REST IN A PILE OF LEAVES- STILL KEEPING ITS PERFECTION AND ORIGINALITY- THEREFORE WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD THAT'S FULL OF IMPERFECTION- WHILST STILL LIVING IN A PERFECT WORLD.



WE BLAME EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF OURSELVES- WE CAUSE THE DAMAGE- YET WE DO NOT REALISE THAT WE ARE SLOWLY DESTROYING OUR HOMES AND THE HOMES OF ALL OTHER ORGANISMS- VIA OUR DISGRACEFUL AND SELFISH HABITS



WE KILL MANY THINGS- WE ARE MALICIOUS KILLERS- YET WE AREN'T PUNISHED FOR OUR CRIMES
CRIMES AGAINST NATURE.



THE STEP TO A SOLUTION IS NOT JUST ONE, BUT MANY. A SOLUTION WILL NOT BE HANDY AND GIVEN FREELY
IT WILL REQUIRE MAJOR CHANGES IN OUR ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ISSUE THAT IS 'CLIMATE CHANGE'

PART 4: IMAGININGS

I. A COLLECTION OF POEMS

Who Comes in My Dreams? by Kiara Jobson

You come in my dreams
While I sleep and nap
You have the perfect smile and,
Laughing eyes, beautiful hair and,
Naturally Varnished lips,
That figure is simple, yet attractive,
That figure has no well,
Still spends the thought,
That figure has no spring,
Still I can swing and have fun,
You have come in my dreams,
You spoke the lovely words,
As the new snow in the old world,
We can drench, once the snowflakes melt,
You are too lovely and smart to secure my heart
Who comes in my dreams?
Climate change does

In Our Hands, by Kairo Byrne

ten years back
the earth began warming
nights were black
skies constantly storming
now the world is green
how could we have foreseen
the era of gladness that
rose up from the sadness
species that were gone
are now arriving
in this new green world
they are thriving
how did we make it?
I don't understand
the biggest mistake now
we have in our hands
the balance
of green
and grey
it seems
that we...
will live

The Steps by Eva Jones

Before the world was ending,
The beauty was incomparable,
But now the perishing heart of the world decays bit by bit.

A slowly rotting tree stump,
Filling and overflowing with rainbow hued life,
A sadness is not complete without a joy.

The better things in life stay if you treat them well,
But the fact is that we can't live in a rotten world,
It's just a fact.

Watching the wind whistling and the leaves fluttering you realise,
To save ourselves is selfish, to save but ourselves is selfless,
We must help save everyone.

That is the first thing you must realise,
The second is what I've said is almost true,
Our world is not completely ending, we can still help it survive.

To survive in our world, we shall help the trees and oceans first,
All animals need them to breathe so that is the obvious choice,
If our oxygen flow stopped so will our life.

Humans need to separate good and bad in their minds,
Then accentuate the good,
For if we do this we can better ourselves.

Before the world was ending,
The beauty was incomparable,
But now the perishing heart of the world decays bit by bit.

The Way it's Going to Be by Tyler Murphy

The truth about climate change
The one I hope you know
If we don't fix it now
There won't be rain or snow
The Earth, a barren wasteland
The grass turned into sand
No living thing in sight
Now do you understand?
Civilization turned to rubble
Certainly not as planned
The Earth destroyed by climate
The truth is really bland.
I hope you've been enlightened
As I planned to do
Climate change will do all this
Unless you help out too.

WITH MY DAD BY JASMINE GRAHAM

I LIKE BEING WITH MY DAD HELPING HIM

HE'S SAYS I'M HIS BOY

YOU SEE HE HAS FOUR GIRLS

I'M THE SECOND YOUNGEST

HE LOADS TRUCKS

HE NEEDS TO FOR WORK

SO WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH CLIMATE CHANGE?

I DON'T KNOW

BUT I LOVE BEING WITH DAD

UNTITLED BY ZIAH PIGGOTT

I LIKE TO RUN

I LIKE TO WIN

I LIKE TO PLAY FOOTBALL

I LIKE TO SMASH PEOPLE

I LIKE TO SEE MY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL

BECAUSE THEY'RE FUNNY

I'VE GOT TWO SISTERS

THEY ANNOY ME

SO WHAT DOES THIS ALL HAVE TO DO WITH CLIMATE CHANGE?

I NEED THE ENVIRONMENT SO I KEEP RUNNING, WINNING, SMASHING, ANNOYING PEOPLE.

COAL SEAM GAS, POLLUTION, CITIES AND STUFF — THAT'S PROBLEM

STOP POLLUTING ALL YOUR SMOKE, MAKING MONEY

THEN YOU'LL HAVE TIME TO PLAY, RUN AND BE WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

Real Life by Hayley Jones

Real life haunts us
Real life will change us,
Real life will always be here,
But...
Climate change is our real problem.
Can we put climate change at a halt?
No!
Can we slow down climate change?
Yes!
But how?
By leaving nature how it is,
By not constructing useless buildings.
Please just leave our earth as it is.
Please don't touch our nature.
Please just stop.

New World by Blake Wilkin

Devotion to technology,
Ill environmental care,
Food sources dropping
Fail to stabilize,
Everyone changes...
Regrow the planet,
Environmental reboot,
New world.
Can be saved,
Everyone should care.

How Much? By Jade Bailey

You hear the sound of the wind
And the sway of a tree
The flowers are bright
Even at night
As the clouds dance in the day
But will it be the same?
How much will climate change affect the earth...?

POLLUTION by Gabby Wiggins

Plastic everywhere
Obviously all of the animals are sick
Living
Life isn't that great with pollution
Unfortunately people won't stop
There is something we can do
It is something that has been carried to people to do it more
Only people that care can help
Never give up

For the Better by Riley Ball

Forever changing

Unforgiving

No going back

All around us

Helping, defending

Giving, majestic

Never looking back

Surrounding, sacrificing

Forever changing for the better

Who Are You? by Isabella Wiggins and Georgia Perkins

You are around us when we work, laugh and play

You have secrets that we have not yet discovered

The Universe holds your secrets and knowledge

We are still discovering while you are still changing

You are confusing yet secretive

Destroying our land

Who are you? Climate Change is who you are.

The Simple Site by Mekisha Waghorn

The land is changing
the days are breaking
the simple site of the beautiful land is a gift above
the world is breaking
the light is fading
we have no clue to stop
the change is raging
why is it changing
as our gift is fading
we need to stop the land from breaking.

What Can we Do? by Lili Huntley

Climate change
Climate change what can we do?
Is there something?
Something we can do?
I'm sure there is but it is up to you!
With all these polar ice caps melting and the unbearable heat!
Come on come on its something we have to beat!
I know that we can so promise me this that you will never give up!

Final Goodbyes by Poppy Schofield

Climate Change and me,
Has taught me to use the key,
Of what climate change is,
To be a climate change wiz,
Save our trees and our plants,
To keep our garden to grow with all the ants,
If we don't look after climate change,
The seas will rise,
Then we'll have to say our final good byes,
So we can all improve,
Or all of our animals will have to move,
Sometimes climate change is bad,
So you have to do something rad,
Everyone can help,
By something to help the nature,
So help the world instead of later

Not Forever by Jordan Thomas

The trees are falling
The plants are being pulled leaf by leaf
The oil is spilling
The smoke is filling the sky
The ocean is choking on all this plastic
This world isn't going to last forever...

II. A COFFIN MADE OF WOOD

BY KAIRO BYRNE

The little girl woke up and got out of her wooden bed.

She went and sat on the wooden stool in the kitchen and ate her breakfast while sitting at the wooden table.

She went to brush her teeth in the bathroom at the wooden bench.

She went to school and sat at a wooden desk and wrote in exercise books made of paper.

As she was walking home she was sad because of all the wood that was no longer on the trees.

Her mother was angry at her lateness and in her fury she slammed the wooden door.

‘Why do you think of such useless things as trees and animals? It is silly! They do not care for you! Why do you care for them?’

The little girl went into her bedroom with wooden walls and sat on the wooden bed, crying.

The next morning, the mother woke to find that the little girl had run away in the night.

She ran out looking for her, but she ran into a crying man.

‘What’s wrong?’ She asked.

‘I have killed someone! I was just lopping a tree and I didn’t see them!’

‘Don’t worry.’ Said the girl’s mother.

She went into the forest and saw the little girl lying underneath the tree, dead.

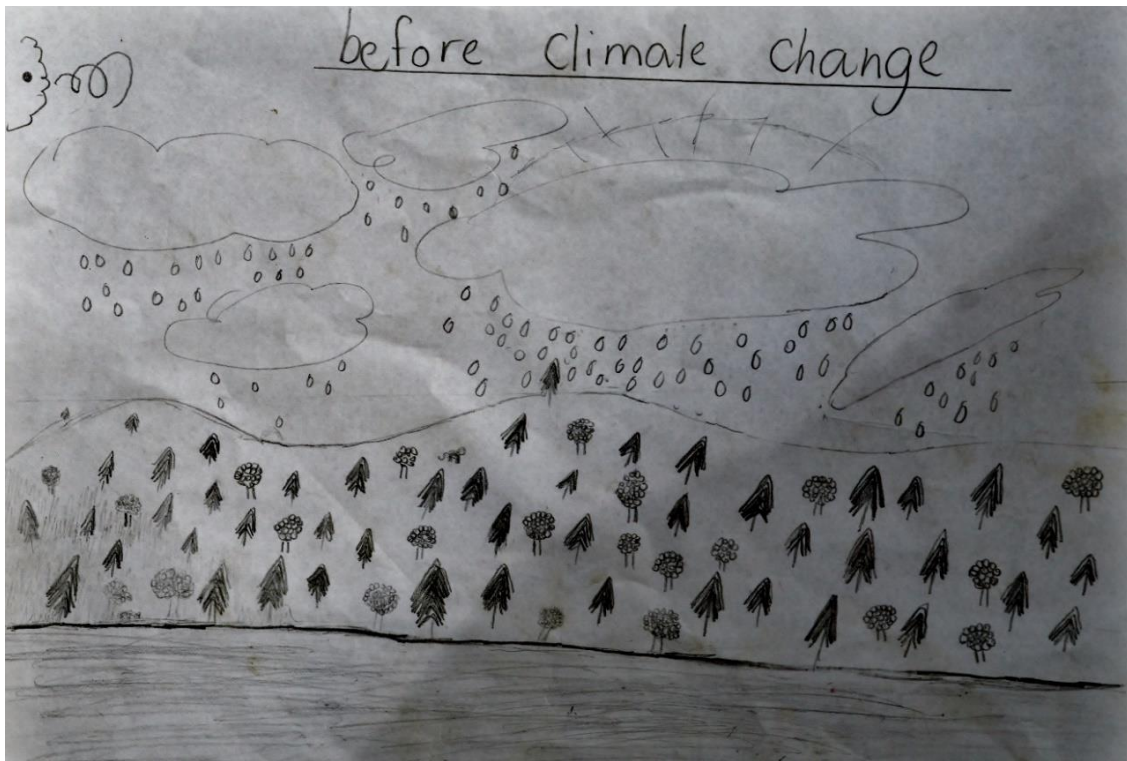
The girl’s mother went out and bought acres upon acres of woodland, and when anyone tried to buy it from her, she would ask:

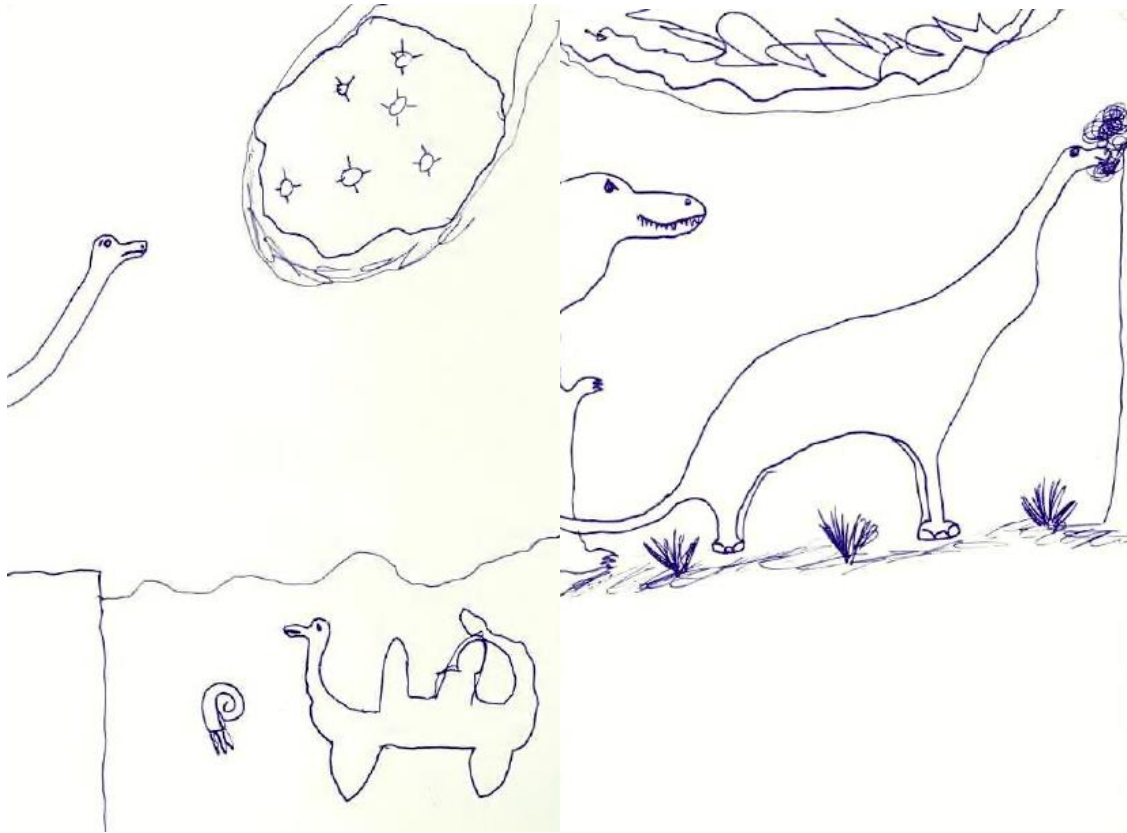
‘Would you chop any trees down?’

And they would say:

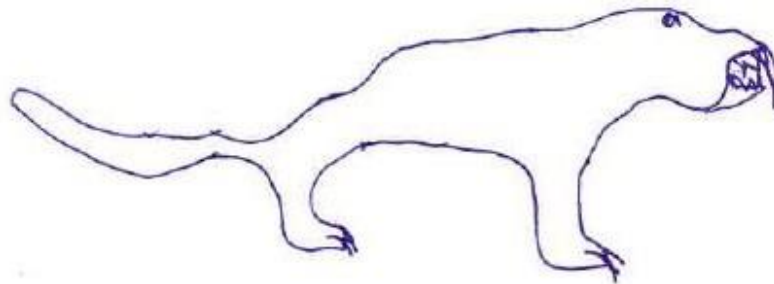
“Perhaps.”

“Then I will never sell any of my land to you.”





Saber tooth tiger



Global Warming

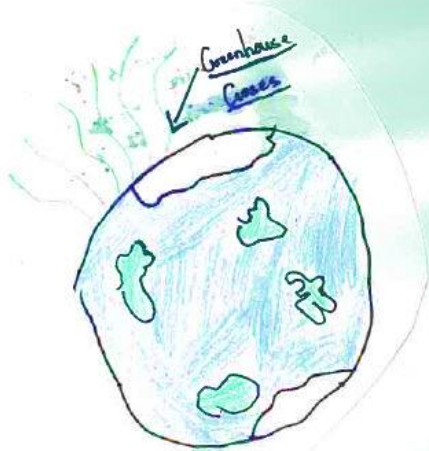


IS Real

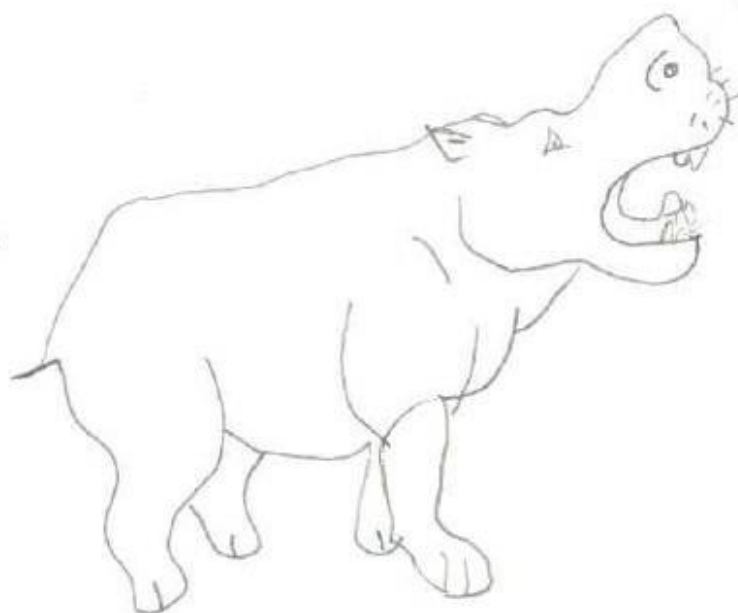
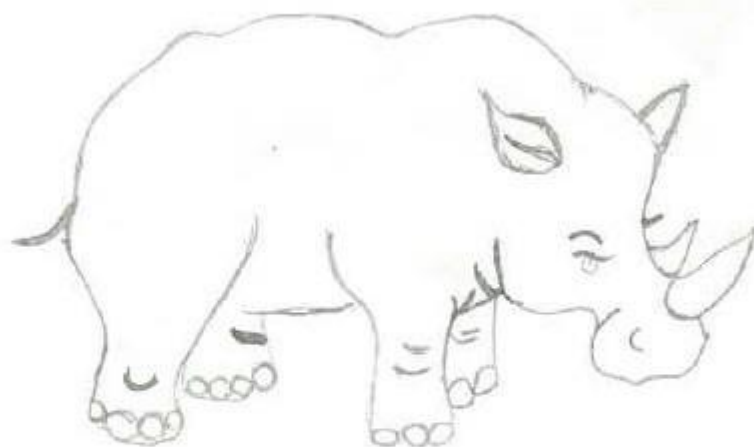
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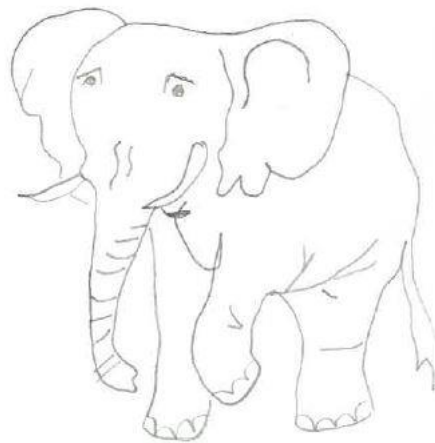
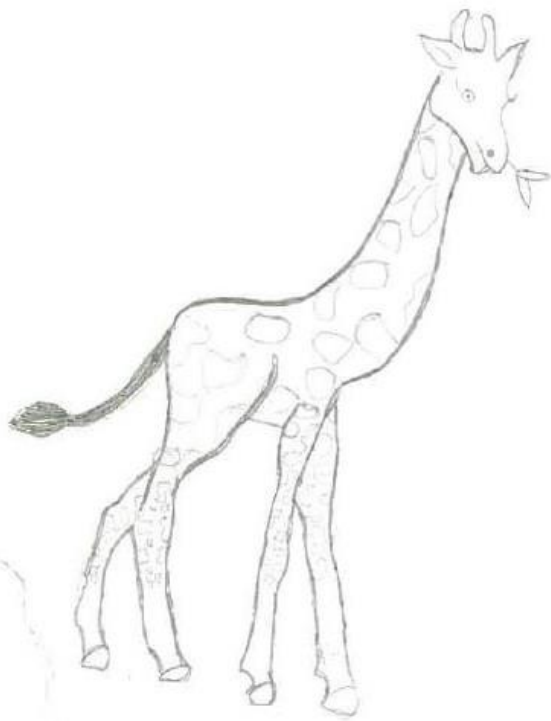
Climate change is melting the south pole. This means that the polar bears will die too.

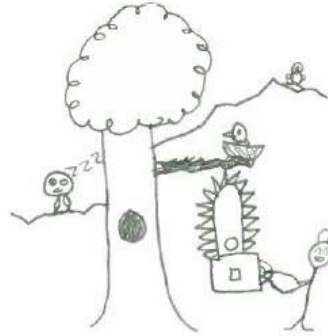
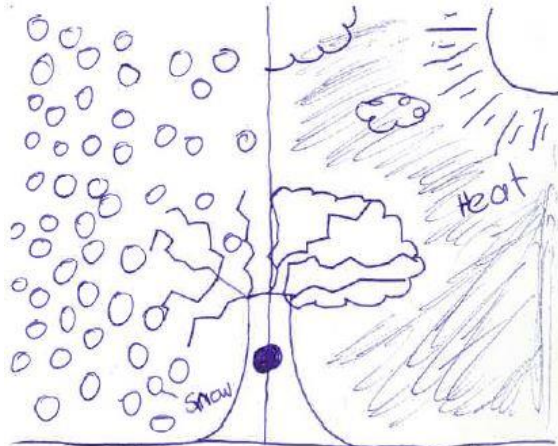
WE DO
NOT WANT
THAT!!!



CLIMATE
Melts
ANTARCTICA

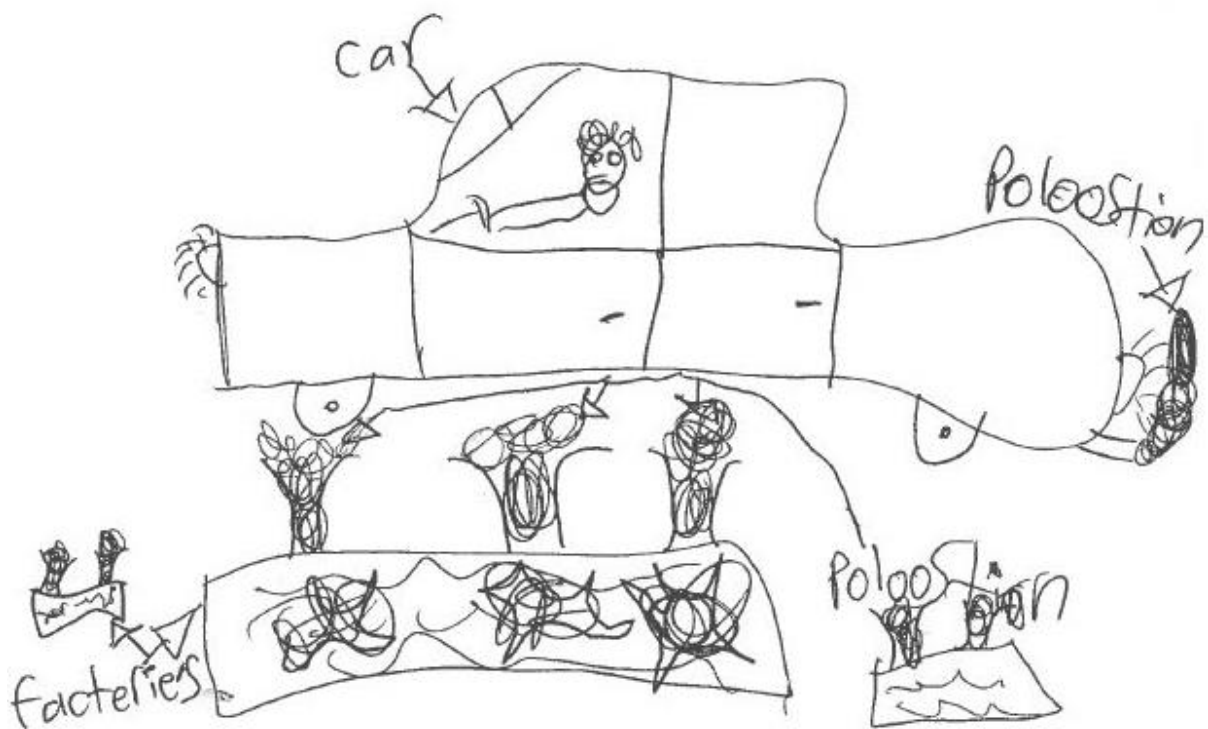






Don't cut down trees







IV. WHAT WILL LIFE BE LIKE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

FINN

SCIENTISTS WORKING IN UNDERCOVER LABORATORIES DISCOVERED A PLANET IN JULY 2015. WHILST THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN LITTLE NOTICE IN THIS PLANET, THE SCIENTISTS HAVE. THIS PLANET SEEMS TO EXACTLY REPLICATE OUR EARTH. WE HAVE SENT PROBES TO IT AND FOUND LIFE FORMS LIVING THERE IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS FAUNA.

FIVE MINUTES UNTIL LAUNCH...

I DON'T WANT TO VISIT CENTURION E452. PEOPLE TELL ME IT IS HIGHER PAY, A NEW ADVENTURE AND A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY. I'M NOT SO SURE.

THE FIRST PEOPLE WENT UP 5 YEARS AGO, THEY LANDED SAFELY AND BEGAN A SETTLEMENT. SINCE THEN, NEARLY ONE MILLION PEOPLE HAVE FLED EARTH TO START A NEW LIFE ON CENTURION E452. ONLY ONE SHUTTLE HASN'T MADE IT THERE. SCIENTISTS SUGGEST THAT IT GOT LOST IN THE ORBITING RUBBISH SURROUNDING EARTH. THIS IS EXCESS RUBBISH THAT HAD TO BE EXPORTED FROM EARTH.

TO BE HONEST, I THINK THAT LEAVING EARTH TO 'BREATH FRESH AIR' IS LIKE BREAKING SOMETHING AND RUNNING AWAY. WE WRECKED OUR EARTH AND NOW WE MOVE ON- POSSIBLY TO WRECK ANOTHER.

HOWEVER, MY DECISION TO LEAVE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. THINGS DOWN HERE ON EARTH ARE REALLY HEATING UP.

THE ANTARCTIC TREATY EXPIRED A FEW YEARS AGO AND GLOBAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEGUN TO MINE ON THE CONTINENT. AN EVER-GROWING NEED FOR ELECTRONICS HAS MADE THE RESOURCES UNDER THE ICE EXTREMELY VALUABLE.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS SUCH AS McDONALDS HAVE NOW BEGUN TO ADVERTISE THAT THEIR PRODUCTS ARE 'CHEMICAL FREE- JUST LIKE IT SHOULD BE'. HOWEVER, THE CAMPAIGN ONLY SEEMS TO BENEFIT THE COMPANY'S ECONOMY AND NOT ACTUALLY THE ENVIRONMENT.

SO YEAH... THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE IN 2025. SURE WE HAVE 4D TV'S IN NEARLY EVERY HOUSEHOLD AND HOVER BOARDS TO TAKE US AROUND PLACES BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER IF ALL THIS IS REALLY NECESSARY. THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE SPACE PROGRAM (TO SECRET PLANET CENTURION E452).

COMMENCE COUNTDOWN ... 5....4....3....2....10

CHIARA

IT IS 2025. I HAVE BEEN PICKED TO BE ONE IN TEN HUMANS WHO WILL BE SENT TO LIVE ON MARS. IF WE SUCCEED THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING ON SENDING MASSES OF HUMANS TO PLANET MARS BY 2040. THEY ARE DOING THIS BECAUSE PLANET EARTH IS ALMOST UNINHABITABLE DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN EFFECT. I AM READY TO TAKE ON THE ADVENTURE...

RENNICK

THE CLIMATE WILL BE DIFFERENT, IT WILL BE LIVEABLE AND STABLE. EVERYTHING WILL BE EQUAL. TRANSPORT, TECHNOLOGY, EVERYTHING WILL RUN OFF ANYTHING WITH NUTRITIONAL OR ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES.

LARA

I PULLED MYSELF OUT OF BED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS, WALKING TIREDLY TOWARDS THE MIRROR THAT HUNG ON MY WALL. EVEN THROUGH MY PYJAMAS I COULD COUNT MY RIBS EASILY. AS IF ON CUE, MY STOMACH GROWLED AND ACHED. I HADN'T EATEN IN DAYS. I COULDN'T AFFORD TO. I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO APPLY FOR A JOB.

PATRICK

DEAR PAST SELF,

IT IS THE YEAR 2040. I GO TO UNIVERSITY. I WORK AT CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE PARK. IT IS REALLY DIFFERENT NOW, SUMMER IS A LOT HOTTER NOW, WITH A LOT OF RAIN. WINTER IS WARM AND THE ICE GLACIERS HAVE HALF-MELTED. EVERY HOUSEHOLD HAS A POOL AS IT IS VERY HOT. THE TRANSPORT IS VERY DIFFERENT THESE DAYS, EVERYONE CATCHES A TRAIN TO GO TO WORK, AND FOOD IS DELIVERED TO OUR HOMES. MOST ANIMALS LIVE IN THE JUNGLE OR OUTBACK, EVERYWHERE ELSE IS MODERNISED. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TIME FOR, GOTTA GO TO WORK.

-YOUR FUTURE SELF.

CAELAN

IT IS THE YEAR 2030 AND EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. YOU HAVE TO WEAR A MASK TO PREVENT THE AIR FROM KILLING YOU. EVERY HOUSE IS IN A BUBBLE FULL OF CLEAN AIR. JAPAN IS NOW UNINHABITABLE AND 50 SPECIES OF ANIMAL ARE EXTINCT. LUCKY YOU'RE NOT HERE.

-YOUR FUTURE SELF

SAM

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKELY BE IN THE RAAF, SO VEHICLES WOULD ALL BE MILITARY AIRCRAFT. THEY WOULD LIKELY ALL BE JET-POWERED- OR SCRAM JETS, BEING EXTREMELY FAST AND LOUD. THE CLIMATE, I IMAGINE, WOULD HAVE KEPT ITS INTEGRITY THANKS TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS TO KEEP THE WORLD SURVIVING.

MATTHEW

THE CITIES HAVE BECOME ENCASED IN ABOVE-GROUND BUILDINGS AND TUBULAR WALKWAYS CONNECTING THEM AND SHIELDING US FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE TEMPERATURE HAS SKYROCKETED WITH A 20 DEGREE INCREASE ON THE AVERAGES AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS INACCESSIBLE. MOST ANIMALS ARE NOW IN CAPTIVITY OR PARKS AND PEOPLE ARE NOT ALLOWED OUT OF THE CITIES. EVERYONE IS ISOLATED AND ONLY ABLE TO COMMUNICATE VIA THE

INTERNET. TRANSPORT USES PRESSURISED MAGNETIC TUBES THAT ALSO DELIVER CONSUMABLES INSTEAD OF SHOPPING.

NIKKI

I BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL NOT HAVE BEEN MANY GOOD CHANGES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE- THAT LIFE WILL BE THE SAME AS IT IS CURRENTLY- ONLY WORSE. TECHNOLOGY WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE ADVANCED, I.E. IPHONES. I BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A LOT OF BAD WITH ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF GOOD LEFT AMONGST THE COMMUNITIES. IT WILL BE AN ORDERLY-CITY SORT OF LIFESTYLE, WHERE EACH AND EVERY DAY IS JUST A REPETITION OF THE DAY BEFORE THAT... AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT, AND SO ON. WE WILL LIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE HUMANS JUST FULFIL EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEIR GREEDY AND SELFISH DESIRES. A WORLD WHICH I WOULDN'T EVER WANT TO LIVE IN. A WORLD WHICH IS NOT BEING CURED OF ITS CRISIS IN CLIMATE CHANGE.

EVIE

IT'S 5 AM. FRED THE ROOSTER IS ANNOUNCING HIS PRESENCE IN THE WORLD. VERY LOUDLY. TODAY THERE'S PLENTY OF WORK TO BE DONE ON THE FARM. IT'S THE START OF THE AUTUMN HARVEST. THE BAKERY IN THE VILLAGE IS DEMANDING FLOUR. IN TWO DAY'S TIME, HENRY THE HORSE WILL TRUNDLE DOWN WITH THE CART FULL. OTHER PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED. THEY USE HIGH-TECH CARS, MACHINES AND PHONES. THEY NEGLECT THE WILDLIFE. BUT NOT ME. DOWN ON THE FARM, WE DO THINGS THE WAY THEY USED TO BE DONE. SOME CALL IT OLD-FASHIONED, BUT I CALL IT PEACE. HERE ON MY FARM, WE DON'T NEGLECT THE WILDLIFE. I WORK FOR MYSELF, AND PROVIDE MY OWN FOOD. IT'S ORGANIC, AND IT'S NATURAL. THE WORLD HAS ADVANCED. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO. I'M DIFFERENT, AND I ALWAYS WILL BE. I WILL NEVER, AND HAVE NEVER, GONE WITH THE FLOW. I DO THINGS MY WAY, AND DON'T LET ANYONE CHANGE ME.

GRACE

IT'S 6 AM, AND MY ALARM GOES OFF. I'M TIRED BECAUSE I WAS STUDYING ALL NIGHT FOR MY EXAM TODAY. I GET UP, TIARE IS ALREADY MAKING COFFEE AND DRESSED READY FOR THE DAY. THEY ALWAYS SAID THAT SHE'D BE A VET, BUT LIKE ME, SHE DECIDED TO STUDY LAW INSTEAD.

JASMYNE

THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

THE BOY LIVED IN AN EMPTY HOUSE. TIME HAD TAKEN AWAY HIS TOYS AS WELL AS RAIDERS. HE WAS BRANDED ON HIS FACE, AN A CARVED IN JUST ABOVE HIS LEFT EYE. HE WAS AN ODDITY, A SURVIVOR OF A WAR. THE ROBOTS HAD BROKEN THE WORLD. THEY WERE MADE TO BRING PEACE BUT THEY ONLY HERALDED DESTRUCTION. THE NORMALS WERE SO AFRAID OF THE ABERRANTS THAT THEY DIDN'T SEE THE SUBTLE DISASTER HAPPENING BEFORE THEM. SO THE BOY NO LONGER LIVED ON A CONTINENT, HE LIVED ON AN ISLAND. A PLASTIC BEACH MADE OF RUBBISH SURROUNDED BY A VAST OCEAN. HE WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES. HE GOT TO LIVE.

TOM

THE WORLD IS ALWAYS CHANGING. NEW TECHNOLOGY AND NEW DISCOVERIES ARE ALWAYS HAPPENING. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS. WE COULD ALL DIE FROM A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE. IT MIGHT GET TOO HOT TO LIVE. ALL THE TREES MIGHT DIE FROM THE HEAT. WE'VE ALL GOT TO TAKE ACTION BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

CHANTELLE

DEAR MUM,

I AM IN AUSTRALIA AND I WENT TO UNI YESTERDAY, AND I FOUND SOMETHING COOL. APPARENTLY I HAD FIRE ON MY HAND. THEN I WAS OFF THE GROUND. THE EXCITING THING IS THAT I AM GOING TO BE 21 YEAR OLD.

EVA

IN TEN YEAR'S TIME

I'M 21

THE EARTH IS HOTTER

NO TREES LEFT,

HUMANS CONSUMING,

ALL ANIMALS SCARED.

ANGUS

IF WE DON'T CHANGE OUR WAYS:

POLLUTED

EXCAVATED

TERRIBLE

RECKLESS

ARGH

FIRED

INCINERATED

ENEDIBLE

DEATHLY

ZIGGY

I TEN YEAR'S TIME I WILL PROBABLY BE WORKING. WE WOULD BE LIVING IN A MUCH HOTTER WORLD IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THE CLIMATE WILL BE DIFFERENT. THE COMMUNITY WILL CHANGE A LOT.

LILI

THE POLLUTION WOULD BE IN DESTRUCTION.
THE PEOPLE WOULD BE SO SCARED THEY WOULD PUFF AND POUT AND DEFINITELY SHOUT
BUT IN THE END THERE WILL BE A STOP TO THIS MESS.

GABBY

IN TEN YEARS FROM NOW THE CLIMATE CHANGE WOULD BE MORE NOTICEABLE AND I WOULD BE 22. I WOULD PROBABLY BE IN UNI. EVERYONE WOULD BE ALL CUTIES, BUT I WOULD BE THE WINNER.

HAMISH

I WILL BE RICH AND THERE WILL BE SOLAR POWER EVERYWHERE AND I WILL RUN MY OWN TECH COMPANY CALLED JAMES INDUSTRIES AND I WILL BE MARRIED AND HAVE TWO KIDS AND THERE WILL BE NO CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE THEY BROUGHT ALBERT EINSTEIN BACK TO LIFE AND HE FIXED THE CLIMATE CHANGE.

WILSON

I WOULD BE 22. I WOULD BE TRANSPORTED BY ELECTRIC CARS. KIDS WILL BE MICRO-CHIPPED SO THAT THEY DON'T GET TPB.

JAYDEN

THE CITY WILL BE LIGHTED UP WITH TECH EVERYWHERE.

Part 4: the beginning of the change

by Jasmyne Foster with David Rousell

I. NOVEMBER 17TH 2014

NAME: AOI

AGE: 14

GENDER: BOY

HAIR: AN ALMOST NEON BLUE, SHORT MESSY

CLOTHING: CASUAL MOSTLY JEANS BAGGY SHIRTS AND LARGE HOODIE JUMPERS AND
LARGE SNEAKERS

ACCESSORIES: ONE SILVER EARRING AND A GOLD FAMILY RING



A room that looked like a bomb hit it, clothes scattered messily on the floor. A bed that didn't look much like a bed, more like a table with sketchbooks scattered on the end. A bag crumbled in the corner with a clatter of key chains and bulging with the shape of a lunch box. This was Aoi's room. He was messy, though he would claim this as organised chaos and leave it at that. It wasn't that he couldn't clean, no he was perfectly capable of that. It was just that he couldn't be

bothered, or he would claim that he had 'bigger problems to focus on', though that was a lie. Even though Aoi was bright all he ever focused on was drawing in his sketch book. His mother and father worried for him, but what could they do? It was his life and they couldn't force him to do anything. They loved him so much but there was no point to try. He just wouldn't go out of his way to please them if that meant giving up his drawing.

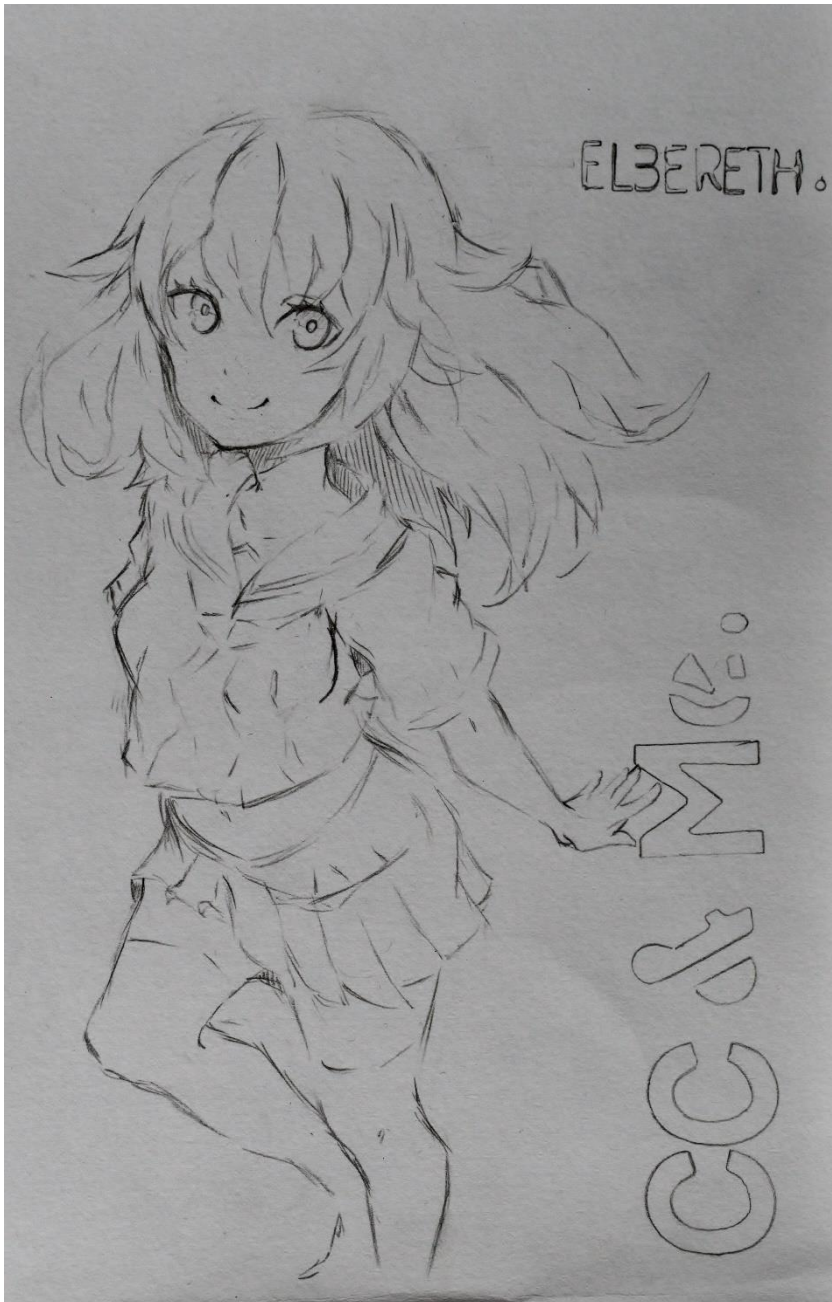
Though Aoi was a loving son and thought the world of his parents he didn't want to worry about getting good grades just to please them alone. Even so, if his grades dropped below average or just on the average line he'd study hardcore to get back his place. Though it seemed as if he didn't care, he actually did. At least enough to work hard to get above average again. It wasn't the fact that Aoi didn't care about school, he just cared about his artwork more. He decided that when it came to university entrance exams he would work harder at school than he had before, but until then the topics discussed at school just weren't engaging for him. The only subjects he actually liked were science and art.

Aoi was interested in the workings of the universe and was a full blown realist. He had always cared about the earth's geological problems and biological workings. He was always interested in that, but there were so many branches of science that he was overwhelmed with choices. But he had always been sure that he wanted to help people. He considered going into environmental science. But when he thought about it, helping scientists in the lab might be difficult for someone who just loved to draw so much.

Then when he thought of giving up on science and becoming some generic worker for a large company he found out about climate change. It was through a university talk that he found out about it in depth. He knew it affected the climate and had something to do with the Ozone layer but he knew nothing else about the topic. But after the talk he decided to search for some information and he took to the topic of climate change like a duck to water. He was so strongly taken by the topic he began to post about it on social media. Aoi was so interested in this topic and he wanted people to become more aware but how could he make a difference? He was only a child in the eyes of the public, not likely to be taken seriously. What could *he* do to help stop climate change?

II. DECEMBER 5TH, 2014

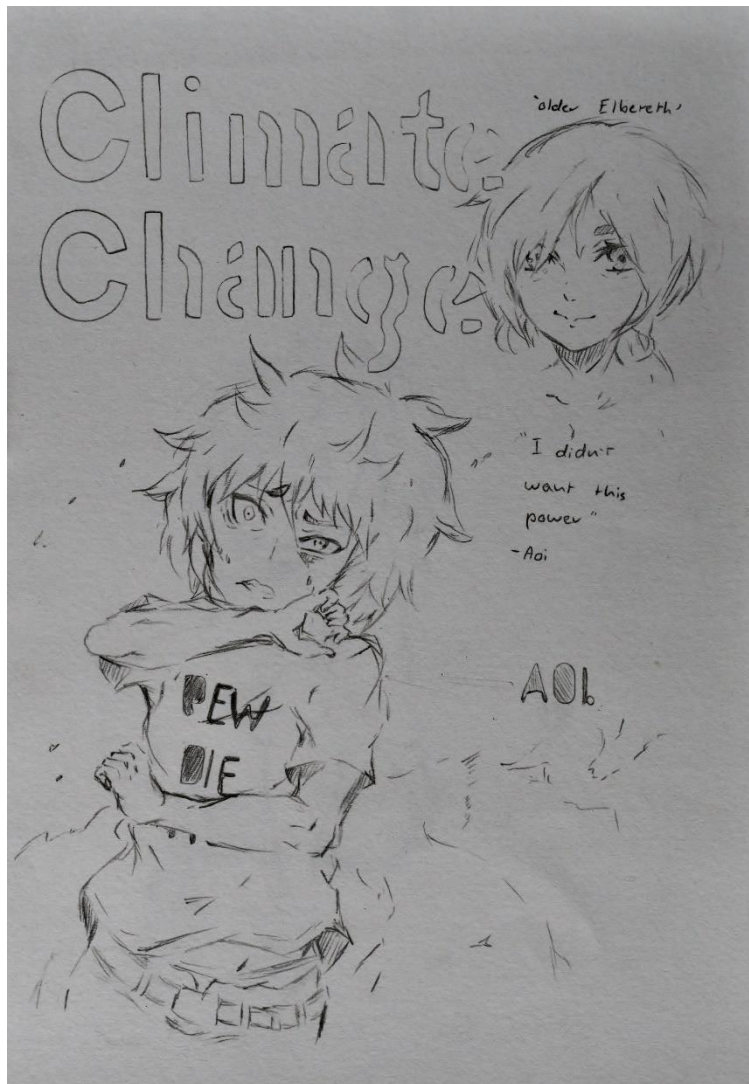
All the kids at high school had been invited to the research workshop about climate change, but only a few turned up. Aoi found himself doing a practice interview with a quiet girl named Elbereth. 'I think the Earth has already transitioned into a new geological era,' she was saying. 'Humans have become like this geophysical force affecting every ecosystem on the planet.'



Aoi looked at her smiling face. 'Yeah, but what can we do about it? You and me are as much to blame as any other human. There's just too many of us for the planet to hold.'

'I don't know. Why don't we just start trying new things? You know, like they're telling us in the workshop.' Elbereth's voice had a lilting quality that was hard to resist.

'We can use art, or stories, or videos. Anything that lets us express our ideas about climate change so that other kids can get involved.'



That afternoon after school they started experimenting with different ways to capture their ideas about the ecological crisis. They went for a walk in the old forest behind the school-Elbereth with her notebook writing stories, and Aoi with his sketchbook drawing the creatures that sprang into his mind. They came to a rushing stream which had swollen with water after the recent flood.

'Do you think we can get across?' Aoi asked, looking doubtfully at a log which had fallen across the creek.

'C'mon, just do it!' Elbereth said. Then she scampered across and waved at him from the other side.

Aoi started to make his way across the stream on the wet log. Suddenly, he slipped on a patch of moss and fell into the rushing water. His head hit a rock and his body was swept downstream. Elbereth ran along the bank as fast as she could, but when she finally caught up to him his body was cold and lifeless.

'It's all my fault. Please, this can't be happening,' she whispered to herself on the verge of tears. Desperate, she placed her hands on his heart and summoned all the power in her body to put warmth into him. She felt a vital energy enter her body from the forest floor, pulsing through her arteries like blood. The energy flowed into her hands, producing heat that made her skin burn as if touching flames. Suddenly Aoi sputtered and sat up, looking at her with wild eyes.

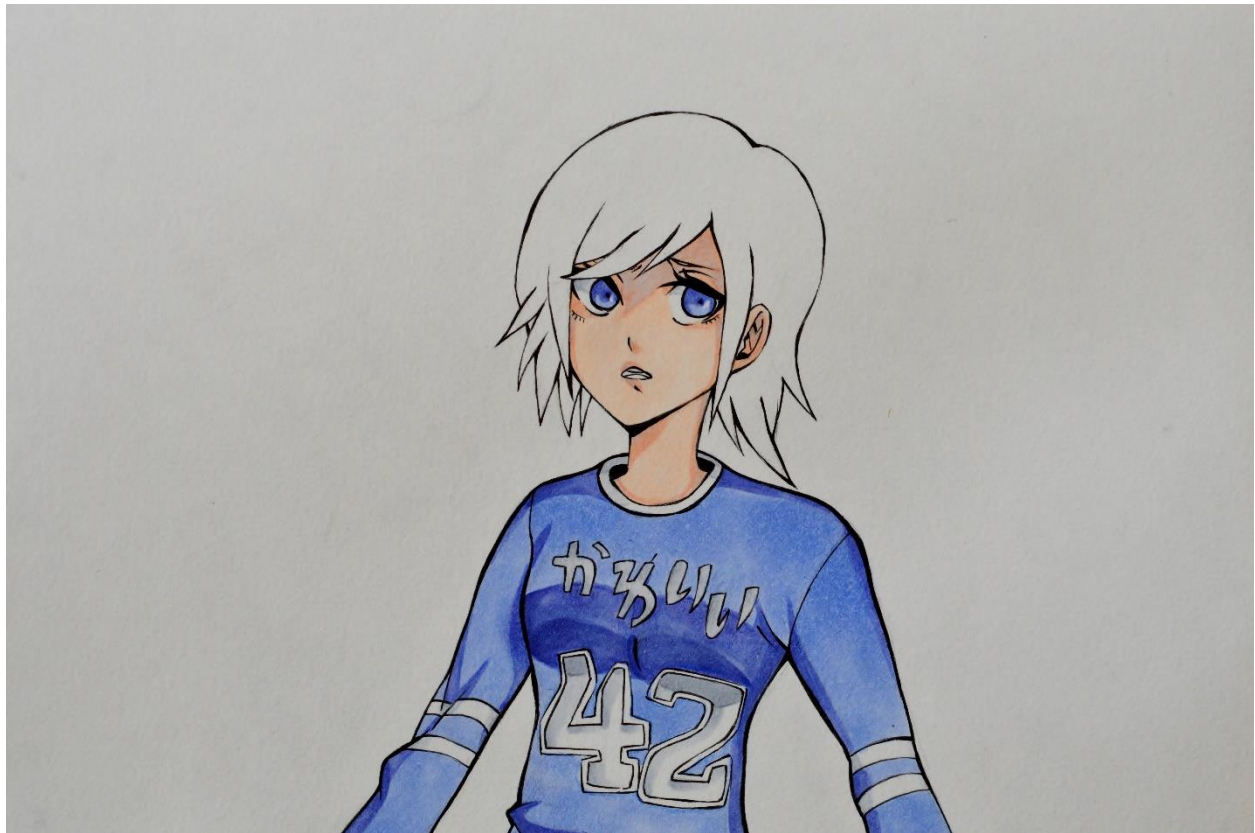
Her hands fell to the ground. The sticks and leaves they brushed against started smoldering and smoking. She looked at her hands with alarm, but miraculously they were unharmed. Aoi

staggered to his feet. They agreed not to tell anyone what happened. If people found out Elbereth's powers, they would lock her up and study her like a specimen.

They searched for hours for Aoi's sketchbook until it started to get dark. Finally, they found it soaked and lying upside down alongside the rushing stream. It was moving slightly. Aoi picked up the sketchbook, and jumped back in surprise- underneath it was a frog-like creature with pale translucent wings. It jumped onto the nearest rock, then flapped its wings and flew away. With trembling hands, Aoi turned over his notebook to the page he had been working on before he fell into the stream. There on the page was the very creature they had just seen fly away- an amphibian with the wings of a dragonfly. Aoi looked at his drawing hand in amazement. The flesh had changed to a strange blue colour, and the nails had become like black claws. Aoi and Elbereth looked each other in the eyes and swore that they would only ever use their powers to help stop the ecological crisis that was sweeping over the planet.



III. MARCH 23 2021



Aoi did not want to go to the lecture.

“Come on Aoi,” Elbereth moaned as she retrieved her jacket from its lowly hook. Aoi sat stubbornly on the couch pretending he couldn’t hear her groaning. Elbereth was now becoming impatient. “Aoi it’s just one lecture, would it kill you to come along?”

“Yes, if I have to sit there listening to another pseudo-scientist babble on about a non-existent creator then yes, it will mentally kill me.”

Elbereth threw her coat over Aoi who was still firmly seated on the couch. “Come on, I listen to all of your scientific lectures.”

“That’s different and you know it,” Aoi mumbled underneath the coat. Elbereth walked over and removed her coat from Aoi’s head. She sat next to Aoi and sighed heavily.

“Just do it Aoi. For me,” she said clasping her small hand over his larger one.

“No,” he shortly replied removing her hand from his. “It’s too dangerous for us to go out. We need to stay home where we’re safe.”

“No Aoi, we can’t lock ourselves away in this apartment forever.” Elbereth lifted herself from the couch and retrieved her purse from the hook next to where the coat hung. Aoi hoisted himself from the couch and confronted her before she could leave.

"You're mad at me," he said sadly. He wrapped his arms around her and lightly hugged her protectively.

"Aoi." She attempting to push him away. "I don't want to be caged like an animal, I know we are different but is it really that bad?" Aoi stood silently.

"I guess it isn't that bad," he replied. He lightly rubbed the back of his head. Elbereth saw his slight rub and knew immediately that he was hiding something.

"Are you lying Aoi?"

"No, I'm not" He rubbed the back of his head again.

"You are, you were rubbing the back of your head!" Elbereth said angrily.

"No, I wasn't," he replied while rubbing his head again.

"Aoi you are a terrible liar, you rub the back of your head whenever you're hiding something."

"Yeah, I do," Aoi said smiling weakly.

"What happened?" Elbereth asked concerned.

"They almost caught me" He replied.

"Who?"

"The task force. They caught me off guard with their psycho-passers. They must have just recently upgraded them," he explained.



"Aoi tell me exactly what happened," she said, taking off her coat and placing down her hand bag to sit down on the couch. Aoi walked over and sat gently next to her.

"I had just come from the shops with our groceries," Aoi began. "Across the street I saw them using the psycho-passes. I thought nothing of it." He paused because he could see Elbereth's dread.

"All I did for a safety precaution was put up my hoodie. Thank God I did," he laughed. "The psycho-pass beeped as soon as I walked by. I saw the officers coming for me so I panicked and ran. Then everyone knew that I was an aberrant. The innocent don't run, so they chased me. I had my note book on me though so I quickly took out the mask . . ."

"Oh god Aoi. Why would you do that?" Elbereth interrupted. "You know what they associate that mask with. Now they know we're here, we're going to get caught again and questioned." Elbereth shuddered. She brought her hands to her shoulders. They began to heat up. Her skin was burning. Aoi brought his hand up to hers and unclasped them from her shoulders. They began to cool down as soon as he touched them.

"Don't be scared. It's alright, I can protect us," Aoi said reassuringly. But Elbereth had a hard time believing him. "Trust me," he begged.

Elbereth looked at her hands. "I do trust you Aoi, it's just . . ." her voice trailed off.

"Just what?"

"If you're protecting us who will protect you?" She looked scared. She pulled herself away from Aoi, picking up her coat and placing it over her shoulders. Then she retrieved her handbag and left, slamming the door behind her and leaving Aoi alone in silence.

Aoi sat there for a moment contemplating the recent string of events. He looked to the floor where he saw his notebook face down. He gently lifted it off the ground looking sadly at the page it was open on. The drawing of his mask. He tugged lightly at first, then ripped it out completely, angrily scrunching it up, throwing it to the floor. He threw aside the note book and went to the coat rack retrieving his coat. He turned off the apartments light then began chasing after Elbereth.

As the door closed submerging the room in darkness, the paper began to slowly unfold revealing a scrunched up drawing of a yellow smiley face.



Elbereth buried herself into her coat.

It had been a long time since she had actually left the apartment without Aoi's company. He was overly protective and always insisted on accompanying her for her so-called protection. In the end she knew that it wasn't the only reason he accompanied her, the real reason was that he was afraid of being alone. So she put up with it. No real harm could come of him following her to the grocery store.

She walked steadily looking at the graffiti scribbled across the side of the buildings. Many were rude words or artworks so she paid no attention to the messages. She soon came across the task force headquarters where wanted posters of criminals were pasted along the side of the discoloured brick walls. But criminals weren't the only ones with wanted posters.

The wall had a section for aberrants. This was the dim name that the humans had classified those with powers under. She walked over to the wall and looked for her wanted poster. It didn't take long to find a poster of her with her mask on. It was labelled 'Firefox'.

WANTED: FIREFOX

**DANGEROUS. ALL CIVILIANS SHOULD REPORT NOT INTERACT AS
SHE IS HIGHLY VOLATILE AND EASILY PROVOKED. WILL KILL
WITHOUT REMORSE.**



Elbereth could feel heat emanating from her hands. Dangerous, volatile and will kill without remorse? They were all lies! She grasped a corner of the poster and tore it down from the wall, using the heat emanating from her palm to set the poster ablaze with fire.

“Elbereth!” Aoi was shocked as he came from around the corner of a building. He watched the poster burn in her palm, slightly scared.

“Aoi, they wrote lies!” She claimed in defense. “They made me into some kind of monster!”

“It’s fine,” he said coming closer to her. He walked over and placed his hand firmly on her shoulder. “As long as *you* know you’re not a monster.” Her palm began to cool.

“Any way, if you think that’s bad you should see what they wrote on mine.” He chuckled.

He looked at the wall. His poster was the easiest to find since it was the largest. So he began to read his out loud. “Mr. Blue, most wanted aberrant, avoid at all costs report at a safe distance. Wanted murderer and psychotic. Well isn’t that nice.”

“Aoi, stop please.” She looked at her burnt poster in the palm of her hand. It was almost completely gone.

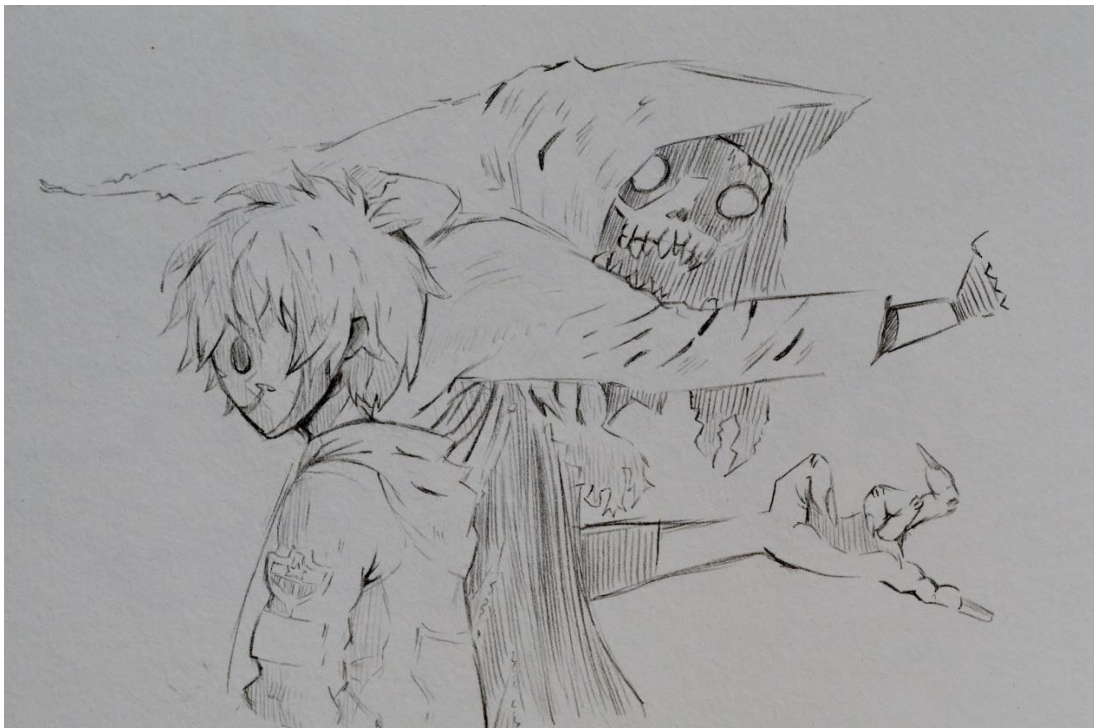
“Why do they lie about us? Are we really that scary?” Elbereth asked.

“I guess the humans are afraid because we hide,” Aoi answered. He looked at Elbereth she seemed so distant.

“Come on lets go to the lecture,” said Aoi leading her away from the posters.

“Wait. Aoi are you actually coming?”

“Yeah, I owe you for keeping my little run in with the task force a secret”.



* * *

Senior detective Shinohara called a meeting of the task force.

Everyone stood silently in the centre of the task force building. Nerves were high. It was rare that the entire task force would be asked to meet unscheduled. Everyone was tense, even senior detective Shinohara looked tense. The eerie silence continued for another few seconds until Shinohara broke it.

“Task force, we are gathered here today to see the latest technology from Astral Labs to combat the ever-growing aberrant infestation. I will now hand the floor over to Professor Arima”

A man emerged from the other side of the room. He wore a white coat and carried with him a brief case. He stood next to Shinohara in the centre.

“I am professor Arima head scientist at Astral Labs, I will attempt to keep this explanation brief.” He placed down the brief case.

“This,” he said pointing to the brief case, “is the future of aberrant hunting. It will allow you to find them and neutralise them faster than ever before.”

“Is this some kind of sick joke?” junior detective Yakamo interrupted. “How on earth is a brief case going to help exterminate aberrants”

“Yakamo, keep quiet,” Shinohara ordered.

“Don’t worry detective, questions were bound to be asked,” Arima said kindly.

“Here, allow me to demonstrate.” He pushed down on the handle of the brief case. The case split in two revealing a block of metal. The block then started to transform, slowly taking humanoid form. The task force was amazed. Once it had completed its transformation Professor Arima continued with his explanation.

“This is Amadron, the latest in aberrant hunting technology. This is military funded weaponry with a built in psycho-pass able to scan to a fifty meter radius. It is fully equipped with stun guns but for your purpose, of hunting criminal aberrants, we also equipped him with a kill mode that can be activated with the removal of a chip in the chest cavity. Made of carbon steel it is a light but hard metal that can easily be transported in a brief case such as this. It also has a specific targeting system which allows you to hunt a certain aberrant; all that is required is a sample of blood. With on-board facial recognition system and a fully equipped medical kit it is by far the most powerful weapon for aberrant extermination ever invented.”

IV. NOVEMBER 18TH 2047

NAME: ELBERETH

AGE: 47

GENDER: WOMAN

HAIR: WHITE WITH SLIGHT STREAKS OF BLUE

CLOTHING: OLD CLOTHES WITH HOLES THAT HAVE BEEN EATEN BY MOTHS

ACCESSORIES: TWO PEARL EARRINGS AND A FOX MASK THAT SHE KEEPS IN A BOX UNDER HER BED

COMPANIONS: A WISE AND TIRED OLD DOG NAMED TURIN

LOCATION: MANZANITA, THE OREGON COAST



The wind blows in the door again and I can hear the rush of the water breaking on the cliffs below. Turin barely moves at all, he just opens one eye and looks at me as if I've created the disturbance. The air is full of frozen salt crystals, they bite my cheek as I brace the door closed with the last of my heavy books. Soon I'll have used up all my esoteric books for fire-starters and everything in them will probably be forgotten. Maybe when I burn them then the magic will come back to me the way it used to when I was a child, like when Aoi used to show me the energy grids running through the forest. It's been too long since I've felt the power of the earth in my fingertips, the electric current that turns the tides away from the valley below. Now I lack the strength, and the memories flow back like the tides that nobody can stop from washing in.

But what's that? Turin is up, stretching and starting to growl at the same time. I hope it's not those raiders again, last time they cleared me out of rice and oats faster than I could get out of my rocking chair. Something is scratching at the wooden door. I grab the knife from next to the

cutting board where I'd been chopping kale from the garden. It's only a bread knife, but it's better than nothing.

Who's there! I say in my deepest, scariest voice. Over the wind all I can hear is a high pitched screech, it sounds like an owl in the night. I open the door just a crack, and Turin sticks his nose through. His tail starts wagging so hard it looks like it's going to fall off. I can just make out the shadow of a person against the pelting wind and rain. It's a child, no a man, with a face that looks so familiar and yet I've never seen it before. I open the door all the way and he falls into my cabin, drenched and exhausted on the floor.



'Who are you?' I said sternly with the kale knife gripped steadily in my hand awaiting a reply.

'Aoi', the voice faintly replied. But it wasn't a statement, more like a question directed at me. I lit the oil lamp so I could see him better. His once neon blue hair now a beautiful silver. His deep grey eyes too bright and vibrant to be real. His strange blue hand sticking out from under the

sleeve of his cloak. I recognised him instantly, even at the age of forty-seven I could never forget a face like his. Fine with chiseled features, long eyelashes and pale skin so white it resembled snow. Though now he had some stubble on his chin that was light brown, his natural hair colour. Even at forty-seven he hadn't changed much. Physically he was still thin and frail, and just the same height as me. His once silver earring was now dull and rusted, and his golden family ring that he once wore so proudly was like a scar on his finger making his hand look hurt. His baggy grey cloak covered his body as if it were hugging him, and hideous brown boots covered his feet and ankles to hide them. But his face still looked no older than twenty.

'Aoi you scared me', I finally said after staring in awe for a few seconds. Aoi looked confused when he glanced over to see me.

'Who are you?' he asked, his voice trailing off.

His weakness made my illusion of relief to see him disappear. How could he not know who I am, even after twenty years? The inability to remember who he was wasn't a new thing, though, that had been going on for years. I guess his amnesia had worsened over the time we were apart. The first time it happened was the worst. As far as I know, it was his first loss of memory and self-recognition. It was his twenty-ninth birthday. That day he ran crazy through Stonehenge screaming that he could save us from the Changes. He was then arrested and taken into police custody. After they arrested him they sent him to get some brain scans and they found the rapid onset of a disease that caused memory loss. The scientific community ridiculed him for years about the Stonehenge incident. They never took his claim seriously again. His plan for energy grids running through the forest disappeared that day along with the chance to save millions. When I saw it on the news I assumed he would be imprisoned for life, or even killed. Not long after, I saw aberrants being taken away by the Amadrons one after another. I went into hiding in this remote corner of the world to protect myself, and over time all my powers have left me.

Only two years after Aoi's capture the Changes began to worsen. Seasons were randomising and switching in an instant. Natural disasters began to occur more frequently around the world. A new geological era began and brought with it destruction and devastation even worse than we could have imagined. Aoi's predictions about climate change were right, even though in the scientific community's eyes he was just a rambling aberrant who couldn't remember his own name. Even though no one else believed him, I always did along with the other aberrants who survived. And because of that our families and friends survived the devastation brought by climate change.

In 2040 the polar ice caps melted, flooding nearly half the world and killing three quarters of the population. Rumours spread that evil aberrants had been responsible, that they had somehow melted the ice with their powers. Some people said the government had them do it to bring the population down. If only people had listened to me and Aoi before that event we could have saved more people. I wish we could change the past but we cannot erase what has happened now. If only we had known better maybe we could have saved more people. But as William Shakespeare said in King Henry VIII: *'we are men frail and capable of our flesh; few are angels'*.

Aoi woke from the feverish dream that had overtaken him on the wooden floor of Elbereth's cabin. It felt like he'd been dreaming for years, decades even. The fire was roaring, the last of Elbereth's esoteric books going up in smoke and flames. Turin nuzzled him with his soft nose, a deep knowledge radiating from his sleepy eyes. Elbereth was asleep in her rocking chair, exhausted from the effort of reviving Aoi from near-death when he collapsed onto the floor. How long had he been in a trance-like state? Was this place even real? He could barely remember a fierce encounter with a dark figure in the forest. It felt like a lifetime ago. He'd tried to fight the darkness seeping out of the man's hands, but it was too powerful. The dark had enshrouded him, and he'd lost his mind to the despair of the planet as it lurched into chaos and destruction. For many years he'd been in and out of prisons, mental hospitals, and then had wandered alone, imagining only death. Somehow he'd followed a glowing map in his mind to these cliffs overlooking the turbulent seas, to this wooden door, to the house of Elbereth, his greatest friend and ally from so many years ago. But was it all true? Had so many actually died? Was he sitting now in the last homely outpost against the darkness? The exhaustion overtook him again and everything went black...

I wake in my rocking chair to the smell of oatmeal cooking over the fire. No, it wasn't all a dream. My friend Aoi is crouching over the flames, stirring the pot with a long wooden spoon. He turns and looks at me, the piercing clarity returning to his eyes by the second.

'Aoi... I can't believe you're here. How did you find me after all those years?'

'There was just this map, Elbereth, a map in my mind. And I followed it to your door. But tell me, please. I think I've been cursed for thirty years. Are we the only ones left in the world? Did my predictions actually come true?'

'Many came true, and we are deep in the Changes as they have spread across the Earth. I don't know for certain, but I sense that we are surviving somehow, Aoi. I can feel it. The power grid shut down five years ago, and the Netscape was destroyed not long after. Wireless mesh networks still communicated for a while- I have a node here that kept me updated with the latest information until it rusted out from the saltspray last year. Transmissions were coming through from communities up and down the coast that had formed their own collectives, rebuilding their towns and villages to adapt to the Changes. The cities are apparently lawless and mostly deserted. People like us have been helping- using their earth powers to protect and heal the communities- and fight off the darkness if they needed to. Do you still have the power that you did when we were young?'

'It was like I'd forgotten it all when the shadow overtook me in the forest. I forgot how to draw, and couldn't summon the focus to learn again.'

'Here, Aoi. Take this charcoal from the fire. See if it can work again.'

Aoi takes the charcoal in his trembling hand. I can't believe he could have been cursed and lost his powers for so long. He begins to scratch out forms on the floor of the cabin. The black outline of a bird takes shape, Aoi is working more quickly, gaining confidence. The bird starts to move, just slightly at first... and then it lurches off the floor, it's like a baby just learning to fly, dipping up and down, crashing into the wall, picking itself back up. And then it's flying smoothly around the cabin, a black bird made of a smoky charcoal substance, and it comes to land on Aoi's hand. The bird turns from charcoal to a gleaming gold. Suddenly Aoi looks just like his old self.



'It's back, I can't believe it, it's back!' he says with gleaming eyes. 'Elbereth, I don't know how but somehow you've healed me from the curse. We have to get out there and help. '

'But my powers have dwindled too, Aoi,' I say. 'I don't know what happened, but they just faded over time.'

Aoi's bird flies over and lands on my outstretched hand. It starts pecking at the lines and creases in my palms. Suddenly I can feel the power flowing back in, from my heart all the way into my hands. Tentatively, I point my palms at the fire and concentrate with all my might. Fssssss.... the fire goes out with a sizzle. I squeeze my eyes shut, putting everything into my hands. Crackkkkk..... The smoldering wood of the fire is crystalising into ice. It's working again, my powers are coming back to me. 'Aio', I say softly, 'we're ourselves again.'

VI. DECEMBER 1ST 2047

It's been ten days since my memories returned, since my power returned. I can feel my memories rushing back like the last twenty or so years are happening again. It's been so long but now I feel like my old self again.

'Aoi?' I turn my head back to respond to the voice, careful not to wake Turin who is laying sleepily across my lap. Elbereth's kind eyes wash over me. She stares directly at my sketch book that I'm clutching in my left hand. She begins to look sad. I can see the tears welling up in her eyes but she won't cry in front of me, she never does. 'The food's ready,' she says, attempting to stop herself from lecturing me about the significance of my sketch book.

'I'll be out as soon I can. Just have to finish this,' I say softly, plastering a fake smile on my face, trying not to show her how desperate I am to finish the drawing. Drawing is the cure to my illness. When I have a sketch book near me I feel my power and memories rushing back. Drawing makes me feel invincible. It's like I draw power from the picture and the better the picture the better I feel.

Then we hear a ghostly rapping on the door. I freeze, while Turin barks furiously at the door. 'Who's there?' Elbereth calls from the kitchen. I could hear her kale knife coming down with force onto her chopping board. She must be cutting the extra vegetables up for Turin.

'Come out meat,' a voice tonelessly calls. I feel my heart skip a beat. I've heard that phrase before. I have heard this voice but it can't be, he was deactivated years ago. Then the wooden boards near the door break and an arm with steel wrapping around the sides claws the wood. The hand draws back and a robotic eye peers through. 'I found you Anthropos!' the toneless, machinic voice calls out.

I bolt up, grabbing Turin on my way. I can feel sweat pouring down my face, but I reach Elbereth. 'We have to leave,' I say nervously, my voice cracking like glass breaking as I speak. Elbereth just stares. 'Who is that Aoi?' The metal hand scrapes furiously at the wood, grabbing hold and breaking it in order to make an entrance. 'It's Shudon,' I briefly reply.

I push her forward towards the back door, casting a quick glance back. Shudon is crawling in and rapidly coming towards us. I know I won't make it, but Elbereth has a chance. So with one great shove I throw her out the back door of the house and scramble for my sketchbook. He's almost here. I begin to flip through the book, desperately searching for the right page.

Then I feel a lack of air and cold metal fingers wrapping tightly around my neck choking me. I drop my sketch book, it hits the floor with a loud thud. The steel fingers tightly curl around my

neck. I can feel the air getting stuck in my lungs, the sharp feeling of suffocation. 'Where is Yui?' the robotic monstrosity hisses in my ear.



I move my mouth but only a faint whine comes out, like the sound of a whale. The metal fingers then loosen their grip and I whisper. Shudon brings me in closer to listen. Then, with all my might, I grab my sketchbook and flip to a page covered in bird drawings. The birds stream off the page, swooping and attacking Shudon from every direction. Shudon flings me towards the kitchen bench where I crash into a pile of pots and pans. Then he's looming over me, the birds swooping at his face from around the kitchen. Bruises cover my face, blood pours from my forehead. Shudon doesn't even give a second glance at the birds. All he cares about is Yui, I realise. His maker. He was programmed specifically to be unable to harm her.

'I should have killed you in the forest decades ago when I had the chance. Now talk meat, or I'll crush your skull,' he says, raising me by my hair.

'She's probably long dead,' I reply spitting blood.

'Liar. She did not die from the Changes, she survived in Astral Labs.' He tugs my hair harder. 'Where is she?' he hisses.

'I can't tell you. You're all tangled up in strings and it's too fun to watch!' I reply, laughing in his face.

'You are wrong,' Shudon says tensely. He coils his steel muscles and cracks his fingers, making a terrible noise of metal clanking into metal. 'There are,' he says with a menacing grin, 'no strings on me.' Then his hands wrap tightly around my ankle. 'Now tell me where she is, or I will have to kill you,' he says with an eerie calmness.

At that moment, a sound unlike any I had ever heard fills my ears. It is so loud that I can feel it in my stomach, a shrieking howl that makes my hands shoot up to cover my ears in shock. I glance to the backdoor to see Turin with his jaws open wide, waves of sound emanating from between his canine teeth. 'That dog is an aberrant!' I think in disbelief. Shudon's steel frame is rattling, and he steps back shaking. Then Elbereth appears behind Turin in the doorway, her hands surrounded in blue energy fading into white. 'Let him GO!' she screams with all her might, and the pale flame streams across the kitchen to enshroud Shudon in blue light. Some of it touches my leg before he drops me, and it burns with cold. Shudon tries to make for the door, but his joints are freezing.

'You'll....ne...ver.....des....troy.....me.....' he says as he grinds to a statue in mid-stride. His entire exo-skeleton is covered in a thin layer of ice, but it's already starting to form a puddle on the kitchen floor.

'That won't last long', Elbereth says. 'We've got to do something quick!'

‘Okay, let’s try something.’ I flip through my notebook to a blank page. ‘Here, put your hand on mine while I draw.’ I start sketching a giant bird of prey with razor-sharp talons and beak. Elbereth’s hand glows red on top of mine, just like it did that day thirty years ago when she saved me from the flood. The drawing pulses on the surface of the page, and when the outline is complete it lifts off with the beating of powerful wings. Instead of the usual black, the bird glows red with Elbereth’s energy. It keeps expanding too as we back out the door, filling the entire cabin with its mighty wings.

‘Run!’ I say, as the giant bird grabs Shudon’s hulk by the shoulders and smashes through the roof of the cabin. We run to the edge of the rainforest surrounding Elbereth’s cabin. We watch with shock as the bird wavers under the strain of the robot’s weight. It falls to the ground, but keeps scrambling towards the edge of the cliff with the steel grasped tightly in its claws. We run over and push against the robot’s body with all our might. Suddenly, the robotic eye opens and flashes red. The jaw begins to move. A screech comes out, but it’s lost as Shudon topples over the edge of the cliff with the bird still gripping its shoulders. We watch as the ocean washes over its broken body, and the bird fades to charcoal and disappears.

‘What will you do now?’ I ask Elbereth as she sits beside her dog looking over the sea.

‘Before the Net cut out I heard there were aberrants rebuilding communities in the inland valleys. Making places that could resist the raider’s attacks, and using their powers to bring life back to the forest. Who knows? Maybe Enigma, Lazuli, Bright and the others are out there somewhere. Maybe they’re even looking for us...’

I put my arm around Elbereth, and Turin snuggles into the crook of my shoulder. ‘Well we can’t stay here. Shudon could re-animate at any time. We need to get to Astral Labs and find Yui. She’s the only one who can stop him for good.’

‘Look, Aoi. Just promise me one thing.’

‘What’s that?’

‘That you’ll forgive me for giving you your power. I know you didn’t ask for it, and it’s only caused you a life of pain and responsibility.’

‘On one condition. That you promise me that you’ll stay by my side no matter what.’

‘It’s a deal’ she says. And we walk together into the forest, with Turin trailing closely behind.

VII. ABERRANT CASE FILES

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

IF SPOTTED, DO NOT ENGAGE

REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO: SENIOR DETECTIVE SHINOHARA, SHIBUYA TASK FORCE, TOKYO

NAME	POWER	COSTUME	ACTION
Aoi aka Mr.Blue	anything he draws in his notebook can come to life for a time	a yellow smiley face mask	uses his drawn creatures to help stop ecological injustice
Elbereth aka FireFox	ice, fire and healing earth powers	a fox mask	using her powers to help environments and communities
Turin	Can emit sound waves from his mouth	Dog	Can stop the task force and robots with sound waves
Enigma	The ability to make people look inside themselves and see their actions from the perspectives of others	A mask moulded out of mirror; cloak that can become invisible. Usually looks like a normal human as a disguise.	To make people meet themselves and truly feel others, the way they act will change.
Lazuli	I can put thoughts into people's heads	A full-face black and white mask; long, scarlet red, hooded cloak; thigh-high red boots.	Helps change people by changing their thoughts, perspectives, ideas and opinions.
Claw	Can shapeshift into any animal	Fur mask	Helps humans and animals
ShadowFire	To control time, fire and matter	black mask	uses time to show what things were like and what things are going to be like.
Bright	The power to change emotions at will and	Bright neon pink dress and bright pink	helps people when they are

	have an emotional aura (infect those around me with my mood)	boots and pink cat mask	out of control or angry or sad
Usa/Little bunny	A beam of light that comes from my fingertips and serves as a blade.	I wear a bunny mask and black dress with a bow at the back and black gloves.	fights those who try to harm other people, animals and environments.
Kyle Crane	The ability to change or redirect matter in the general vicinity, i.e. make a wall or create a singularity	A mask of a blank face that is not mine.	Can manipulate matter around people.
Big Brother	The ability to manipulate and control the media	An anonymous mask with a three piece suit and tie	To manipulate newspaper, posters or broadcasts.
Scarlet	Ice and mind control	A nice dress with swirly, girly blue mask	The earth's getting hotter so she uses ice and mind control to stop the warming.
Azure-Zaire	To hide her emotions- completely emotionless- unable to display happiness whilst surrounded by others- yet she is an emotionally stable being.	A mask to cover her face so that it appears that she has a resting face 24/7. Hides a candle underneath her clothing, behind her.	Takes on tasks which others cannot. Basically she is the person who will change things for the better/worse that people fear or do not want to do.
Pirate Bandit	Sticky pads on hands and feet.	¾ pants (green), stripy orange t-shirt, no shoes or gloves, swimming goggles (blue) and red bandana.	Helping in construction, rescuing cats from trees, making friend with geckoes.

Star Rider	shoots energy beams out of her hands	mask covering eyes	Can give energy to those who need it and drain energy from those who don't.
Zara	Ability to see the future; oracle; precognition; super strength; very misunderstood; dry humour; hot-headed	Mask is black, covering only her eyes. Costume is black leather jacket, zipped up, and ripped jeans. pet tiger-belle	Sees the future and helps change it. On shudon's side first, then realising her mistake joins Elbereth.
Graff	Power over dark matter, time and darkness	Black robes with a metal mask, longish hair, metal hand, dark robotic voice with mask.	Can influence future events.
Autumn	Power over the elements: water, fire, air, earth (and marshmallow!)	A bright red mime mask; a dress and cloak made from red, orange, yellow and brown leaves; a necklace with elemental charms on it.	Can stop people from hurting the earth.
Poison Ivy	Elements	Leaf mask	Cleans things up
Leaf	To turn into any animal in the world and to control nature	Animal fur	Can save animals and save plants from dying and being knocked down.
Blaze	Heat and fire	Yellow, red and orange onesy with armour.	Can stop fires and can stop global warming. Cannot get cold.
Turbo	Very fast.	A shell mask.	Quickly picking up rubbish.
Jr. Kiwi	If I concentrate hard enough I can imagine	A kiwi mask	By bringing joy to kids and fighting crime.

	anything and it'll come to life or happen		
Foxy	Ice, air, snowball and winds and iceblocks.	A long blue dress with snowflakes and a long cape that drags behind me when I walk; I have glass shoes.	Can freeze people.
Backtrack	Time	Brown cardigan, blue jeans, and long white shirt.	Can rewind the terrible moments.
Energiser	Absorbing energy and flight	Small mask and bandana, armoured vest	Flying around and absorbing energy that can cause climate change
The Annihilator	shapeshifting	any form	can turn into a tree to make them think I'm magic and not cut me down or other trees.
Purrsedy	develops the power to scratch and shoot furballs.	A cat mask	can help by putting a stop to the violence.
Cyborg	Laser beams, sword, rockets, force field and stuff like that	Half human half robot.	If an earth quake happens can use a force field to stop it.
JayBoy	Super speed	Lightning bolt costume	Get animals and humans to safety.
Future Fighter	Being able to go into the future and the past	A ghost kind of thing	can go back and forth to see what we need and then do that.
Maximus	Invisibility	Gold armour	Get animals to safety.

the changes: a conclusion

“Being a part of the climate change and me workshop has given me a great sense of purpose. Whilst the whole process was fun and interactive we all felt like we were working towards a greater goal and furthermore- a cause. It was incredibly creative and we got to share a lot of our personal experiences about climate change. This book is a collection of a lot of our research. It is really cool to see a lot of my friends’ work published as well as my own. I hope that it will help all who read it see the world from a totally new perspective. The world is constantly changing around us and many people do not see the effect that we are having on the environment. Overall, I have felt very privileged to be a part of this program. I owe many thanks to the people behind CC+Me and look forward to further collaboration in the future.”

-Finn Ball, Alstonville High School

“Being a student researcher has been really fun I have learnt a lot about climate change and its possible effects. It has made me more aware. My family and I have started walking and riding more instead of using the car, cutting back on waste and we are trying to use less electricity.

The politics of climate change is an ongoing issue. Some members of parliament support renewable energy and others don’t. The Labour party wants to reduce our country’s emissions, which is a very good thing. In my view Julia Gillard was a very good politician who had a good plan for Australia. She was the one who introduced the carbon tax. Some people thought it was good and others didn’t. The liberal government didn’t like this tax so they scrapped it. This wasn’t very wise in my view. I feel like some of the older people of politics and society don’t really care about climate change because they aren’t going to be around to see the full effect. When I am old enough to vote I will be voting for change and so should you.”

-Tom Hanson, Banora Point High School

“It was great, nothing got forced upon you. The options were put there and you got to choose what to do. I only regret I didn’t get to explore every option possible. I do hope there are many more workshops to attend and research to be done, and I’ll do everything I can to help.

I discovered that I can accomplish anything that needs to be done if I just put in the time to do it. Everyone and anyone can be resourceful and helpful, if you just show them the way and then let them. Nothing would make me happier than continuing to work with the people I’m working with now.

Art can really help ease people into the truth about climate change, rather than immediately throw all the information at them. Things like drawing and fiction help to illustrate what’s really happening in a more subtle approach, while photography and videos can show you the reality of things.

For me this book has been about analysing the work and research provided by the student researchers, and trying to understand the importance of climate change and the impact it will have on later generations. For children and such, I would go with introducing it via drawing and fiction, such as a graphic novel implying the importance of climate change without taking away too much of the actual story. While with teenagers and adults I would present the facts and convince them of the importance of the situation.”

- Tyler Murphy, Banora Point High School

“When I was told that they wanted kids to research climate change, I was in disbelief. I never really thought that, as a 12 year-old girl living in a small town in the Northern Rivers, I would have that much effect on the world we live in. So when my classmates and I were told about a workshop that was asking students to research the effects of climate change to our planet, I was quite surprised.

So when my friends and I began to research climate change, interview our relatives and put videos together as a result, it was quite eye-opening to realize what we, or to be more specific, I could do to save our dying world. It didn’t take me long to figure out that anyone could make a contribution, no matter how small, to save the planet, our planet, from turning into a complete wasteland. That’s what the point of Climate Change and Me was. So we have put together the results of our research, the videos, the drawings, the pictures and the essays together to form the book you’re about to read, a book which contains what we have discovered over the past year.

So I thank you, for reading what we have written and looking at the pictures we have taken, and I sincerely hope you find it as interesting and important as I did.”

-Lara Adcock, Alstonville High School