

Going Green

Books with an environmental message have been around for years, but the growing concern about the environment has meant more are available, and for younger readers. The message may be obvious, or subtle – and both work, depending on how they are used within the text.

Some of the books may not currently be in print, but check your local library, National Library or second hand sources.

Contributors to this list are: Kerry Aluf; Carol Ardern; Helen Beckingsale; Crissi Blair; Tina Collins; Annie Coppell; Lorraine Orman; Helen Schwarcz; Angela Soutar; Rosemary Tisdall

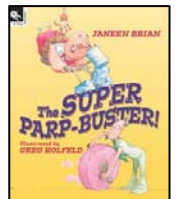
Picture books for 5 and under

The Super Parp-Buster

Janeen Brian, illus Greg Holfield

Working Title Press 2005; Pb ISBN 1876288582

Slim-Pickles and Jolly are inventors upset by the exhaust fumes – parps – from cars coming to visit their workshop, so they decide to build a Super Parp-Buster. They come up with a super giant-sized car so that people can travel together – known to us as a bus. Teachers' resources available at www.adelaidemetro.com.au/promos/super_parp-buster.html. 4+. AC.

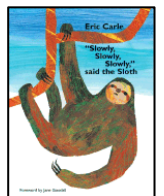


"Slowly, Slowly" Said the Sloth

Eric Carle

Philomel 2002; Hb ISBN 0399239545

This simple story of a sloth, who spends his life hanging upside down and doing everything very slowly, celebrates the beauty of the Amazon rainforest and the creatures who depend its continued existence. A foreword by Jane Goodall gives more detailed information about sloths and the endpaper shows and names a number of birds, insects and animals found in the rainforest. 4+. HB.

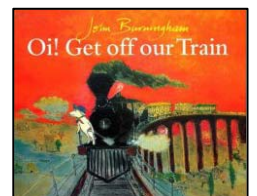


Oi! Get Off Our Train

John Burningham

Red Fox 1989; Pb ISBN 009985340X

A classic John Burningham book. A boy and his dog take a night-time train journey round the world. At every stop they meet an endangered animal seeking protection from man's plundering of the environment. A deceptively simple story to enhance a child's awareness of the world around them. 3+. KA.

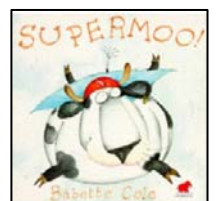


Supermoo!

Babette Cole

Mammoth 1994 (first published 1992); Pb ISBN 0749712457

Supermoo and her super sidekick, Calf Crypton, answer pleas for help from all over the place. The devilish Bots cause two treacle tankers to crash in the channel – and it is Supermoo and Calf Crypton off to the rescue! Just as quirky and engaging as you'd expect a Babette Cole book to be, with her usual appealing cartoon-like illustrations. 3+. AC.

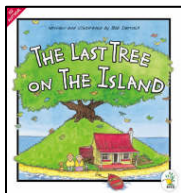


The Last Tree on the Island

Bob Darroch

Reed 2006; Pb ISBN 9781869485931

Mr and Mrs Smitt live on a lovely small island with their cat, dog, some birds and a beautiful tree. One day Mr Smitt cuts the tree down, unaware of the impact the act will have on the island and its inhabitants. 3+. AC.



As Kuku Slept

Erin Devlin

Reed 2006; Pb ISBN 9781869485993

Kingi and Queenie Kereru chase off the possum trying to steal their baby, Kuku. Grandpa Kukupa is left guarding Kuku as the parents investigate further, discovering millions of possums devouring leaves and eggs and babies. Disheartened, they return home, but their hopes are raised when they see humans laying traps for possums and other pests. 3+. AC.

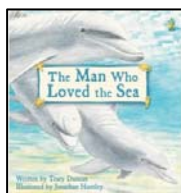


The Man Who Loved the Sea

Tracy Duncan, illus Jonathan Huntley

Reed 2004; Pb ISBN 1869485106

A story about the pollution and over-fishing of the ocean, and an old man who wants to help save the sea for future generations. It also includes factual information on marine reserves. 4+. AS.

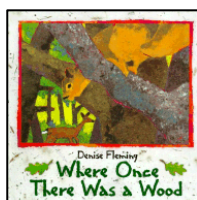


Where Once There was a Wood

Denise Fleming

Henry Holt 1996; Hb ISBN 0805037616

Simple text and textured collage are the perfect accompaniment to this story of habitat loss, as a wood becomes a town. Fleming creates her own paper for her art, by pressing paper pulp through stencils. 3+. AC.



Tahu, Ra and the Taniwha

Peter Gossage

Little Mammoth NZ 1992; Pb ISBN 1869480635

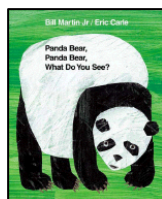
Tahu and Ra live beside a lagoon where legend says taniwha used to live. Also beside the lagoon is a sewage pumphouse, with an old pump that leaks into the lagoon in heavy rain. To make it look better, Tahu and Ra paint the pumphouse with a rainbow of colours, but when it rains the paint streams down the walls and joins the sewage, flowing into the lagoon. Soon the taniwha are affected. Tahu and Ra help Awata, the taniwha, solve the problem. 4+. AC.

Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What do you see?

Bill Martin Jr, illus Eric Carle

Puffin 2003; ISBN 9780141501451

Bill Martin uses his tried and true question and answer formula to list a number of endangered birds and animals which are shown in colourful illustrations by well-known picture-book artist Eric Carle. The book ends with a question to a dreaming child whose dream is to see all these creatures living wild and free. 2+. HB.



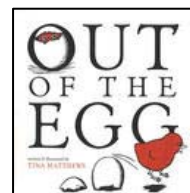
Out of the Egg

Tina Matthews

Walker Books 2007

Hb ISBN 9781921150357

A new take on the tale of 'The Little Red Hen' who is an eco-hen now, planting her little green seed with no help from anyone else – Fat Cat, Dirty Rat and Greedy Pig all have much more important things to do, like watch TV and sleep on the sofa. In due course the seed grows into a tree, and the hen hatches a little chick. But will his friends be able to come and play under the great tree? Red Hen thinks not, but little chick turns it all around for a happier ending. Stunning woodcut illustrations transform this into a thoroughly modern tale, with minimal colour (the hen is indeed red and the tree green) used to great effectiveness. 4+. CB.

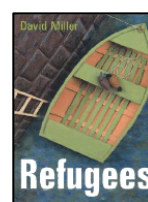


Refugees

David Miller

Thomas Lothian 2003; Hb ISBN 9780734406330

This is a story about ducks, driven from their swampy homeland, so not what you expect by the title. But poignant and thought-provoking about what man does to the precious wildlife. David Miller's collage is to be seen to be believed! Stunning paper cut-outs fill each page, making this a wonderful book to look at. Study the detail of the feathers, and grass blades! And the dog...! Wow. 4+. RT.



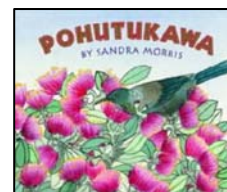
Pohutukawa

Sandra Morris

Reed Children's Books 2000;

Pb ISBN 9781869488628

A beautiful rhyming picture book, looking at the fauna that enjoy the pohutukawa tree, including the pesky possum! The conservation message is strong and gives a rounded view of the cycle of life. Small paragraphs of information at the conclusion of the story round this lovely book out as not only a New Zealand-flavoured picture book, but also as a useful resource. 3+. RT.



Down in the Forest

Yvonne Morrison, illus Jenny Cooper,

Scholastic NZ 2004; Pb ISBN 1869435966

With beautiful illustrations of wildlife and New Zealand forest, this book shows what an unspoilt environment can be like. The text follows the well-known rhyme 'Over in the Meadow'. 3+. AS.

V for Vanishing: An Alphabet of Endangered Animals

Patricia Mullins

Margaret Hamilton Books 1995;

Pb ISBN 0947241825

From the Pink Fairy Armadillo to the Cape Mountain Zebra, each letter represents an endangered animal, apart from X, which lists some eXtinct animals, including the moa.

Paper collage illustrations of exquisite detail accompany the very sparse text – letter, common name, scientific name and geographic location for each animal. 4+. AC.



Wetlands

Tricia Oktober

Hodder Headline 2000; Hb ISBN 0733613543

A beautifully illustrated book about the need for ponds and wetlands to support Australian wildlife. It follows the year and seasons through drought and then rain. Oktober has produced other equally beautiful books on various habitats, climate issues and environments: *Reef*, *Rainforest*, *Drought*. AS.

Home

Narelle Oliver

Omnibus 2006; Pb ISBN 9781862916692

A pair of falcons must find a new home after theirs is destroyed by fire. After a day's flying, they settle in the city, with all its new dangers, but also new opportunities. 4+. AC.

Who is the World For?

Tom Pow, illus Robert Ingpen

Walker 2001; Pb ISBN 0744582458

Just before sleep, various baby animals ask 'who is the world for?' and they are told the world is for them – and every other animal on the planet. A lovely tale of universality. 3+. AC.

One Less Fish

Kim Michelle Toft & Allan Sheather

University of Queensland Press 1997;

Hb ISBN 0702229733

A reverse counting book set in the Great Barrier Reef, as one by one, the fish succumb to the perils of the ocean and vanish. Stunningly illustrated using ink and dye on silk. 3+. AC.

Sophisticated picture books (5 and over)

Hutu and Kawa Find an Island

Avis Acres

Heinemann Reed 2000 [now Raupo] (first published 1957); Pb ISBN 1869480848

Hutu and Kawa are pohutukawa fairies who are friends of the birds. In this story they draw attention to the threat to forest and bird life caused by possums. 5+. HB.

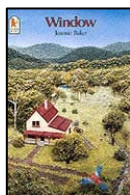
Window

Jeannie Baker

Red Fox 1992 & Walker 2002;

Pb ISBN 009299182114 & 9780744594867

In this picture book the amazing artwork of Jeannie Baker shows the view through a window over time. It focuses on the changes in the local environment. For the baby, the view is decidedly rural, with a wooden outhouse. As time passes a garden is planted, but trees remain in their natural state. By the time the son is six, there is a paved road and another home opposite, but still a rural atmosphere. However, two years later that land has been sold and cleared, with timber for sale and housing developments appearing on clay hillsides on the horizon. A later view is of advertising hoardings, clogged streets, and graffiti. A fabulous way to help children understand the impact community change makes on the natural environment. Most suited for 7+. CA.



Belonging

Jeannie Baker

Walker 2004; Hb ISBN 0744592275

A follow on from *Window*, this is another wordless picture book illustrated with beautifully constructed and detailed assemblage. It is the story of Tracy and the inner-city environment where she grows up. Each page shows a gradually changing view from an upstairs window showing the things people can do to make a difference to the place where they live. 5+ HS.



Where the Forest Meets the Sea

Jeannie Baker

Walker 1989; Pb ISBN 0744513057

This picture book, with outstanding collage illustrations, highlights the rainforest area of northern Australia in the past, the present, and the future. It has been made into an animated film. 8+. CA.

Other books by Jeannie Baker with environmental themes are: *The Hidden Forest* and *The Story of Rosy Dock*.

The Sign of the Seahorse

Graeme Base

Viking 1992; Pb ISBN 0670840009

The magnificent portrayal of the undersea world is startling. The storyline is in rhyme, with rich expressive language. The use of colloquial language in the Seahorse Café will appeal to 10-14 year olds who will gain much from the environmental message of the loss of healthy marine habitat. A very clever storyline, with detailed illustrations, as well as fascinating endpapers. A large-format book that will be revisited time and time again. CA.



Uno's Garden

Graeme Base

Viking/Penguin Aus 2006; Hb ISBN 9780670041916

A fantastic book with the message of keeping a balance between nature and habitation by people. It covers industrialisation, extinction and conservation using imaginary creatures and cutesy almost-humans and is thoroughly delightful. It also includes maths practice and numbers games which are explained at the end of the book. 9+. AS.

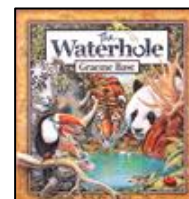


The Waterhole

Graeme Base

Viking 2001; Hb ISBN 0670889288

An exquisite picture book for 5-10 year olds, which has much important detail in the intricate illustrations, with striking sunset silhouette borders. The countdown format is very effective. The diminishing size of the waterhole as the story progresses raises awareness of the effect of drought on the natural environment. Drought conditions are very tropical, and its impact is wonderfully portrayed in this book of very few, but impassioned, words. Look very carefully at the double-page puddle. A book to treasure and learn from. CA.



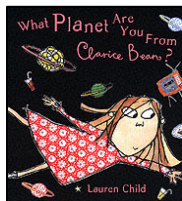
One Child

Christopher Cheng, illus Steven Woolman
Era Publications 1997; Hb ISBN 1863743219
Children see the destruction of the planet, the smog blocking the sun and the trees cut down. Each child does something, showing the reader that individuals do matter and can achieve great things, as long as everyone does something. The illustrative style is based upon stained-glass windows – a window onto the world. 5+. AC.



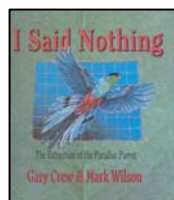
What Planet Are You From Clarice Bean?

Lauren Child
Orchard Books 2001; Pb ISBN 1841211044
Mrs Wilberton wants Clarice to 'do' a project on the environment. As Clarice struggles to find a topic, her older brother Kurt is taking direct action to protect a tree in their street from destruction. The whole family join the 'sit in' including Robert Granger, who defends Clarice when Mrs Wilberton questions her effort. Fantastic illustrations that use a range of recycled materials – scraps of fabric, buttons, shoelaces etc. 5+. HS.



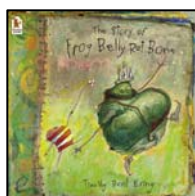
I Said Nothing: The Extinction of the Paradise Parrot

Gary Crew, illus Mark Wilson
Lothian Books 2003; Hb ISBN 0734405596
The Paradise Parrot was last seen in the 1920s. Here Gary Crew tells of naturalist Alec Chisolm's visit to view nesting parrots on Cyril Jerrard's farm. Cyril realises that it is not just the trappers who smuggle the birds overseas, it is also the change in land use that threatens the habitat of the bird. 8+. KA.



The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone

Timothy Basil Ering
Walker Books 2003; Pb ISBN 1844281760
If you are tired of cute picture books, this book is for you. Dark and scrawly, it is a refreshing antidote to everything fluffy. Quirky illustrations belie a conventional plot about a boy living in a dull grey endless place called Cementland. He finds some seeds in a rubbish dump, plants them, and creates a weird creature called Frog Belly Rat Bone out of junk in order to protect the seedlings against robbers. Eventually the grey land is full of vegetables and flowers. This is a modern fable with a unique illustrative style. Best for older children who are already familiar with traditional picture books. TC & LO.



The Three Fishing Brothers Gruff

Ben Galbraith
Hodder Children's Books 2006
Hb ISBN 9780340893418
Pb ISBN 9780340893425
A superbly illustrated story with an environmental message that is a clever spin on the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' tale. The three mean and greedy brothers Gruff have fished out and polluted Poverty Bay and now they dream of fishing in the abundant waters of the Bay of Plenty which is protected by the guardian of the sea, Minke Whale. KA.

Peter's Place

Sally Grindley, illus Michael Foreman
Andersen Press 1995; Hb ISBN 0862645832
Peter loves living near the sea cliffs, spending time with the bird life. But one night a passing oil tanker gets too close to the cliffs and crashes. Peter is part of the rescue mission to save the seals and birds, knowing that the area will never completely recover. 6+. AC.

Kiwi of the Great Forest

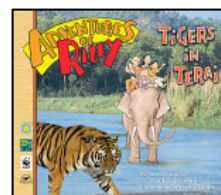
Dave Gunson
Reed 2003; Hb ISBN 186948648X
A story about yellow bulldozers/earthmovers causing the dislocation of wildlife – here, a group of kiwi from a patch of bush on the North Shore. They journey through many dangers and Auckland/New Zealand landmarks until they reach the great forest which some of them had thought was mythical. Produced in comic format with some sly humour and colloquial language. 8+. AS.

Two Summers

John Heffernan, illus Freya Blackwood
Scholastic Aus 2003; Hb ISBN 9781865045979
The landscape of a farm is shown during a drought and a good year with rainfall. The story is simply told and the artist has produced stunning gentle illustrations to complement it. AS.

The Adventures of Riley: Tigers in Terai

Amanda Lumry & Laura Hurwitz, illus Sarah McIntyre
Eaglemont Press 2007;
Hb ISBN 9781600400032
Riley travels around the world learning about endangered animals and their habitat. In this adventure, he joins his uncle, aunt, and cousin in Bengal, to study tigers and figure out ways to help them survive. Illustrated in a mixture of photographs, overlaid with illustrations, and with fact boxes spread throughout. Activities and more information available at www.adventuresofriley.com. 6+. AC.



Cry Me a River

Rodney McRae
Angus and Robertson/HarperCollins 1991; ISBN 0207171971
In beautiful language, the story follows the course of a river and its uses and the catastrophic pollution from fertilisers, weed growth, and industrial discharges. It ends with the hopeful message that it is up to the readers, no matter what age, to do something about it. 5+. AS.

The Rabbits

John Marsden, illus Shaun Tan
Lothian 1998; Hb ISBN 0850918782
A hard-hitting look at the effects of colonisation on a community, a people, and an environment. The native inhabitants look on as the rabbits arrive, spread out, build, steal the native children, and more. Tan's detailed illustrations perfectly match the starkness of the text and the message. 10+. AC.



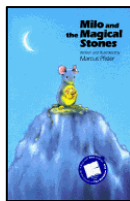
Milo and the Magical Stones

Marcus Pfister, trans Marianne Martens

North-South Books 1997;

Hb ISBN 1558586822

During a winter storm Milo, a cliff mouse, finds a magical glowing stone which provides light and warmth in the caves. Wise old Balthazar warns the mice not to take too many stones, and to give something back to the island for each one they take. From there, the story splits into two – with the top half of the book telling the happy ending, and the bottom half the sad one. In the happy ending, the mice create works of art to give back to the island and they share their stones. In the sad ending, the other mice become greedy and jealous, causing the mountain to collapse. Thought-provoking for 6+. AC.



The Dream: Find the Secret Message from the Animal Kingdom

Carole Riley, illus Vasja Koman

Macmillan Aus 1991; Hb ISBN 0732913055

This story tells us of a boy who cleans up a gull after oil pollution and then has a dream in which the gull returns and takes the boy on a tour of habitats on the brink of devastation and the endangered animals of the world. In each picture the reader is invited to find rubbish and other objects which shouldn't be there. This will lead them to find a secret message in the book. The artwork is a little dated now but colourful and detailed giving the book an 'I Spy' character. 8+. AS.

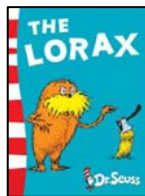
The Lorax

Dr Seuss

Collins 2004; Pb ISBN 9780007173112

(first published 1971)

The Once-ler describes the results of the local pollution problem, caused by his greed, as he and his family chop down all the Truffula trees in order to make Thneeds. Dr Seuss gives readers a warning and a hope for the future of their environment. AS.



Tyger! Tyger!

Elizabeth Stanley

Cygnets Books 2007; Hb ISBN 9781920694845

Set in Thailand this fable is about Buddhist monks turning their monastery into a sanctuary to protect tigers from poachers. Lavish illustrations add to the appeal of this story. 7+. KA.

Old Blue: The Rarest Bird in the World

Mary Taylor

Scholastic 1993; Pb ISBN 1869431081

This beautifully illustrated account of how one bird saved the Chatham Islands Black Robin from extinction won the 1994 AIM Children's Non-fiction Book of the Year Award. This is a conservation success story as Old Blue laid enough eggs to ensure the survival of the species which was down to five birds. There are now several hundred birds on several islands. 9+. HB.

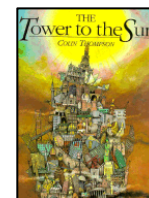
The Tower to the Sun

Colin Thompson

Alfred A Knopf 1996 & Red Fox 1999

Pb ISBN 0679886647 & 0099609118

The richest man in the world decides to build a tower so that his grandson can see the sun as the earth is now so polluted that the sun's rays cannot penetrate the clouds. The detailed illustrations and the description of all the people in the word lining up for their only chance to see the sun, provide an eloquent plea to stop air pollution before it is too late. 6+. HB.



The Tin Forest

Helen Ward, illus Wayne Anderson

Koala, 2003; Pb ISBN 0864615493

'There was once a wide, windswept place, near nowhere and close to forgotten, that was filled with all the things that no one wanted. Right in the middle was a small house, with small windows, that looked out on other people's rubbish and bad weather.' Inside an old man dreams of a better place to live until he has an idea to transform all the junk into sculptures of trees, birds and wildlife. Real birds come and drop seeds, and plants and trees gradually grow. The environment is transformed to be welcoming for wildlife and the lonely man has company. The wonderful illustrations change from mainly grey to colour. 5+. AS.

Prayer for the Animals

Mark Wilson

Lothian Books 2005; Hb ISBN 0734407556

Mark Wilson draws attention to endangered creatures from around the world with a simple prayer in this beautifully illustrated picture book. See also *The Last Tree* by the same author. 5+. KA.

For ages 6-12

Green Boy

Susan Cooper

Bodley Head 2002; Hb ISBN 037032675X

This interesting time-slip story transposes a British myth to the Bahamas. Long Pond Cay is an unspoiled island threatened by a tourist development. Two local children are suddenly transported to a future time where urban development has taken over the world. One of the children, Lou, becomes a saviour, summoned by Gaia to save the world. He is magically turned into the mythical Green Man and spreads plants all over the urban sprawl. Back in their own time, the children find that a hurricane ends the plans for development on their precious island. Intermediate ages. LO.



Biddy Alone

Wanda Cowley

Mallinson Rendel 1988; Hb ISBN 0908606516

Biddy's dad has a new job as a ranger on an offshore bird sanctuary island. Biddy can't bear to be separated from her cat, Kit, who has been part of her family forever, so she smuggles him onto the island, against the rules. Because he's old, Biddy is sure he won't be a problem – but he is. Biddy learns some hard lessons about conservation and the dangers cats pose to New Zealand's native wildlife. 8+. AC.

Uncle Don Knows Heaps of Wacky Stuff

Anna Griffiths, illus Ali Teo

Dept of Conservation NZ 2005; Pb ISBN 0478140061

A story of Sylvie's visit to her Uncle Don, a DOC ranger who takes her on long tramps and teaches her about various habitats, animals and conservation issues. This is designed as an activity book and is produced in black and white so that children can colour in some sections. The text is scattered around the pages in chunks, sometimes in circles and round the edges of pages. This makes information gathering somewhat haphazard, but teases children into reading it. There is some humour to lighten the serious messages. Available online at www.doc.govt.nz. 9+. AS.

Frangipani Fairies: The Sunlight Fairy

Titania Hardie

Simon & Schuster 2007; Pb ISBN 9781416910831

The Frangipani Fairies care about the environment and help others who do too. If you can talk to flowers, birds, plants and trees, then chances are you will be able to talk to a fairy. This is exactly what Melissa discovers she can do. Melissa is very cross with her baby brother. In less than two minutes, after spending all day cleaning her bedroom after a sleepover, Angus and his chubby careless fingers reduced her pristine space to a total disaster. Before she could stop him he'd climbed onto the chair with dirty boots and knocked over her wastepaper basket, upending the flower pot she had been growing a pansy in for her school project. Franni loves spreading light and happiness, so when she receives a distress call about a cross little girl, she's determined to get her smiling again. The Frangipani Fairies series are a delightful blend of the whimsical with the thoroughly modern. 6+. TC.



Sil

Jill Harris

Longacre Press 2005; Pb ISBN 1877361143

A fascinating novel about a colony of tui whose patch of bush is threatened by a flock of magpies, who are encroaching on their valley, attacking young chicks and vulnerable birds. The tuis sense of community and clever tactics to keep everyone safe are inspiring. The tui way of life – flying free and singing in the dawn – will continue. A compelling read about the issue of habitat loss. 10+. CA.



Flush

Carl Hiaasen

Knopf 2005; Hb ISBN 0375821821

With their father in jail for sinking a riverboat casino which had been polluting the water, Noah and his sister must gather evidence that the pollution is continuing – the owner is still emptying his bilge tanks into protected water. With the help of a friendly bartender, Noah organises food colouring to be flushed down the riverboat's heads. Best for intermediate ages, this story has a strong environmental theme lurking inside a very funny plot. LO.

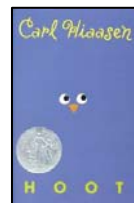


Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

Alfred A. Knopf 2002; Hb ISBN 0375821813

Roy Eberhardt has just moved to Florida but is homesick for the mountains and space of Montana. As a new kid he expects to be bullied but while he is being attacked on the bus he sees a 'strange running' boy. He goes looking and when he finds the boy, he is soon involved in helping save the burrows of tiny owls from the bulldozers that will destroy their habitat. Funny and well written, *Hoot* shows Roy and his friends questioning authority and taking action to protect the environment. 10+. HS.



Where Cuckoos Call

Des Hunt

HarperCollins 2007; ISBN Pb 9781869506070

Ben Mansfield, 12, loves wildlife especially the birds that surround his home on the Coromandel Peninsula. He is passionate about them and very knowledgeable. He has devoted his life to studying them from his Tree Tops hideout and protecting them from predators. *Where Cuckoos Call* is suited to nature lovers, and bird watchers, as there is much description and explanation through the book on how the creatures live, what they eat, where they live, their habits etc. Other titles by Des Hunt with New Zealand nature themes are must reads, including *Frog Whistle Mine*, *Shadows in the Ice*, *The Moa Cave*, *The Tooth*. 10+. RT.



Tree Trouble (Eco-Worriers Book 2)

Kathryn Lamb

Piccadilly 2008; Pb ISBN 9781853409516

Evie and Lola are determined to clean up their school. When they learn about the destruction of the rainforest, they decide to put on a talent show to raise money. But no one seems interested, and the bullies try to ruin their plans. They have to find a way to thwart the bullies AND achieve their aims. 8+. AC.



Judy Moody Saves the World

Megan McDonald, illus Peter Reynolds

Candlewick 2002; Pb ISBN 0763614467

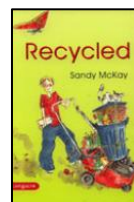
Judy Moody decides to save the world in her usual style – over-enthusiastically. She manages to inspire her whole class to recycle, and raise money to plant trees in the rainforest. But some people are harder to convince, like her parents. 6+. AC.

Recycled

Sandy McKay, illus Jenna Packer

Longacre 2001; Pb ISBN 1877135496

A lively, enjoyable humorous story of Colin who decides to make a protest against the proposed closure of the local recycling centre. (And, hopefully change the behaviour of his friends and family.) Enlightening facts are spread through the story and each chapter is headed with such statements as 'Recycling aluminium cans requires 95% less energy than making new ones.' At the end there is a recipe for making recycled paper and instructions for a worm farm. 9+. AS.



Colin Goes Bush

Sandy McKay

Longacre Press 2003; Pb ISBN 1877135917

Colin, the 'eco-warrior', returns to school in the new year with Miss Dippy as his teacher. She is fanatical about exercise, and he can't help comparing her to his previous teacher, Mr Read, whose major focus was saving the environment. Colin readily joins Mr Read's new group, The Green Group, which although only has two, or sometimes three members, they are committed to saving a stand of ancient native trees, which are about to be logged. The snippets of factual information about trees at the beginning of each chapter add to the impact of the story, helping the reader to appreciate how Colin and his mates feel about the native bush. 10+. RT.

Chelonia Green, Champion of Turtles

Christobel Mattingley

Allen & Unwin 2008; Pb ISBN 9781741751710

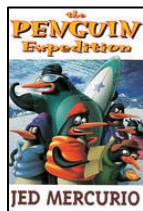
Chellie lives on a small island off the Queensland coast and learns by correspondence school each morning. When one of the green turtles, which come to lay eggs ashore, is found choked by fishing line she begins a daily clearing of the island's beaches of debris, which is mainly rubbish thrown overboard by careless boaties and yachties. Her cause gets national coverage on Australia Day thanks to her teacher's connections with the media. 8+. KA.

The Penguin Expedition

Jed Mercurio, illus Jeffy James

Walker 2003; Pb ISBN 0744590922

A very funny book on a serious subject. The boss of Beak Corporation in Penguinville, Antarctica, sucks all the seafood from the sea to make a product called Fishy Delight which is anything but. He rules the town and, of course, is very rich. A group of young idealistic penguins manage to travel to the Pole despite many dangers and obstacles. They find a pristine environment and plenty of fish, because Shackleton, an earlier explorer, took some live fish on his expedition. Moves along at a great pace and mixes reality with hilarious invention. 10+. AS.



Rescue Mission: Planet Earth

Children of the World & Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Kingfisher Books 1994; Pb ISBN 1856971759

Children from 21 countries contributed to this children's version of Agenda 21, the statement on environment and sustainability agreed in Rio in 1992. The children who contributed to this book have worked together to show their response to the issues through writing, poetry and art. A great resource for the classroom. HS.

Tree Talk

Ana Salote

Speaking Tree 2007; Pb ISBN 9780955376900

Written by an environmental activist, this is the story of a boy suddenly able to hear the thoughts of the 62-year-old ash tree in his garden. Charlie becomes increasingly involved in caring for his garden and the plants and animals that live there. In turn, the tree learns from Charlie about humans, their interests, emotions and the things that motivate them. These understandings are important when the plants and animals all meet to sit in judgement on the human race and Ash has to decide which way to vote. 8+. HS.

Floodland

Marcus Sedgwick

Orion 2000; Pb ISBN 1858817633

A somewhat scary and haunting story of a young girl, Zoë, who gets left behind accidentally by her parents while the world is suffering from immense flooding as the result of global warming. Only the high parts of the landscape in England are accessible and she has to row a long way to find people who can help her. There is much in this book to prompt children to think about how we would cope if there was widespread flooding. AS.

If the World were a Village: A Book about the World's People

David J Smith; illus Shelagh Armstrong

Kids Can Press 2002; Hb ISBN 1550747797

A fascinating look at the world's statistics, brought down to a level more easily grasped. If the world were a village of 100 people, in 2002, then 32 breathe polluted air, only 24 would always have enough to eat, and by 2050 the village would have nearly 200 people. Teachers' resources are available at www.kidscanpress.com. 8+. AC.

One Well: The Story of Water on Earth

Rochelle Strauss, illus Rosemary Woods

Kids Can Press 2007; Hb ISBN 9781553379546

This non-fiction title introduces the planetary water cycle, and the unequal distribution and use of water around the world. A wonderful title that can be used across the curriculum. Teachers' resources are available at www.kidscanpress.com. 8+. AC.

Eco-fun: Great Projects, Experiments and Games for a Greener Earth

David Suzuki & Kathy Vanderlinden

Allen & Unwin 2002; Pb ISBN 1865086355

48 fun experiments aimed at creating knowledge and appreciation of the ecosystem. Make a solar water heater, compost and more. Background notes, supplies and step-by-step instructions. 8+. AC.

Spud Goes Green

Nigel Thaxton, illus Nigel Baines

Egmont 2006; Pb ISBN 9781405217316

Spud's New Year's Resolution is to go Green – in a 'real friend-of-the-planet and looker-afterer-of-nature kind of way'. He keeps a diary to track his progress. It starts off really well, and he is determined to continue, no matter what happens. Fun, with great tips and activities to do. 8+. AC.

Swan Song

Colin Thiele

Lothian 2002; Pb ISBN 0734403259

Mitch's father is the ranger in the Coorong area, setting for Thiele's most famous book, *Storm Boy*. Mitch saves two pelican chicks, and a black swan egg – making a lot of work for himself, on top of his schoolwork. Mitch's dad has an ongoing issue with locals who misuse the conservation area, damaging the delicate ecosystem with their dune buggy rides. But there is no proof of their behaviour, until they hit Mitch. Environmental messages are woven into the story, without being obvious. 9+. AC.



Exodus

Julie Bertagna

Young Picador 2002; Pb ISBN 0330400967

This book should be compulsory reading for those who are cynical about global warming and rising sea levels. Set at the end of the 21st century it begins with a small community forced to live a subsistence existence on the uppermost slopes of their island as the sea levels rise relentlessly. 15-year-old Mara leads her community in search of the great sky cities where they hope to find refuge. What they find is an enclosed community, totally cut off from the refugees and outcasts who cluster around and under the city in the drowned remains of what used to be Glasgow. Mara must try and infiltrate the city to find help for her people. Followed by *Zenith*. HB.



shoreline, and anything from the sea, are banned because of the pollution and poison found in the sea – the cause of the community's isolation. The trio find a man washed up and decide to hide him from the others, until he recovers and can move on. Resource kit available at www.longacre.co.nz/books/SeawreckS.html. AC

Dreamcatcher

(also published in the US as *On Different Shores*)

Jen McVeity

Lothian 1999; Pb ISBN 0850919649

Tess, an Australian teenager, has begun a secret group called the Green Guerrillas to combat pollution and save endangered sea animals. Her parents are separated and she spends time with each of them but is becoming increasingly alienated from her politician father. The discovery of a beached whale brings the family together in trying to return the whale to the sea. The sequel, *Shadow Seeker*, also deals with environmental issues. HB.

Saving the Planet & Stuff

Gail Gauthier

GP Putman's Sons 2003; Hb ISBN 9780399237614

Michael takes a job working on an environmental magazine for Walt and Nora – an older couple he has just met at his grandparents' place. Living with them and working on the magazine, Michael discovers just what it means to be a lifelong, committed environmentalist. Funny and endearing characters add humour to the serious message that saving the environment is not just a trendy pastime. 14. KA.



Kaitangata Twich

Margaret Mahy

Allen & Unwin 2005; Pb ISBN 174114485X

An ecological thriller in which the land lets everyone know how it feels about the plans for its development. Only Meredith can hear the voice of the island Kaitangata as it protests and seeks its revenge. AC.

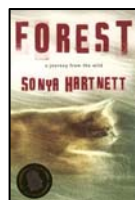
Forest

Sonya Hartnett

Viking Penguin 2001; Pb ISBN 0670899208

Winner of the 2002 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year for Older Readers.

An adult cat and two kittens are taken from their suburban home and abandoned in the forest. Kian is determined to return home but he has to survive encounters with many wild cats living in the forest and compete with them for food. Underlying this beautifully written story of the cat's fight for survival is the life of the forest, the small creatures such as skinks, spiders and birds whose colonies are decimated by the starving cats. 13+. HB.



They Came From Below

Blake Nelson

Tor 2007; Hb ISBN 9780765314239

Summer at Cape Cod will never be the same. After a nuclear explosion in the ocean, an unidentifiable blob washes up, and two (very) strange exchange students arrive. The students are far more than they seem, and Emily and her friends must help them back to their natural environment. A science fiction novel which upholds the true value of the genre – that of making people look at the current situation. Environmental messages are subtly sprinkled throughout the novel. AC.



Our Planet: Change is Possible

The MySpace Community with Jeca Taudte

HarperCollins 2008; Pb ISBN 9780061562044

Members of the online community of MySpace contributed hints to become greener in big and little ways. These have been collected together and printed using environmentally friendly products. AC.

Because We Were the Travellers

Jack Lasenby

Longacre Press 2002 (first published 1997);

Pb ISBN 9781877135743

Visit a future New Zealand, with the land devastated by environmental catastrophe, where the sun burns the plains of Whykatto and the remnants of humanity struggle to survive. First in a quartet detailing Ish's journey through a landscape made harsh by its mistreatment by humans. Resource kit available at www.longacre.co.nz/books/BecauseWe.html. AC.

Keeper

Mal Peet

Walker Books 2003; Pb ISBN 0744590256

An extraordinary story of the world's greatest goalkeeper (El Gato) told through an interview with the number one football writer in South America. Although the story is about football, it is also about the rainforest and the lessons El Gato learnt there from the mysterious Keeper. A logger's son, El Gato is expected to work in the forest, where he sees the destruction and feels as though his heart is dying, but the secrets learnt from the Keeper give El Gato a belief in himself and the game he loves. HS.

The Sea-Wreck Stranger

Anna Mackenzie

Longacre 2007; Pb ISBN 9781877361883

Ness and her brother Ty struggle to live under the harsh rules of the small island community they are living in. The